



# The Village Press

Published for the Friends and Families of Presbyterian Children's Village



Fall 2012

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## 43 Beautiful Acres and an Evolution of Service to Troubled Children

▶ As PCV programs continue to evolve to meet new demands and greater challenges, this is a fitting time to reflect on our Rosemont property. It came to PCV as an incredibly generous gift and has been integral to our healing services that have helped many children through the years.

The administrative hub of Presbyterian Children's Village resides in Robinson Hall, once the home of our generous benefactor Samuel Robinson. Robinson was an industrious Irish immigrant who amassed his fortune as co-founder of the grocery that became Acme supermarket. Robinson came to know the Village through his wife, Mary Park Hill, who joined the Presbyterian Orphanage's Board in 1926.

At the end of his long, productive life in 1958, with no children of his own, Samuel Robinson left his residence to be used to care for the needy children at Presbyterian Children's Village. PCV added cottages to the grounds and moved to Rosemont from Southwest Philadelphia in 1960.

Quoting from the PCV history that was published in 2003, "The Village's third chapter began in its 83rd year, 1960, and



Residential clients enjoy creating Jackson Pollock-style artwork on the lawn.

lasted twenty years. It was a period of transition to a new location, to a more troubled population of children, to reliance on government funding and to a larger, more professional staff. These changes, with the exception of the move to Rosemont, resulted from the changing needs of children and changing view and regulations about appropriate care for at-risk children." Suffice it to say that, while PCV continued to grow and change as an organization, the view on the best way to care for at-risk children has continued to evolve as well.

Anyone who has been on the Rosemont campus, once called Glencoe, is struck at

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## Creativity in Action

# Healing Through Art and Sanctuary

*Our mosaic mural is the culmination of a nine-month project by our residential youth, under the guidance of mural artist Carol Stirton-Broad.*

One of our **Pick-a-Project** options supports the many creative projects that engage clients and staff. **See what you can do to help!** For more information see page 8 or go to [www.pcv.org](http://www.pcv.org) and click Pick-a-Project.

► Our new mural celebrates the therapeutic dimensions of art and the Sanctuary Model of Trauma Informed Care, the philosophy that guides client services at Presbyterian Children's Village. Over a nine-month period, 35 residential clients participated in the project, learning to use the materials, considering how to express the concepts of Sanctuary, exploring the challenges and benefits of teamwork, and finding a satisfying outlet for creative expression. Artistic oversight was provided by mural artist Carol Stirton-Broad, assisted by PCV art therapist Cynthia Innis. PCV maintenance staff installed the finished work at the entrance to our academic and activities building.

We gratefully acknowledge all of our arts supporters and partners who have helped with the healing mission of Presbyterian Children's Village: Art Works event sponsors and patrons, the Ladies Aid Society of Presbyterian Medical Center Philadelphia, Main Line Art Center, Uncle Edwin, and the Victory Foundation.

David, our last male client in the residential program that now focuses on girls-only, designed, directed and largely constructed one segment of the mural that is a poignant depiction of "the Village." It captures and expands upon the spirit of the Rosemont campus. ■



Go to our Facebook page to see many pictures of creation, installation, and celebration – [www.facebook.com/PCVorg](http://www.facebook.com/PCVorg).



Knock-knock. *Who's there?*  
Orange. *Orange who?*

## Orange You Glad You Know About PCV?

PCV is very glad that Glaxo Smith Kline selected us for their community work day project on October 2. The hearty crew was a whirr of energy and enthusiasm, working their way through garden clean up, bulb planting, clerical projects, fabric cutting (for cottage curtains), coupon counting and more. **Thank you, GSK!**

# The Power of One

*You too can make a difference!*



## Thank You, Kathryn!

► Kathryn Keller from Ambler Presbyterian Church has knitted about 30 adorable sweaters per year since 2006, each sweater a unique gift of warmth and love going to families in Southwest Philadelphia. **Our “When the Bough Breaks” Pick-a-Project lists items we need when a baby suddenly lands in our care.** Go to [www.pcv.org](http://www.pcv.org) to learn more. ■

## Thank You, Mert!

► Marilynne “Mert” Hinkel (far right) from Chambers Memorial PC works all her connections to help the Village. She and her good friends orchestrate their church rummage sale, then use the proceeds and their bargain-hunting skills to purchase items our children and families need. Mert worked her connection with Kimberly Clark for donations of disposable diapers and with Ramada Inn to recycle gently used chairs and lamps for use by PCV staff and families. Mert even turns her routine blood donation into an opportunity to talk about the Village and recruit more support. ■



## Recruiting Now: Adults With Time to Give and a Desire to Help

(more information at [www.pcv.org](http://www.pcv.org))

**Mentors** for youth ages 17 to 21 in the Supervised Independent Living program. Training and coaching provided. Once-a-week commitment needed.

**Running mentors** to run with the girls during their weekday practices one or more days a week. Practices are generally on Monday, Wednesday, Friday.

**Communications intern** to assist with social media goals for PCV. The position reports to the development director and offers great experience, a boost to one's professional portfolio, measurable results, and abundant gratitude.



## You Can Do It, Mom! Way To Go, Dad!

Presbyterian Children's Village is the proud recipient of a grant from the Eugene C. Bay Fund for Urban Ministry offered through Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. This seed money enables us to implement a pilot project to place a live coach in the home of parents who were enrolled in the parent education classes or receiving in-home services. It will provide intensive hands-on coaching at high-stress times of the day, helping parents find effective and positive responses to the challenges presented by their children. PCV intends to reinforce the classroom lessons and will carefully track the results to be shared with other child welfare providers.

## Out of School Time on the Plaza

More than 40 elementary youth from the PCV Out of School Time summer program participated in the Spoken Word event in Philadelphia in August.



## Career Nights and Girls Leadership Series

Stacey Graham, once a teenage mother and high school dropout, inspired our residential clients with her personal story of resilience and determination. Stacey is now an attorney working in the office of a Philadelphia councilman. "You can do it!" she told them. Amy Brinkley (right) is the PCV Senior Director of Residential Services. If you know someone who would be a good speaker for career night or the Leadership Series, please contact Betty at [volunteer@pcv.org](mailto:volunteer@pcv.org).



## The Men of Mission (MoMs) Aren't All Men!

The Men of Mission (MoMs) partnership includes members of First Presbyterian Church of West Chester, Wayne PC and Gladwyne PC. They come at least once a month to work on renovation projects on the Rosemont campus. They completed a bathroom renovation for SIL and have moved on to prep work for the renovation of Thomas Cottage. Pictured at top left is Stuart Levy of First Presbyterian Church of West Chester along with other MoMs who handled the first renovation project. There's plenty more work when they finish with that! **One of our Pick-a-Project options focuses on supporting the renovation and furnishing of the cottage bedrooms.** Find out how to make a difference with time and/or money at [www.pcv.org](http://www.pcv.org).

## Room to Share

Family Support Services shared the Rosemont campus for six weeks this summer, offering summer day camp to elementary-aged children from Radnor Township. Our facility was ample to sustain diverse activities for our visitors, as well as our usual activities for residential clients involving the gym, the pool, and the vast lawns.



## Graduation from High School: A Momentous Step Toward New Beginnings

We wish we could show you their undisguised smiles of pride, but privacy rules do not allow it. Three youths from the PCV Supervised Independent Living program graduated from Radnor High School in spring 2012 and continue to work with staff toward the next rungs on their journey. Staff helped them celebrate with gifts, cake, and encouragement for the next step. **One of our Pick-a-Project options focuses on support for one of these youth on his or her journey.** Go to [www.pcv.org](http://www.pcv.org) to find out more.



By Chaplain Eric Confer Martens

## Getting Spit Out: A Reflection on Jonah

*“Have you ever thought that you have messed up so badly that it made you wonder if God could forgive you?”*

► It started off as an average Monday night at Presbyterian Children’s Village. We gathered in the chapel to read the story of Jonah, and that was when something very strange happened. Suddenly this children’s story that we had heard before seemed so different. The text was the same, yet we were the ones getting thrown off the boat. We were struggling to survive in the belly of the fish. And we were wondering when we would be spit out onto dry land.

Our stories are all a bit different, yet for each gathered that night, the feeling was the same. There was an eerie connection to Jonah. To be honest, none of us had ever heard God speak directly as Jonah did, but we all knew the feeling of wanting to run away from something.

The Bible doesn’t give a reason why Jonah ran, and this seems fitting. Like Jonah, we reacted to the situation we found ourselves in. Jonah woke up in the midst of the storm. Similarly, we find ourselves here in residential treatment not quite sure how we got here.

For all of us, the path we find ourselves on seems to be less than our destiny. Like Jonah, we know what it is like to be a danger to ourselves. Poor choices have a way of intensifying the storms of life. Before long we were with Jonah on the edge of the boat. Then suddenly the waters envelop us.

The inside of a whale is a dark place. Past pain has a way of eclipsing hope. Jonah described it as a She’ol, a hell. After reading Jonah’s prayer, one of us summed up our feelings perfectly, saying, “That is exactly how

I feel. Like the reeds are wrapped around my head. Like I’m in the belly of a whale and I’m wondering, God, where are you?”

Have you ever thought that you have messed up so badly that it made you wonder if God could forgive you? You come to the point of wanting to change, yet you doubt that you can. Stuck, trapped with no escape, you settle into your fate of living in the darkness.

The story of Jonah is a lot like the story of God in that what we least expect to happen does. Just when you are sure that Jonah has been abandoned by all and left to die, he emerges. In the end God does not abandon Jonah. God has never left. This hell, this place of death, the inside of a whale is a transformational place. When you get spit out, you know it is for a reason.

Recently, when one of the young women from that Bible study group was being discharged from PCV she made sure to find me to say, “I feel like I am finally leaving the belly of the whale.” At times it may feel like we only experience the dark side of being in the belly of the whale. For me her sharing was a wonderful reminder of the excellent healing work the Village does, as it reminds us that God has not abandoned any of us. ■

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## 43 Beautiful Acres and an Evolution of Service to Troubled Children

once by the beauty and tranquility of the 43 acres. It is an ideal home for programs that help young people heal from traumas and transition to the next steps in their lives. While the original buildings remain, their uses have changed. The campus is now home to two residential programs—a treatment program for adolescent girls who are healing from trauma, and the Supervised Independent Living (SIL) program for boys and girls (18-21) who are transitioning out of care.

Repurposing has nevertheless retained much of the spirit of its former use, as well as an enduring concern for troubled children. Horses: We know that Sam Robinson liked to begin his day with a canter on his favorite mare. Thanks to the interest of a generous donor, PCV has recently added equine therapy to the treatment resources offered to residents, though not in Rosemont (the only current livestock being uninvited geese and deer). The stables were long ago transformed into apartments for youth in the SIL program. Gardening: Mr. Robinson was known to invite children from the Village to pick asparagus. Cultivating and eating our own vegetables has recently been integrated into the academic and living programs to teach residents a gamut of important lessons, from horticulture to healthy eating.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of their family's charitable foundation, 37 descendants of the three Robinson brothers and their families visited the campus in November 2012. Most had not been to Glencoe since the 1950s, and many vividly recalled times spent in the presence of the stern but generous Uncle Sam. Some waxed nostalgic that the elevator had been replaced by a bathroom and that horses no longer occupied the stables. They were clearly pleased with the current purpose, however, healing and restoring lives of troubled youth.

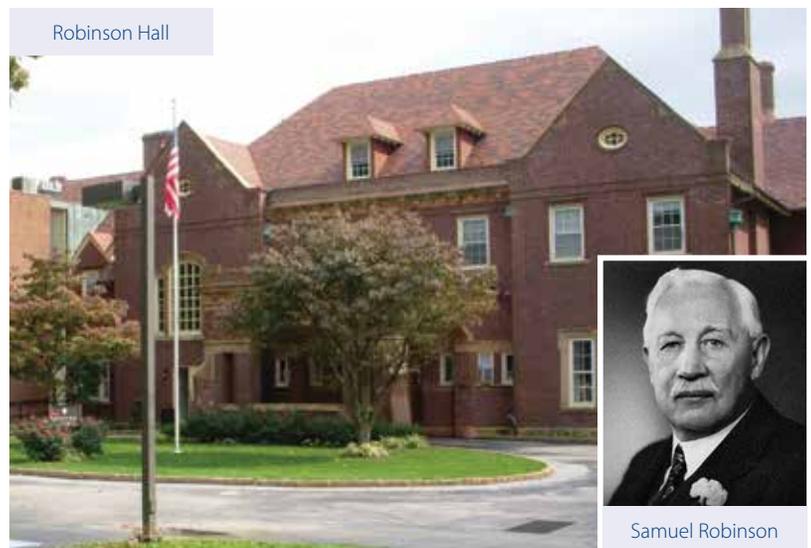
Samuel Robinson attributed his extraordinary success in the grocery business to his willingness to change with the times, becoming an early adopter of innovations such as the shopping cart, advertising gimmicks, motorized trucks, and the one-stop shopping concept. "Growth and change" is today a basic tenet of PCV

philosophy for serving children and families. It is an approach that strives for both excellence and survival.

Samuel Robinson left nearly all of his \$5 million estate to Presbyterian organizations: theological seminaries, colleges, homes for children and the elderly, a hospital and his church. Through the years, the generosity of many supporters has helped us build an endowment that has helped sustain the programs and the property. We know that PCV will always need to grow and change, and will inevitably need to expand the endowment in order to continue to sustain this important legacy. ■

**Special thanks to Jane Beatty**, whose chronicle of the Village provides a reliable reference for many important details of our history. If you would like to receive a copy of this history, please email [development@pcv.org](mailto:development@pcv.org).

If you would like to learn more about how to leave a legacy by naming PCV in your will or as a beneficiary of an insurance policy, please call or email the development office, **610.519.1605** or [development@pcv.org](mailto:development@pcv.org).



452 South Roberts Road  
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[www.pcv.org](http://www.pcv.org)

#### Ways to Give!

A check in the mail always works.

By credit card or electronic fund transfer: go to [www.pcv.org](http://www.pcv.org)

Take an extra step with a gift for a child or family at Christmas. Find wish lists online.

Name PCV as a beneficiary in your will or on an insurance policy.

United Way: designate #1867.

Save the date and support Art Works III: May 2, 2013. It will be Supreme!



Find wish lists for many needs at: [www.pcv.org](http://www.pcv.org).



Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/PCVorg](http://www.facebook.com/PCVorg). Don't forget to "like" us.

# Picking Up the Pace

## Your support is needed to help us meet our goal!



► By now, you have probably received our annual campaign materials in the mail. If you can help this year by making a first gift or by increasing your past gift by 10 percent or more—a.k.a. Picking Up the Pace—you will receive a special cling-on to celebrate PCV on your car or home window. Our children, staff, and families are doing everything they can to Pick Up the Pace with effective services for clients. We need your help! ■



### Pick a Project

We encourage you to share our Pick a Project packet with your family, clubs, church groups, colleagues and others. Start a conversation about what a child welfare organization does—and needs. Whether your conversation produces a little something or a big gift, prompts quick action or plants a seed for later, we are grateful for your help in educating those you know about some critical needs of children and families. Opportunities to participate range from \$10 to \$6,000. Go to [www.pcv.org](http://www.pcv.org) to view descriptions of all 10 projects or we will be happy to send you a paper set. Just email your request to [development@pcv.org](mailto:development@pcv.org).

### Foster Parents Needed

...especially for teenagers, children with medical challenges, young mothers with babies, and siblings. Find out how you can meet the challenges and reap the rewards. A program on foster care is available for your group. Email [fostercare@pcv.org](mailto:fostercare@pcv.org) for info.