Art Works – The Power of WE

Mark your calendars for our 9th annual Art Works fundraiser: Thursday, May 2nd at The Mann Center’s Crescendo space overlooking the spectacular Philadelphia skyline.

This year’s event, which will feature a reception, dinner, silent and live auctions, and a chance to hear from those who inspire us, is built on the theme “The Power of WE,” which draws our focus to the strength and conviction of our partners and collaborators, as well as your dedication to our mission at the Village to bring hope and healing to the children and families we serve. Says event co-chair Karen Gagnier, “Art Works embodies collaboration—it’s an evening filled with meeting the diverse people who come together with the same compassionate purpose, and this sense of community inspires everyone to want to do more.”

At the event, we will present our annual Healing Spirits Award to Dr. Roy Wade, trauma expert, physician at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), and Senior Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, whose efforts to create a partnership between CHOP’s Cobb’s Creek location and the Village’s Outpatient program embodies his tireless commitment to healing from trauma. Says event co-chair and the Village board member Sara Grossman, “The Power of WE means that we celebrate our successes and acknowledge the collaborative efforts, like ours with Dr. Wade, required to heal the communities we serve.”

“We hope people are excited to attend,” says Gagnier. “We come together not just to help those in need but also to connect with each other and experience how WE can make a difference.” For tickets and sponsorships, visit www.Village1877.org

Top five ways you can help!

1. Make a cash or stock gift today
2. Buy tickets or sponsor Art Works
3. Talk to your company about making an EITC grant to our school
4. Purchase items from our Amazon Wish List
5. Support our Back-to-School Backpack & School Supplies Project (watch for details)

For more information, contact Liz Marafino Fiola at 610.519.1657 or lfiola@village1877.org.
The Village is excited to announce the opening of a new program—the Family Empowerment Center! As part of our commitment to providing trauma prevention services to children and families, we are partnering with Philadelphia’s Department of Human Services (DHS) to launch an expanded version of our Family Empowerment Services program this spring. As Pennsylvania moves to implement the federal Family First Prevention Services Act, which focuses on preventing children from entering foster care and keeping families together, Philadelphia DHS selected the Village as one of two organizations city-wide to pilot a Family Empowerment Center, to test this new model of trauma-informed, evidence-based prevention services.

DHS will refer to the Center families who have been identified as being at-risk for direct child welfare services involvement. Through this voluntary, short-term program, families gain skills, knowledge, and access to services that will strengthen and stabilize the family unit and address underlying problems that may lead to abuse and neglect. At the Center, each family will have a case manager who will assess that family’s needs, link them to appropriate services, and monitor their progress on receiving services. Examples include social, mental health, domestic violence, housing assistance, primary care, economic benefits, education, and employment opportunity services. Also at the Center, families will have access to parenting classes and support groups, developmental screenings, parent-child interaction activities, play spaces for children, and other family recreational activities.

Case managers will work with families at the Center and in their homes, and there will be two tiers of service based on the family’s needs and risks.

We are truly honored and thrilled to partner with DHS on this new program to prevent trauma and bring healing to families throughout Philadelphia.

When you pause to consider the many ways the mission of the Village manifests itself in our work—from residential treatment to foster family care, our outpatient behavioral health clinic to our growing commitment to prevention programs that strengthen communities like Southwest Philadelphia—one fundamental truth becomes clear: promoting healing from trauma requires many hands. The deep collaboration between our staff, volunteers, donors, partners, and the children and families we serve makes it possible to create the virtuous cycle of hope for communities broken by violence, neglect, addiction, poverty, mental illness, racism and other serious societal problems.

This was true in 1877 when an ambitious group of women of faith raised the funds to open an orphanage for children in need. Though much has changed in the 142 years that have followed, that same spirit of courage is woven into what the community of the Village does every day.

Throughout this newsletter, you’ll see a consistent theme pop up over and over: The Power of WE. It’s the theme for our 9th annual Art Works fundraiser on May 2. It’s why our In Home Protective Services program remains the only safety net program of its kind in the city of Philadelphia. It’s why we’re expanding our work to prevent crisis within families and strengthen communities through the new Family Empowerment Center which will open this month.

And for all of our dynamic community, thank you for supporting the Village with your time, passion, and generosity. We are grateful that because we have you, together we are powerful.

Best,

Michael F. Kellerman
President and CEO
theVillage School Library

The library at theVillage’s Rosemont Campus School is a magical place. Over the past few years, volunteer extraordinaire Karin Crawford and friends have worked to update the collection with books appropriate for today’s teens. With the help of Joanne Markman and Gloria Dichter, every girl we serve has an opportunity to visit the library weekly. These women read every book to ensure they are appropriate. Jana, from theVillage’s residential treatment program recently told staff, “This library is filled with books that speak to me. It makes me feel special.”

The library recently moved into a new, bright space. Members of Gladwyne Presbyterian Church donated not only funding for the relocation but, more importantly, the labor to build shelving and to paint the new space. This new library is a sanctuary for the girls in our residential programs to check out a book, talk about what they are reading, and explore different genres. The library recently celebrated Dr. Seuss’s birthday and World Book Day with a book giveaway and treats. During the celebration, Lea, a resident, said, “The library is amazing. Reading is one of my coping skills. It’s calming. Miss Karin has recommended so many cool books for me to read.”

In Home Protective Services

The Village’s In Home Protective Services (IHPS) program is the City of Philadelphia’s only IHPS Safety Net program, delivering services to children and families throughout the city of 1.6 million people. The most intensive in-home service offered by theVillage, IHPS provides services to families who have been identified by Philadelphia DHS to have documented safety risks in the home that need to be addressed and monitored with urgency. The IHPS program is designed to work with families to prevent placement of children in an out-of-home service such as foster care, kinship care, and residential care. The amazing IHPS staff team, who have at least 10 years of service individually and collectively have served the program for 87 years, embody the spirit of “The Power of WE.”
Helping children and families create a brighter future.

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Find Wish Lists for Many Needs at www.village1877.org

Don’t forget to “like” us and “share” our stories on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram (@Village1877)

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 on our website at www.village1877.org

Join us for Art Works – The Power of WE
Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:00-9:00 pm
Crescendo at The Mann, Philadelphia, PA

Tickets and sponsorships are available at https://artworks9.givesmart.com or call Liz Marafino Fiola at 610.519.1657 for assistance.

Participate in Faith in Action Saturday
Saturday, May 18, 2019, 9:00–11:00 am

Please join us at Robinson Hall on the Rosemont Campus to learn about the new and exciting programs at theVillage. For more information, contact Betty Wu at 610.519.1615.