

A Message From Michael Kellerman

.....PAGE 2

Volunteer and Donor Spotlight: Miss Mert

.....PAGE 2

Family Empowerment Services Check-In

.....PAGE 3

Foster Care Success Story

.....PAGE 3



Robinson Hall's New Dance and Movement Therapy Studio

This summer, theVillage transformed a space in Robinson Hall into its first dance studio with mirrors, professional flooring, and ballet bars thanks to generous support from the Saturday Club of Wayne and another generous donor. Girls in the residential programs are now taking tap, ballet, jazz, hip-hop, and yoga classes with dance and movement therapist Jill Turanski.

Jill noted that she's seen incredible changes in the girls since the studio's opening. "The studio gives the girls a private, familiar space where they can try new things without worrying about being judged. One girl told me, "I love the studio because I feel safe," stated Jill. "Girls with body image issues who used to avoid looking at themselves in the mirror now look without a second thought. Girls who used to give up on combinations after one try are now willing to try again until they get it. They're willing to

experiment and take chances." Jill is also thrilled to see the girls taking responsibility for the room. "If someone is wearing street shoes or eating in the studio, the other girls will teach them about studio etiquette. They recognize that they have to take care of what they have," added Jill. The girls are choreographing their own pieces, several of which were performed at the program's first showcase in August, and the girls are now preparing for their second showcase in December. There are also plans to bring in outside artists to enhance the variety of dance therapies in the future.

Most importantly, the girls are taking another step in their journey toward healing. One participant told Jill after her first ballet class, "You're learning ballet, but really you're learning to be yourself."

Top five ways you can help!

- 1 Christmas and the holidays 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 and like our social media posts

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

The Holidays, Year-End Giving, and You...

Weaved throughout the pages of this newsletter are stories of the people who go above and beyond to carry out theVillage's ambitious mission to promote healing from trauma — such as inspiring supporters like Miss Mert, who finds so many creative ways to channel her passion and energy to support the children and families we serve. We are very fortunate to have a strong network of donors, volunteers, faith communities, community organizations, corporations, and others whose generosity inspires us.

For many people, the arrival of the holiday season marks a time to make room in our busy lives to think about giving back. In my family, as we prepare to gather with our loved ones, we also pause to make a plan for giving back to those in our community who need our support.

For 141 years, theVillage has been here in the Philadelphia region, focused on the needs of children and families struggling to heal from trauma, abuse, scarcity, and other difficulties. From our humble beginnings, we have expanded to operate two campuses and 10 programs, through which we touch the lives of 2,500 people annually.

Our mission relies on the generosity of people like you who include us in your plans to give back. We like to say that it isn't how you give, or how much, that matters. It's the choice to give that truly counts.

As you can see from these pages, thanks to the imagination of many people who came before us, there are many meaningful ways to give to theVillage during the holiday season. Pick one, or as Miss Mert might say, pick as many as you can! It's the act of giving that inspires others to give and creates that virtuous cycle of hope. As always, thank you for your support!

Best,



Michael F. Kellerman
President and CEO



The Amazing Miss Mert – Volunteer, Donor, Shaker, and Mover!



***“Listen, Learn, follow through with your heart and your pocketbook”
- Super volunteer Mert Hinkel***

Who knew a simple donation delivery would lead to such great things? Chambers Memorial Presbyterian Church places a manger in its sanctuary during Advent to collect donations for theVillage of items Baby Jesus would have needed when he was born. Marilynne “Mert” Hinkel made the delivery of baby essentials to our campus on a cold day in January 2009 and has remained a strong supporter of our organization ever since. During her first visit to theVillage, she listened intently and asked many thoughtful questions about the ways she could help, and she quickly joined our Church Relations Council, the precursor to our Faith in Action Council.



Mert helping with arts and crafts at the Southwest Community Resource Fair

Mert is always on the move and has supported theVillage in a number of ways through the years. She has volunteered to help with events, workdays, and has personally made both financial and in-kind donations; solicited donations for our fundraising auctions; procured passes to area attractions and restaurants for our foster children and families; organized her church to create 100+ gift bags for our kids at Christmastime; organized fundraisers to secure gift cards for children and families' holiday gifts; and spread awareness about theVillage at her former place of employment, Kimberly Clark, which led to a donation of more than 100 cases of diapers.

Retirement hasn't even slowed Mert down. She continues to volunteer and collect donations for theVillage and other organizations. She sees possibilities to help everywhere, shares our stories with everyone she meets, and has gained confidence with each request for a donation. She understands that not everyone will say “yes”. She takes every “no” as a challenge to look elsewhere.

Will you join Mert in this challenge? Will you learn more about the children and families we support and how you can help? Will you share our stories? We can't thank Mert and all of our other generous volunteers and donors enough!

If you're interested in supporting theVillage, contact Jory Barrad at jbarrad@village1877.org or 610.519.1605.

Family Empowerment Services: Prevention Programs at Work at theVillage



L to R: Barbara Bradford, Anthony Hines, Maja Mapp-Luke, Dawn Caldwell, Stanton Lewis, and Melissa Thomas

While theVillage helps children and families who are already involved with child welfare agencies, our prevention services and programs help “at risk” families avoid

involvement with the system. Maja Mapp-Luke was recently promoted to supervisor for our Family Empowerment Services (FES) Program following over five years working as a case manager in the program. She recently completed her Masters in Education with a focus on mental health. Maja’s co-workers encouraged her to seek out the promotion which is a true testament to the commitment and dedication of the entire FES team! While the Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) provides funding for the FES program, theVillage case managers and Maja work with families helping them to avoid further involvement with DHS. Families may be dealing with school truancy, lack of basic necessities such as food or utilities

in the home, or other issues identified by school staff and mental health services providers. Families can “self refer” for this program, as well. There is no cost to the families and they receive vital assistance that improves the safety, health, and welfare of their children. The program includes connection to assistance with utility bills, ensuring homes have a bed for each child to sleep in, addressing safety concerns in homes, and more. This program also helps families learn to advocate for their children’s special needs in their schools and to address domestic violence. Maja added, “Prevention programs are important and necessary because they are more accessible and less threatening than involvement with the child welfare system.”

Foster Care, Adoption, and Permanency – the Continuum of Services at theVillage

November is National Adoption Month, a time to celebrate families formed through adoption, and to be mindful of the thousands of children still in need of permanent homes. TheVillage’s Adoption and Permanency program provides services leading to adoption for some of our regions’ most vulnerable children. These children are supported by theVillage’s unique continuum of programs enabling care to be delivered in the most effective and coordinated manner.

When Kyree was referred to

theVillage by the city of Philadelphia, not only was he in need of a forever family, but he also exhibited behavioral challenges resulting from the mistreatment that led to his referral for foster care. Kyree was placed in one of theVillage’s treatment foster homes, in which our foster parents and Master’s level staff are highly trained to meet such children’s needs. Kyree also received therapy through theVillage’s Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic. Kyree has achieved permanency through adoption. He is now thriving and loving life in his new forever home.



“As pictured, we were honored to mark Kyree’s recent adoption by his loving treatment foster parent from theVillage!”

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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 and 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 at our website: village1877.org

November is Adoption Awareness Month

In the past year, theVillage adoption and permanency department worked with 39 children to provide them with their forever home through adoption or permanent legal custody. Foster Parents play an important role in helping children feel safe and secure until permanency can be achieved for them.

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

Christmas and the Holidays

You can help bring the "Spirit of Christmas" to children and families served by theVillage!

TheVillage will help about 400 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 14, 2018. For more information, contact Betty Wu at (610) 519-1615.

