



INDEPENDENCE BLUE CROSS AND theVILLAGE

.....PAGE 2

SOUTHWEST CHILDREN'S WELLNESS COLLABORATIVE

.....PAGE 2

ART WORKS — A BENEFIT IN SUPPORT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IMPACTED BY TRAUMA

..... PAGE 3

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

..... PAGE 3

Keeping Kids Safe & Empowering Their Futures – a Model Out of School Time Program

Since 2001, theVillage has operated an Out of School Time (OST) program — designed to provide safe and structured programming between the end of the school day and the time working parents return home. TheVillage's OST program currently operates at the Joseph W. Catharine Elementary school in Southwest Philadelphia. Most parents in the Southwest community are working and need access to OST programs like theVillage's. Because of the diverse population in Southwest Philadelphia, nearly 85 percent of kids in theVillage's OST program are from immigrant families.

Highlights of the program include homework assistance, science and art education, a nutrition program and civic education. Also included are unique and diverse project-based learning opportunities helping children develop important life skills. These skills teach kids how to stay safe in their homes and out in their communities. Each day, the kids have 45 minutes of homework help. Our staff also assists kids with problem-solving surrounding challenges they face at

home and in their neighborhoods. Civic education teaches kids to be good citizens through a "Kindness Award" program where they earn special prizes and trips, which helps reinforce positive behaviors and random acts of kindness.

There is also a strong emphasis on engaging families to interact with their children. Staff send home materials, often translated into the families' native languages, with tips to help parents understand and engage with kids in their activities.

Parents tell us they feel they can trust theVillage's staff with the safety and well-being of their kids. The kids love coming to the program because they have fun with their friends, get help with their homework, learn about their community and helping others, and get to enjoy a lot of different experiences. Sharice Simmons, director of theVillage's OST program, says: "One of our greatest strengths is our staff — they treat the children as if they are their own." •

Top five ways you can help

- 1 Your gift of cash helps where it is most needed for our children and families.
- 2 Stay tuned for the May e-newsletter for details about our annual back-to-school backpack and school supply collection. (Due August 15, 2016)
- 3 Share your time and talents with the children and families served by theVillage.
- 4 Sponsor an event, workplace giving, corporate matching gifts or EITC grants.
- 5 Planned gifts are ways to support theVillage well into the future. These gifts provide you with important tax benefits and don't affect your current lifestyle or your family's security.

For more information, contact Jory Barrad at 610.519.1605 or jbarrad@village1877.org.



Message from Chaplain Eric

The other day, I was emptying the prayer box in our sanctuary prayer and meditation room and found a prayer written by Rachel, a resident at theVillage. She wrote to God, "I really am worried I will always be stepped on in life. Am I just useless?"

In Rachel's words, I find the echoes of questions, thoughts and prayers of countless young people theVillage has helped. As a result of trauma, many have struggled to look forward, fearing their suffering would never end. This has led to an array of problems that can plague them for the rest of their lives.

As Rachel's prayer points out, many young people do not separate their spirituality and faith from their general well-being. This interconnection means that trauma can often result in spiritual distress. By helping young people move beyond this distress, our chaplaincy program helps foster hope and promotes healing.

Starting with a spiritual assessment, we explore which voluntary program fits each girl's needs. In Rachel's case, she attends bible study and on-campus worship services, and meets for individual spiritual care. Her goals are to reconnect to her faith and do a better job of listening to God and her inner voice. She has started a spiritual journal and found different ways to pray. This work, integrated into the comprehensive treatment Rachel receives, has helped her discover a more hopeful answer to her prayer. Recently her journal had a new prayer, "God, help me to share what I have learned to help others."

Eric Confer Martens

Eric Confer Martens, Chaplain

Independence Blue Cross and theVillage Partner on Long-term Volunteer Program

Independence Blue Cross recently adopted theVillage as a long term community partner. Through this partnership, members of their employee resource groups volunteer their time to support the mission of theVillage. The Women's Resource Center provided crafts at our community-based Christmas Party and three women recently spoke to residents at Career Night, while another shared her triumph over domestic violence. They also held a drive to collect items for our Striving to Achieve Rewards (STAR) Bucks rewards store. We look forward to partnering on more exciting projects together!



Clockwise:
TheVillage's Brittany Chinnici stocks items donated for the STAR Bucks store; Mikki Austin hides behind her mask of shame as a victim of domestic violence; Angela Harris, Chantel Reddick and Lisa Gaito speak at Career Night

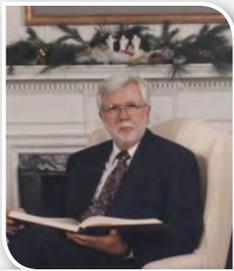
Southwest Children's Wellness Collaborative: Enriching Services for Children in the Community

TheVillage has recently launched and serves as the backbone agency for a new initiative in Southwest Philadelphia known as the Southwest Children's Wellness Collaborative. The purpose of this collaborative is to enrich the array of services for children in the Southwest. Our immediate focus will be on out of school time programming, ultimately ensuring that programs are of the highest quality and are implementing a trauma-informed approach. Our goal is to improve awareness of current programs available for families in the area — and to enhance academic outcomes and social development of youth in the community — through a "collective impact" model. Approximately 20 local organizations with like-minded missions — to deliver integral services to our youth — are participating in

this initiative. Some agencies involved include Southwest Community Development Corporation, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Bartram's Garden, the Health Annex, Councilman Kenyatta Johnson's office, The 12th District Police Precinct and The Food Trust. More details to follow soon!



Representatives from several local organizations discussing the focus of our collaborative at the Preheim Center



Clockwise: Loren Preheim: Healing Spirits Honoree; Bryn Mawr Trust: Dream Builder Honoree; Lutheran Deaconess House

ART WORKS - A Benefit in Support of Children and Families Impacted by Trauma

Art Works, a cocktail reception and benefit for theVillage, will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2016 from 6-8:30 p.m. at the Lutheran Deaconess House in Gladwyne, a historic, former Pew family Main Line estate.

To date, Art Works has raised more than \$564,000, providing integral support for our mission of helping children and families overcome life's challenges to achieve a brighter future. This annual

fundraiser has powered high-impact initiatives, including creative arts therapies, partnerships with other agencies helping to provide year-round, transformational opportunities for school-age children in Rosemont and in Southwest Philadelphia, and funds to enhance existing programs providing greater outcomes for children and families in our communities.

Our Healing Spirits Award will be presented in memoriam to Loren Preheim, President and CEO from 1975-2007. Loren led Presbyterian Children's Village, now theVillage, for more than three decades and was a well-respected leader at

large in the social services sector. We are honored that the Preheim family will be joining us to accept this award.

We are proud to recognize Bryn Mawr Trust Company as our inaugural Dream Builder Honoree. Lending time, talent and resources where they are needed most, the Bryn Mawr Trust Company is a valued partner who has provided vital support to theVillage for more than 12 years.

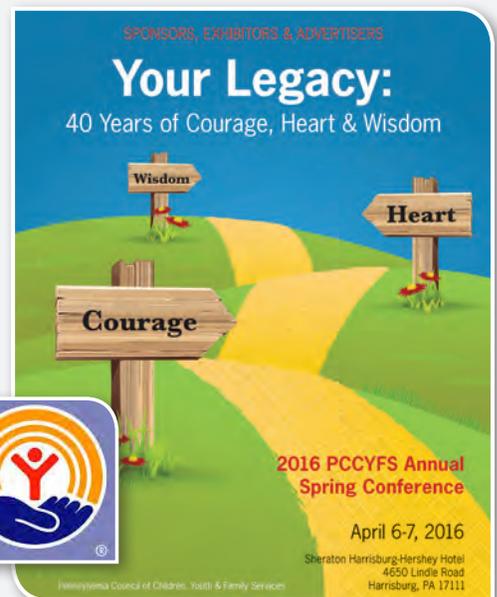
We hope you will join us. Both tickets and sponsorships can be purchased online at <http://village1877.org/give-help/art-works>.

Upcoming Conferences: PCCYFS Spring Conference and United Way's "Building Trauma-Informed Communities"

TheVillage is proud to support and participate in two conferences this spring. Cynthia Innis, art therapist at theVillage and Jory Barrad, director of development and marketing at theVillage, will be co-presenting in a workshop at Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth & Family Services' Spring Conference, "Your Legacy: 40 Years of Courage, Heart & Wisdom." Their presentation demonstrates how outcomes for children in therapy are improved when there is close collaboration between programming, fundraising and marketing/PR and sheds light on the impact of creative arts therapies.

Also noteworthy, theVillage is sponsoring and participating in the United Way of Greater Philadelphia

and Southern New Jersey's "Building Trauma-Informed Communities," a conference for leaders of child and family service organizations, designed to generate awareness of trauma in Delaware County. This conference features Dr. Gordon R. Hodas, MD, a state-wide child psychiatric consultant to the Pennsylvania Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.



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Helping children and families
create a brighter future.



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

DON'T FORGET TO "LIKE" US
AND "SHARE" OUR STORIES ON
FACEBOOK, TWITTER & GOOGLE+.

WAYS TO GIVE

There are many ways to
support theVillage.

For more information, visit:

<http://village1877.org/give-help>

UNITED WAY

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

JOIN THE TEAM - FULFILLING CAREERS AT TheVILLAGE

TheVillage is a great place to work
where every day offers the opportunity
to make a difference in the lives of
children, families and communities.
Do you know anyone that might want to
join the team? More information about
careers at theVillage can be found at:
www.jobs.net/jobs/the-village

Participate in Faith in Action

Saturday, May 21, 2016, 9-11 am

A "Clean-Up/Green-Up" day of service in
Southwest Philadelphia.

For more details contact **Betty Wu**
(610.519.1615).

Join us for Art Works - Growing the Dream

Thursday, May 5, 2016, 6:00 to 8:30 pm
Lutheran Deaconess House, Gladwyne, PA

Tickets and sponsorships are available online
at <http://village1877.org/give-help/art-works>
or contact **Greg Smith (610.520.1417)** or
Jory Barrad (610.519.1605) for assistance.

