



“I felt safe at CV... Kids don't realize how hard it is out on your own.”

After being out on his own for three months, Anthony came back to CV to finish high school and take concrete steps to prepare for a career. With the skills he learned in the Dog Training program, Anthony is exploring a career as a K-9 Officer.

A Hard-Won Diploma

Anthony's story starts like that of most young people at CV's Residential School. From the time he was born, he was shuffled through a dozen foster homes and residential programs. As a young teen he was almost adopted, but it didn't work out. Not feeling like he belonged to anyone, he was angry and lonely, which led him to skip school, run with the wrong crowd, and eventually get arrested.

When Anthony came to CV at age 15, he continued to struggle. “I kept messing up because I just didn't understand that people actually wanted to help me. I was doing a lot of immature stuff.” One thing that helped him was working in the Dog Training program. He was one of the best trainers and felt good that he was helping people less fortunate. But school work was a major problem for him, and he eventually gave up.

“I just needed to pass two tests to get my diploma, but I couldn't. I was just frustrated, so I left. Kids don't realize how hard it is out on your own. I was working overtime and couldn't afford to live. It was the hardest thing I had ever done. I had no support, and I just wanted to go back to CV.”



Trustee Jim Mann and Anthony celebrate passing marks on two Regents Exams.

and U.S. History Regents tests he needed to graduate.

This summer, Anthony finally got his diploma. Mr. Mann is now helping him create a repayment schedule for his credit card debt and phone bills so when he is out on his own this time, he won't be overwhelmed.

When Anthony did come back to CV, Trustee Jim Mann, a college professor, met weekly with him to help him pass the Global Studies

“Anthony is a bright kid who's demonstrated the capacity for hard work. When opportunities come to him in life, I think he has the skills to take advantage of them,” Mr. Mann said.

When asked about why he has given so much of his time as a tutor, he says, “I hope all kids at CV grow up to be taxpayers who will make a contribution to society. I absolutely think Anthony is one of those kids.”

Anthony has been accepted into the Borough of Manhattan Community College for the Spring semester, and he plans to take courses to prepare him for a career as a K-9 police officer. He is also taking the next step to becoming independent and next month will move to a Supportive Housing apartment in Manhattan. As part of CV's WAY Home program, Anthony will continue to have someone to help him stay on track.

CV is Nonprofit Excellence Semifinalist

We are delighted to announce that The Children's Village has been selected as a semifinalist for the 2012 New York Nonprofit Excellence Awards, which recognizes outstanding management practices.

“These 10 semifinalists are not just well managed organizations, but also exceedingly credible authorities on the significant challenges that even the best-run nonprofit organizations face in the current climate,” said Ronna D. Brown, president, Philanthropy New York. “Donors want to feel confident that their contributions are not just going to a good cause, but to organizations that manage their people and resources effectively.”

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About The Village

Founded in 1851, The Children's Village works in partnership with families to help society's most vulnerable children so that they become educationally proficient, economically productive, and socially responsible members of their communities.

Going the Extra Mile for Families

Bernice Sullivan is a proud grandmother of six. She has also been her grandchildren's primary caretaker since her hearing impaired daughter was unable to care for them several years ago. Ms. Sullivan commutes four hours a day from her home in Rockland County to her job as a nutritionist and, in her spare time, she is learning sign language to better communicate with her daughter.

It would be an understatement to say that Ms. Sullivan has her hands full. She does everything she can to provide for her grandchildren, but even her best efforts come up short with such a large family. She receives no public assistance, and it's not unusual for the kids to go to school without lunch or without a haircut for months. She's already wondering how to replace the winter coats they have outgrown.

Unfortunately, Ms. Sullivan is not unique. While CV receives no funding to provide food, clothing or household items for families, staff often go the extra mile to help. Two years ago, staff started a food pantry for families stocked with donations, often from their own pockets. Social workers routinely match families with donated furniture and household items and sometimes even deliver

the items themselves. This year we launched the "It Takes The Village" campaign to give staff the opportunity to donate personally to provide food for needy families.

In Ms. Sullivan's case, staff member Janiece Sackiel does what she can to provide extra food and clothes. "It's a struggle to take care of so many kids without much help. We care about our families. We want to do whatever we can to help."



Janiece Sackiel pictured with two CV colleagues who are known for going the extra mile for families.

New Bronx Office Hosts Permanent Community Art Exhibit

CV was selected by Art Connects New York to host a permanent exhibition entitled, "Art Connects Us to Each Other and to Life." The site for the exhibition is CV's new Bronx office on Fordham Road, and the exhibition was part of the Grand Opening celebration held this summer.



In the words of exhibit curator Diane Churchill, "The theme of the art in this collection is connection—the connections between individuals, between people and their communities, and the connections people make within themselves. I hope the artwork connects to the people who come to The Children's Village and mirrors their thoughts, feelings, hopes and dreams."

The new office, with CV's first community clinic for families, has become the hub for many of CV's New York City family programs. The beautiful art pieces help to make the office welcoming for families, children, and community members.

Local artists, curator Diane Churchill, & NY Art Connects Executive Director, Ginger Shulick Porcella, with some of the art pieces that enliven the family waiting area in CV's new Bronx office.

Social Impact - Finding Families

Adoptions mean family, and family means having people who will love you through mistakes and setbacks. Too often, children enter foster care and languish there year after year with their connections to family slipping away.

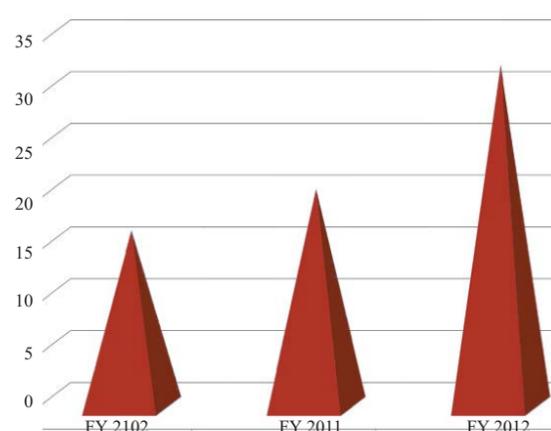
Last year, CV helped 33 children find permanent families through adoption. This not only exceeded the goal set for CV by the Administration for Children's Services by 26%, but it was also the most adoptions we have completed in a single year.

CV is one of the highest performing adoption agencies in the City and Director of Adoption/Foster Care David Collins was invited by the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies to participate on a panel about the challenges of recruiting and retaining excellent foster parents.



Zataish Grenardo with newly adopted Destiny

Adoption Growth at Children's Village



Summer Interns

Every summer, The Children's Village hosts dozens of interns throughout our programs. Supporting the education of future clinicians is one of the ways that CV contributes to best practices, and the interns provide a youthful energy and enthusiasm that enriches our work. Interns come to CV from top schools in the region, play a key role in treatment while they are here and, down the road, some return as staff members.

One of our impressive interns this summer was Anastasia McGlade (pictured), a senior at Cornell University. Anastasia interned in our Rapid Intervention Center (RIC), which works with boys and girls in short-term crisis. She was part of the Blumenthal Internship program at Cornell University, which has been sending students to CV for 7 years.



"It has been an incredible opportunity being a teacher's assistant and mentor to a group of children with such a diverse range of talents, interests, and backgrounds. My experience at Children's Village was educational and inspiring," said Anastasia.

Caseworker Stefani Negrin, who originally came to CV as a Blumenthal Intern, said, "Anastasia was a great addition to our team this summer. The kids loved working with her."

Back-to-School Jam in Harlem

The third annual "Back-to-School Jam" held at CV's Polo Grounds Community Center was a huge success thanks to generous volunteers and donors. The day-long event featured a health fair, food, dancing, and, of course, the distribution of backpacks and school supplies. The Polo Grounds is home to more than 4,000 low income families.



Thanks to generous donors, students at CV's Polo Grounds Community Center received more than 400 backpacks filled with school supplies.



CV's Leadership Council raised funds for backpacks for students in the Polo Grounds and prepared food for the many residents at the Back-to-School Jam.



The North Manhattan Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority co-sponsored the Health Fair at the Back to School Jam.

You Only Finish if you TRI-IT

On August 2, CV held an exciting mini-triathlon for youth on our Dobbs Ferry campus. Dubbed TRI-IT by the boys, the event attracted enthusiastic participants from every cottage on campus plus staff members who ran, biked, and swam alongside the boys. More than 40 volunteers distributed t-shirts, staffed the aid stations, or just cheered on the participants.

The event was the brainchild of volunteer Lee Miner (far right), Mark Klion (center), and Anita Borkenstein, who wanted to give the boys the opportunity to gain confidence through competition. With their help, and that of other volunteers, the boys trained for months to prepare for the event both physically and mentally.

A special thanks to the entire committee, to the volunteers, and to sponsors Toga, Swim Free, New York City Triathlon, and Whole Foods. Visit the video gallery on our website for a recap of the event.

<http://childrensvillage.org/videos>.



PepsiCo - A Good Corporate Partner



PepsiCo Mosaic Volunteers have sponsored Johnson Cottage for three years. As part of their monthly activities, they held a basketball tournament for the boys. They also arranged for Pepsi to donate soda for our Masquerade.



The PepsiCo Mosaic Volunteers have been so engaged that, this summer, some PepsiCo colleagues decided to volunteer at CV too. They had such a good experience that they will be collecting food for our families at Thanksgiving.

A Day with the NY Jets



CV's Leadership Council took twelve CV youth to watch the NY Jets play the 49'ers in September. Before the game, the group had an old fashioned tailgate in the parking lot and were treated to a trip down to the field and a visit by Wide Receiver Jeremy Kerley.

Upcoming Events

**Leadership Council
Holiday Fundraiser
November 27
Pranna
New York, NY**

**Annual Dinner & After Party
May 9, 2013
Chelsea Piers
New York, NY**

For more information visit
www.childrensvillage.org/events or contact
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News From The Village

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Want to stay up-to-date on The Children's Village? Visit childrensvillage.org and click "Join our Mailing List".
Know someone who may be interested in our work? Pass along this newsletter to spread the word!

Golf Outing Raises \$50,000 for Kids



CV's 9th Annual Golf and Tennis Classic raised \$50,000 for programs for at-risk youth. With a gross score of 59, the foursome from Mt. Carmel Pharmacy took the winning prize. (L to R) Sal Inguanti, Armand Paganelli of Mount Carmel Pharmacy, Tony Keogh, Jim Timko of Timko & Moses, LLP. Thanks to our hard-working committee led by Mark Scherzer of Morgan Stanley and our Gold Sponsor MasterCard Worldwide!

Runaway Shelter - Just Like Family

Her entire life Nakyah, who just turned 18, has been bounced around from place to place by a mother who struggled with drug addiction and health problems. Life was never easy. There were no birthday celebrations, hot meals, or family dinners, and school was hit or miss.

Several months ago, Nakyah left their most recent apartment because she was getting bullied and beat up by other girls living there. "I got jumped and couldn't take it, so I left. I slept in hallways of random buildings for awhile."

One thing she did have was good friends. One of them told her about CV's Sanctuary Shelter and, on a particularly cold night, she called for help. A shelter counselor found Nakyah on the street and took her to The Sanctuary. She got a warm bed, hot meals, and a sense of safety she hadn't felt for a long time. "A lot of my friends come visit me, and then they don't want to

leave. It's so nice," Nakyah said of The Sanctuary.

In the weeks that followed, staff helped Nakyah process her difficult past and plan for the future. Unfortunately, Nakyah's mother moved out of state and couldn't be located, but staff found her grandfather, who had no idea of the problems she was having. Nakyah and Grandpa are excited to be reunited, although Nakyah admits a little reluctance to leave the first safe place she can remember.

"They treat me like family here. They let me talk for hours and just listen. No one's ever cared that much about me."



First Lady of Guatemala Visits CV



The First Lady of Guatemala, Rosa Leal de Perez, visited CV's immigration program in October. The visit is part of an effort to strengthen our relationships with the governments of countries from which the young people in our program come. Both staff and youth from Guatemala enjoyed meeting the First Lady (center), pictured with CV Vice President Regis McDonald, and Maureen Dunn from the US Office of Refugee Resettlement. Maria de Los Angeles Sierra from the First Lady's office said, "The visit was wonderful. We are impressed with how loved our migrant children are and for that we are grateful."

Best Costume Party in Westchester Raises \$60,000!



On October 20, 200 belly dancers, witches, flappers, Ninja Turtles, and presidential candidates danced to the music of DJ Curtis Winchester and feasted on gourmet fare provided by Silvio's Restaurant at a Masquerade Gala at the Historic Roosevelt Ballroom in Yonkers.

The event, which was made possible by donations of services, prizes, food, liquor, decorations, etc from more than 400 individuals and organizations, raised \$60,000 for runaway and homeless teens. Many thanks to sponsors Kraft Foods, Mt. Carmel Pharmacy, and Carlos & Deborah Del Pino, all our donors, and the committed group of volunteers led by Jim Timko and Armand Paganelli.



Photos courtesy of Mariela Dujovne