



## Letter from the CEO

.....PAGE 2

## Southwest Community Gathers for “Unconference”

.....PAGE 2

## Learn How Creative Therapy Helps Children Heal

.....PAGE 3

## “Kids in the Kitchen” is Back

.....PAGE 3

## Job Readiness Program at the Preheim Center Helps Southwest Residents Get Hired

The Urban League of Philadelphia and theVillage partnered with Pennsylvania Women Work to present a job readiness program known as GROW — Generations Realizing Occupational Wellness. The program took place at theVillage’s Preheim Center this past summer. Eight adults from the Southwest Philadelphia community participated in the eight-week program, which included support for resume writing, interview skills, “elevator pitch” development, self-awareness and more. A majority of the participants have since secured gainful employment.

One participant, Ameer Rone, has a very inspiring story. Ameer had been working for a local hospital in a food service job that was below his capabilities and earning potential. He had originally studied and trained to work in

aeronautical engineering. “In the GROW program,” Ameer says “I learned so much in the first two sessions, because I had been out of the job-seeking market for so long.” He learned how to become “marketable” for a better career. He said that the program was a “confidence builder.” In July, Ameer obtained an interview with SEPTA for an equipment maintenance job. It took several weeks to pass all of the tests and clearances. In September, Ameer was incredibly excited to learn that he had actually been selected for a job with SEPTA Regional Rail, a higher-level position than he had expected to receive. Ameer wrote to tell us and the Urban League the good news and said, “I would like to thank you all from the bottom of my heart. For believing not only in me but in our community! You fellas are the real MVPs!”

## Top five ways you can help

- 1 Christmas at theVillage: Adopt children or families to make their holidays bright!
- 2 Confirmation/Mitzvah/School projects are great ways for teens to help less fortunate kids and families.
- 3 Your gift of cash helps where it is most needed for our children and families.
- 4 Sponsor an event, workplace giving, corporate matching gifts or EITC grants.
- 5 Share our social media posts (sharing reaches a greater audience than liking)

For more information, contact Jory Barrad at [jbarrad@village1877.org](mailto:jbarrad@village1877.org) or (610) 519-1605.

## Letter from the CEO

Happy fall! It's the time of year again when we reflect back on the past year and look forward to the year ahead. TheVillage continues to focus on three main goals:

### ■ Goal One – A Strong Organizational Structure:

We are positioning the organization for new opportunities. Joanne Wolf, now in the role of Vice President for Strategy and Business Development, is focused on expansion of existing services and identifying new opportunities. Jack Cavanaugh was promoted to Vice President-Operations and Jory Barrad was promoted to Vice President-Development and Marketing. Cheryl Burkett was promoted to Senior Director for Community-Based Programs and Jane Shuster rejoined theVillage as Senior Director for Rosemont Campus Programs. These management changes support our goal of building the strength of our teams throughout the organization.

### ■ Goal Two – Program Growth at our Rosemont Campus:

We are focused on the growth of our residential treatment programs, as well as the expansion of our outpatient counseling services for suburban clients at our Rosemont campus. We are also raising funds for a major renovation of our Youth Cultural Center School at theVillage.

### ■ Goal Three – An Anchor Organization in Southwest Philadelphia:

We continue to work toward our goal of serving as an anchor organization in Southwest Philadelphia to help connect children and families to vital services. Involving more than 25 organizations, the Southwest Children's Wellness Collaborative, continues its work on initiatives to facilitate improved wellness and welfare for residents of this challenged section of Philadelphia.

I am excited to share some additional highlights. We are pursuing reaccreditation through The Joint Commission, the gold standard of accreditation for healthcare organizations. The Urban Roots Farm now occupies three acres at our Rosemont campus. I know that you will enjoy reading more about how theVillage helps at-risk children and families in the pages that follow. I also hope that you will continue to support these children and families through your gifts of time, talent and treasure. It takes a village to raise healthy kids and, with your help, we here at theVillage are doing just that!

*Darlene Hewett, President and CEO*

## Southwest Community Stakeholders Gather for Unconventional “Unconference”

Following a year-long effort to develop the Southwest Children's Wellness Collaborative, theVillage and approximately 25 other agencies participated in what is called an “unconference” on Thursday, October 6 in Southwest Philadelphia. The unique format of an unconference is defined as a loosely structured, participant-driven conference, emphasizing the informal exchange of information and ideas between participants. The goal for the unconference was to establish a list of action items that will improve the wellness and welfare of children and families in Southwest Philadelphia. More than 70 people participated representing many different constituencies, including therapists, social workers, physicians, representatives of the 12th District Police, city officials, and numerous child and family service agencies. The unconference began with an inspiring keynote from Dr. Roy Wade, a general pediatrician with CHOP and an instructor of pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania. The focus of Dr. Wade's talk was the impact of traumatic experiences on children throughout their lives and the real danger that chronic toxic stress

can have on families and communities. Dr. Wade presented compelling historical and statistical data pertinent to Southwest Philadelphia. Hadley Ferguson, executive director of the Edcamp Foundation, began the unconference following Dr. Wade's keynote. The Edcamp Foundation organizes unconferences around the world that empower communities to address issues and develop actionable solutions. Ferguson led participants in creating their own discussion topics for breakout sessions. Topics included access to community resources, community engagement tactics, depression, vicarious trauma and resiliency, client-provider relationships, and funding strategies. The unconference concluded with a wrap-up session and the group broke to enjoy light refreshments and networking. The collaborative is forming a steering committee to guide the initiatives created by the participants during the unconference. Following the event, Ferguson indicated her desire to continue working with the Southwest Children's Wellness Collaborative, including some of the most challenged public schools in Southwest Philadelphia.



*Dr. Roy Wade presented at the Southwest Children's Wellness Collaborative unconference on the impact of traumatic experiences on children throughout their lives*

## Creative and Innovative Therapy Programs Help Children and Teens Heal from Trauma

Art Therapy and other innovative therapies are effective and important methods of communication, assessment and treatment with children and teens in residential and outpatient behavioral health programs at theVillage. In theVillage's Residential Treatment programs, our art therapist and dance & movement therapist work as part of the team that includes physicians, mental health therapists, social workers and



*Residents participate in yoga*

teachers. Together, they determine and implement a client's therapeutic goals and objectives. Our creative therapy program includes art therapy, writing poetry, music, dance and mindful movement, yoga, and a knitting and crocheting group. These therapeutic activities allow children and teens in our programs to creatively express themselves, while addressing their negative experiences and trauma. These methods help kids understand and cope with the painful feelings that they have been holding inside, sometimes for a very long time.

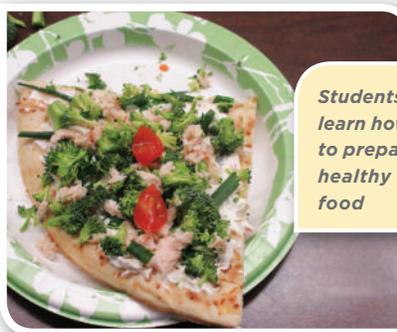
We also employ other programs such as Girls on the Run™, a curriculum-based running



*Residents complete an art project as part of their therapy*

program that uses the power of running to help prepare adolescent girls for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living. Equine Therapy allows our girls to explore patterns of relationships that have become problematic in their day-to-day lives. These innovative interventions are paid for entirely through the generous support of individual and corporate donors.

## “Kids in the Kitchen” Program Helps Children Make Healthy Food Choices



*Students learn how to prepare healthy food*

The Junior League's “Kids in the Kitchen” program is back for a second session in our Out-of-School Time (OST) programs at Catharine and Bryant elementary schools in Southwest Philadelphia.

The Junior League created this hands-on program that focuses on preparing healthy and economic meals to help fight obesity in children. The program empowers children and families to make healthy food choices. Stephanie Taylor, theVillage OST site supervisor said, “Our partnership has been wonderful! The students enjoy preparing new dishes and tasting foods they wouldn't have thought of eating!”

Each week a new recipe is posted on the website <http://kidsinthekitchen.ajli.org/recipes/>. Given the initial success,

our OST programs will also host “Kids in the Kitchen Junior,” a new program geared towards younger students in grades 1-2. The Junior League is enthusiastic to continue working with theVillage's OST programs.



*The healthy pizza recipe was a big hit*

## theVillage Leadership

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Helping children and families  
create a brighter future.



Find Wish Lists for Many Needs  
at [www.village1877.org](http://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 United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey gift to theVillage with our agency number #1867

### Join The Team — Fulfilling Careers at theVillage

Do you know anyone that might want to join our team? More information about careers at theVillage can be found at: <http://village1877.org/careers>

## Christmas and the Holidays

You can help bring the "Spirit of Christmas" to children and families served by theVillage! TheVillage will help about 700 children in our programs this year with Christmas gifts. You can purchase gifts for an individual child, several children, or adopt a family or a residential cottage. Gifts are due by December 16, 2016.

For more information or a list of names, contact **Betty Wu** at (610) 519-1615.



## November is Adoption Awareness Month

In the past year, theVillage adoption department has worked with 125 children to provide them with their forever home. Foster Parents play an important role in helping these children.

For more information about becoming a foster parent, please call (610) 525-5400 or email [fosterparent@village1877.org](mailto:fosterparent@village1877.org).