



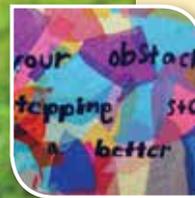
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What's New at theVillage? Lots!

Presbyterian Children's Village is now officially **theVillage, Hope in Action since 1877**. Be sure to read the uplifting essay from Rev. Mindy Huffstetler, the convener of our Church Relations Council and associate pastor at First Presbyterian, Philadelphia (page 3).



Paula Bedi, our new Board Chair.

The Board of Directors elected new directors and officers at their June 2014 meeting. Paula Bedi assumes responsibility as the new Board Chair with the new fiscal year, July 1. Bedi has led the strategic planning initiative of theVillage for the past three years, drawing from her previous life in the corporate world to help staff and board define and implement new opportunities. Bedi is a former Trustee of the Agnes Irwin School and the former Associate Director of Organization Development for SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals (GSK). Bedi received her bachelor's degree from St. Xaviers College (Bombay), her master's degree from the Asian Social Institute (Manila, the Philippines), and her doctoral work in International Communication Policy from Temple University (Philadelphia). She was a 2007 Non-Profit Executive Leadership Institute, (NELI), Fellow at Bryn Mawr College.

Beth Gadsden has ably chaired the Board of Directors for four years and will remain active as part of the Advisory Board and the strategic planning team. The current strategic planning effort was begun under her leadership, as was the Art Works fundraising event.

MORE ABOUT NEW OPPORTUNITIES ON PAGE 4

- Website
- Social Media
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Project Opportunities
- Faith in Action Saturdays

Leroy's Story: From Grief and Loss to Nursing School

Three devastating deaths in just six months sent 16 year-old Leroy's life into a tailspin. TheVillage's (then Presbyterian Children's Village's) In Home Protective Services (IHPS) helped him get back on track.

The cancer death of his father, the murder of his best friend, and the loss of his dog along with ongoing bullying made school unbearable. Mom, battling depression and grief of her own and burdened with mounting bills, was unable to provide the support he needed. Reports of truancy as well as unsafe conditions in the home were made to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHS). IHPS case manager Sidney Green was assigned to help the family.

IHPS provides an array of services designed to strengthen families and avoid placement for families where DHS has determined that there is an active safety threat. Upon visiting the home, Green found clutter and debris due to hoarding, bad plumbing, and no heat or hot water. He organized a home clean-out and helped the family connect with services to make necessary home improvements. Meanwhile, the family addressed their mental health and truancy issues.

Green referred Leroy to an outpatient mental health clinic for weekly visits. Although reluctant at first, Leroy began to open up after a few sessions and became an active participant, never once missing an appointment. Leroy transferred to and graduated from a high school that catered to children who were close to graduating but struggled in a large school setting. He enrolled in Philadelphia Community College and later transferred to Temple University to study nursing. Leroy expects to enter the workforce with the confidence he needs to succeed. We know he can make it! Mom said that "God sent" theVillage to help her struggling family. •



Behavioral Health Services at theVillage Are Expanding Beyond Our Walls



Beth Richey, Director of Behavioral Health Services

What began as a service to support foster care and in-home programs has grown exponentially into a robust program that helped 307 children and families in 2013. The Behavioral Health department has recently partnered with two agencies to offer three additional locations for these evidence-based services. New offices are located at Family Support Services, The Family School, and at the Communities In Schools E3 Power Center.

Beth Richey, director of the department, reports a surge of response to the new sites, resulting in the addition of a second day of service within the first two months. In addition to adding two full-time and several part-time staff, five interns will gain valuable experience.

Therapists emphasize Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), a particularly effective approach to children and families who have experienced trauma that arises from abuse, neglect, mental illness and other dysfunctional challenges. An intensive model of therapy, TF-CBT usually runs for about 20 weeks. Parents and family are involved in many sessions, with the goal to heal the trauma in the whole family unit.

NEEDS: If you would like to support the Behavioral Health program, you can designate a cash gift or donate items used in the therapy offices. New or gently used items we accept include dollhouses and furnishings, family and action figures, dress-up clothes, costume parts and masks, puppets, dolls, Play Doh and other art supplies. •

A Rich Legacy Lives On

Reflections from Rev. Mindy Huffstetler, convener of theVillage's Church Relations Council and Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia.

During my years serving on the Board of Directors for the Presbyterian Children's Village and as Convener of its Church Relations Council, I developed a deep pride in the living legacy of those Presbyterian women who, in 1877, put their faith into action by providing shelter and nurture for vulnerable children in Philadelphia.

Had they not taken seriously Christ's call to serve "the least of these," the Presbyterian Children's Village would not have healed so many lives in its 137-year history, nor could it continue to heal the children and families who today are traumatized by abuse, neglect, poverty, violence and a lack of many of the social supports you and I take for granted.

What I also have come to appreciate is that any child's suffering or any family's struggles are ultimately a communal responsibility that extends beyond the limits and resources of any faith identity, Christian or otherwise. As a Christian steeped in the Reformed Tradition, I am called to join my efforts with any and all who strive to restore dignity, health and wholeness to whoever is in want. As a Presbyterian Teaching Elder, I took vows to serve Christ not just in the Presbyterian Church, but also by seeking to follow Him "out there" by loving my neighbors and working for the reconciliation of the world.

As the Board of Directors took seriously its fiduciary responsibility so that our clients may continue to receive the best possible support and care, it became imperative that we expand our support base to include as many sources as possible.

"...any child's suffering or any family's struggles are ultimately a communal responsibility that extends beyond the limits and resources of any faith identity, Christian or otherwise."

Personally, I became concerned that our name encouraged the misconception that the organization is directed and funded under the auspices of our denomination or presbytery, as is the case with Catholic Social Services. That is not our case. I wondered if our name sounded less inviting to potential partners from other faith traditions and cultures, many of which are reflected in our diverse client population. I came to realize that, regardless of how we name our ministries, we are no less Christian, and no more Reformed than when we invite everyone to join us in doing Christ's work, regardless of who they are and what they believe (or don't believe).

The Board of Directors knew it was a risk to change our name, but we are inspired by other Presbytery-related ministries that strive to bring the hope of the gospel to our communities, such as Broad Street Ministry, Beacon, and The West Kensington Ministry, to name just a few. I am convinced that with or without "Presbyterian" in its name, the faith, hope and love of our Presbyterian founders and every Presbyterian who has followed in their footsteps remains at the heart of theVillage. It's still there. It always will be. It's in the DNA. Thanks be to God. •



Residents of The Presbyterian Orphanage in the 1930s.

What's New *(Continued from page 1)*

NEW WEBSITE



Check out our new website at www.village1877.org for new stories, photos, and a look at the amazing work of theVillage!

SOCIAL MEDIA

Besides the information in the newsletter, you will find much more about “what’s new” in our new website and by following our social media.



Facebook helps us connect with many new friends as our current friends share our stories and opportunities to help theVillage. You can effortlessly help, too, by going to our Facebook page and clicking “Like” and “Share”.



Connect with theVillage and our staff on LinkedIn. It's a great way to extend your networking and ours.



Also find and connect with theVillage on Twitter and Google Plus.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Mentors are needed for young women in the residential programs, to begin in 2015. We are recruiting now with training and preparation coming fall-winter 2014. Let us know if you are interested so we can let you know when training starts. We also have a continuing need for tutors, activities leaders, clerical volunteers, and handypersons.

To learn more or to indicate your interest in mentoring or other volunteer activities, please email volunteer@village1877.org today.

PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

Updated Pick-a-Project packets are now available. Call **610.519.1615** or email volunteer@village1877.org. Connect your group with a team-building project and a great cause to help children and families in our own community.

FAITH IN ACTION

Faith in Action is being considered as a possible new name for the support group that has been the Church Relations Council. The group is broadening its concept from being Presbyterian-only to include groups from many faith traditions, community groups, corporate connections, and more. Share your thoughts and ideas with an email to faith@village1877.org. Watch for further announcements about these events open to all faiths and to multiple members from the same group.

FAITH IN ACTION MEETINGS

- Action-oriented ideas and activities
- Stories from the staff about their work
- Inspiration from our chaplain on his work with clients and in the community

Saturday, September 20, 2014: *Creative Collecting*

New ideas to engage your group in the needs of children and families with Christmas collections, birthday parties, alternative gift markets, baby showers, and housewarming themes to help theVillage children and families

Saturday, November 15, 2014: *Organizing for Action*

Learn what other faith, community, and corporate groups have done to raise funds and raise awareness with runs, community work days, social events, parties, and more.

Saturday, February 21, 2015: *Engaging and Empowering Youth and Young Adults for Philanthropy*

Saturday, April 18, 2015: *Founder's Day Luncheon (location TBA)*

The Presbyterian Orphanage opened its doors on April 18, 1878, the project and mission of a group of Presbyterians who wanted to offer safe haven to orphans, a more welcome alternative to almshouses that were prevalent. We will celebrate the contributions of several women who have given decades of service to promoting our needs and missions in their congregations. Watch for details. •

How will you make out your check?

Either works fine with the bank: **theVillage** or **Presbyterian Children's Village**. We're encouraging all of our friends to jump into the new moniker and begin to fully embrace theVillage.



A Random Act of Sharing

A group of girls from the Residential Treatment Program recently visited a Board of Directors meeting with Chaplain Eric Confer Martens. As one of their random acts of kindness, they used a large cut-out tree with “leaves” of bright green post-it notes to share their thoughts on life at theVillage, as well as their hopes and dreams for the future.



Letter of Love

Molly was in theVillage’s Residential Treatment program. A few months ago, the chaplain received a lengthy, heartfelt letter. These are a few of the thoughts she shared:

I will never forget the calmness and kindness I received from many of you who stood with me when I struggled... When I was scared the most, you seemed to have hope for me. Even if it meant being bluntly honest.

I have never felt so cared for and taken care of by a facility such as yours before... From basic necessities like hygiene items to social outlets such as bingo and trips. The track team, while I was involved, was an amazing outlet. It not only helped me feel better physically but made me feel part of a whole and pushed me beyond my physical and mental comfort zones. The coaches were amazing and I thank them greatly. Just like the weekly crochet club. Going into that room allowed me to detach from my mental illness for a little while and embrace the warmth that the atmosphere and volunteers had to offer. I could be the part of myself I kept hidden a lot. It amazed me the patience the volunteers had and the energy that was so positive and seemed to transfer to everyone in the room. I thank everyone involved for the “extra things” that helped each of us girls feel a little less enclosed and more like a true healing community.

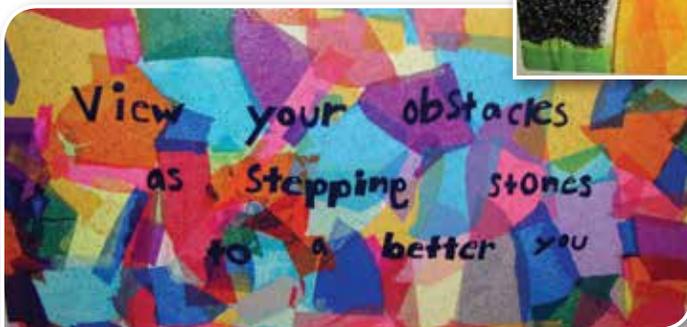
I thank each and every person who touched my life directly and indirectly, while I was a resident. It was an experience I will never forget and will always learn from. May your organization continue to thrive and touch the lives of many. •

What’s the best thing at theVillage?

- The team, my backbone
- The food
- The supportive staff
- Making friends
- It gave me a second chance
- Therapy

What have you learned?

- That I am beautiful
- To not lie to myself or anyone else
- That running away is not an answer to every problem
- Even though I’ve come from a rough life I’ve got support right here and I know that they are going to be here no matter what
- Be strong. God always gives his toughest battle to his strongest soldiers
- [to] realize my self-worth and use coping skills

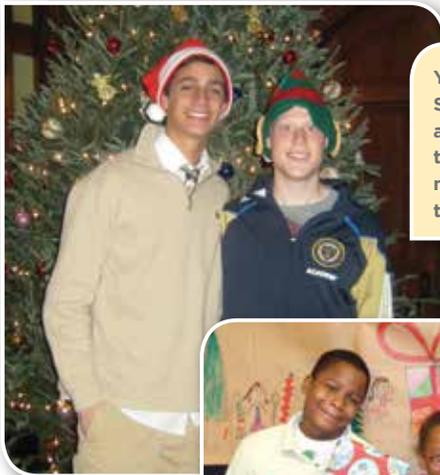


When girls leave the Residential Treatment Program to take a step forward in their journey to wellness, they are encouraged to create a piece of art that becomes a reminder to others of their transition.

Christmas Afterglow and Anticipation

Even now, we are gearing up to help the increased number of children and families who need assistance in 2014. Generosity was abundant through the Christmas season 2013 as churches, youth groups, schools, corporations, clubs, families, and individuals helped theVillage help our many families and children.

- 40 families were adopted.
- More than 500 children received special gifts chosen just for them.
- The hearts of dozens of social workers were warmed to see their families provided for so thoughtfully.
- Students from several Main Line schools helped with crafts at the annual Christmas party for children in our foster care and in-home services.
- Groups from churches, businesses, and community organizations brought and wrapped gifts.
- Brian Westbrook showered theVillage with a large shipment of toys, warm clothes, and housewares for our families.



Young men from Haverford School photographed children and families who attended the annual party, providing mementoes for families to take with them.



Youth in the Out of School Time program eagerly helped distribute the gifts our donors provided.

Expanded Programs Mean More Children Who Need Our Help



Volunteers, like this one from Sage Financial, make our back pack program so successful.

Our plans begin early to reach out a helping hand to our children and families. Can you help? More importantly, do you know an organization, youth group, business, family, church, or individual who would want to share their blessings? We anticipate the need for:

- 700 backpacks in September
- Gifts for 700 children in December

When you are buying backpacks or holiday gifts for your child or grandchild this year, think BOGO: Buy a second for another child who needs a little help.

MORE INFORMATION:

www.village1877.org
610.519.1615
Christmas@village1877.org



Volunteers in Action at theVillage



The Albright family poses for a photo during Art Works, when Phil and Barbara Albright received our second Healing Spirits award. The award honors their generous gifts of leadership, financial investment, and relentless advocacy that have helped many children and families toward a better future. (above)

Thank you Prudential Fox & Roach (now Berkshire Hathaway) volunteers, for making a difference at theVillage. (below)



Supporters, including a number of our Young Friends, enjoy the auction during our Art Works: Our Philadelphia Story fundraiser this spring. (left)

TheVillage is “swinging” the praises of the Men of Mission as our residents enjoy the old-fashioned summertime fun of swinging and talking. Members of First Presbyterian Church, West Chester, Wayne PC and Gladwyne PC funded and erected the six-swing project. TheVillage is very grateful! (right)



TheVillage

Darlene Hewett, President and CEO
Paula Bedi, Chair
Andrew Nehrbas, Vice Chair
Maris Ogg, Treasurer
Joanne Markman, Secretary
John Sundquist, Asst Treasurer

Directors

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Rebecca F. Brinks	R. Scott Latimer
Paul Bergsteinsson	Susan G. Lea, Ed. D.
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**Helping children and families
create a brighter future.**



**FIND WISH LISTS
FOR MANY NEEDS AT
www.village1877.org.**

NEW DONOR CHALLENGE
700 backpacks by September.
700 children's gifts for Christmas.

FAITH IN ACTION
Please join us.

DON'T FORGET TO **"LIKE"** US
AND **"SHARE"** OUR STORIES.

WAYS TO GIVE
Donate online at
www.village1877.org

UNITED WAY
Designate your SEPA UNITED WAY
gift to theVillage with #1867.

Make sure your concern for
children lives on. Name **theVillage**
as a beneficiary in your will.

TheVillage Is Recruiting Foster Parents (pass it on!)

What does it take to be a foster parent? The answer has three parts: patience, a big heart, and concern for children who are frightened and vulnerable.

If those attributes describe you and you live in Bucks, Delaware, Chester, Montgomery, or Philadelphia County, we should talk. TheVillage (formerly Presbyterian Children's Village) has openings for foster parents, particularly for teens, sibling groups, and special needs children. Your commitment may be short-term until the family's problems are resolved, or it may be longer lasting, even leading to adoption. TheVillage provides training and support.

Find out more.

Please call theVillage at 610.525.5400
and ask for Jenny Buechel or Denise Butcher.
Or email fostercare@village1877.org with
"foster parent" in the subject line.

