

Successfully breaking the cycle of homelessness for single parent families

## Our Program

**Warren Village** is a unique family community created to help motivated low-income single-parents move from public assistance to personal and economic self-sufficiency through subsidized housing, on-site child care, intensive case management, educational guidance and career development.



Warren Village provides three integrated programs with our primary location in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Denver, CO. This successful model has been replicated in several states across the nation. The Warren Village Housing Program includes 93 one, two and three bedroom apartments accommodating families of up to six children and one adult as well as a cooperative living facility in North Denver with 13 resident families. We also provide program services for 28 families in East Denver. Our nationally accredited Learning Center offers quality child care and early childhood education for up to 116 children, ages six weeks to ten years. The Family Services Program provides comprehensive case-management, vocational assessment, evening life-skills classes, child enrichment activities and resident-initiated leadership opportunities.

## Our Impact

At Warren Village, we change lives. We provide safe housing and an environment for parents to gain confidence and achieve their personal goals. But beyond that, we create opportunity, hope and social networks that will serve our families well in breaking the cycle of homelessness they came to know before finding Warren Village. Our program fosters a supportive environment where families can build on the strengths they currently possess and address the barriers to self-sufficiency they have encountered.

*"Living in transitional housing is a full life... It is a chance to get your feet back under you before you need to run. It is a gift from very smart people that sensed that there was more to leaving a homeless life than pulling yourself up by your bootstraps." – Ann, alumna*

In the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2012, Warren Village housed **219 families and 357 children and youth**. That means 219 families who are no longer living in fear, no longer waiting in line at a soup kitchen, no longer being physically or mentally abused, and no longer unsure of where they'll sleep tonight.

*"It is so hard to be a single parent and keep track of all things you have to do on a day-to-day basis. Knowing you have someone there to support you and help you through makes it all manageable." – Jennifer, resident*

Of the 60 families who moved on from Warren Village in FY2012:

- The average length of stay was 16 months – even though they were eligible to stay for 24 months
- 82 percent moved on to permanent housing
- 83 percent were engaged in a full-time work or school activity
- 22 percent had full-time employment with a positive change in income
- 10 percent completed an academic or vocational program
- 85 percent experienced positive change in personal competencies\*

\*Because this number is self-reported, it is common opinion that individuals tend to rank themselves lower on competency scales after involvement in a life skills program due to their newfound understanding of where they truly were on the path to self-sufficiency

As part of our evening life skills program, volunteers taught 337 classes last year including computer basics, mental health exploration, building relationships, financial planning and much more. Our parents are able to attend these classes in the evening due to the over 358 volunteers who dedicate their time to caring for the children while their parents enhance their skills.

Our Learning Center enriched the lives of 185 children. We make every effort to create a nurturing learning environment where children can feel safe to practice their newly acquired skills.

In FY2012, the children served by Warren Village:

- Were served 1,700 breakfasts, 2,000 lunches and 1,900 afternoon snacks per month at the Learning Center
- Participated in field trips to The Denver Zoo, The Denver Art Museum, The Children's Museum and The Museum of Nature and Science, all in line with classroom lessons.
- Took part in a program dedicated to the outdoors which included swimming at our community pool, picnicking at our parks, and hiking at Echo Lake, Castlewood Canyon and Eldorado Canyon.
- Received free annual vision, speech and hearing exams as well as dental screenings
- Received regular developmental screenings

*"I am proud to say that my son is happy and so smart - he scores the highest marks in school. Because I found Warren Village, he has always felt safe and loved." – Jessica, alumna*

We've made a difference for many families - **3,950 to date** – but there are others awaiting their opportunity. We have the desire to serve more people but we do not currently have the resources. Last year, we had to turn away over 144 families. With the help of the greater community and invested donors like you, we will continue to explore options to provide services in new ways and search for innovative methods to extend the scope of our services to provide continued support to residents beyond their stay at Warren Village.

## What Success Looks Like

Esther was in high school and living at home with her parents when she found out she was pregnant. When her son, Dietrich, was just three months old her dad told her to find somewhere else to live. After a short period as a live-in nanny and an attempt at living with Dietrich's father, Esther found a new home and a new start at Warren Village. Once settled, Esther applied for college and enrolled Dietrich in the Learning Center. Having started school in fall 2010, Esther has now completed her first two years and is currently working on her nursing degree with a full scholarship. Both Esther and Dietrich are flourishing – she with school and new leadership skills and Dietrich with new found confidence and developmental skills. We know both with go far!



Sophia was married to her mentally/verbally abusive husband for 10 years when she finally left. She and her four children sought refuge with her parents for a time but she knew that wasn't a long term solution – that's when she turned to Warren Village. In the year that Sophia's family resided at Warren Village, she was able to finish her bachelor's degree. She is now working full time in the public school system as a para-educator and hopes to continue her education with a teaching certificate or a master's in teaching. She says her goal is to have the highest education possible to demonstrate to her children that they should also set their standards high. Since her children have been enrolled in the learning center, she says they have become amazingly passionate about their learning and love to go to school.