HOMEWOOD CHILDREN’S VILLAGE
Annual Report
August 2011–July 2012

IT TAKES A VILLAGE
A core belief of the Homewood Children’s Village is that we best serve our children by leveraging relationships and the existing resources of service providers in Homewood. We have used our time during the past two years to engage those providers; build relationships; define roles; and develop activities and programs. Because of this foundational work, we can begin to move our efforts forward to improve the lives of Homewood’s children.

I have been humbled by the privilege of serving the people of Homewood. Fulfilling our mission “to simultaneously improve the lives of Homewood’s children and to reweave the fabric of the community in which they live” has been challenging—after all, we did not get here overnight. Yet, Homewood’s greatest assets are its residents and the rich history they bring to the conversation. It is not only their stories of misfortune, but also their resiliency that inspire us to work tirelessly every day. They, the people of Homewood, give me the confidence that we, together, will succeed.

When our exploratory work began in 2008, the Village embedded our team in Homewood and engaged children and families, faith- and community-based groups, educators, legislators, and private and public funders in a community planning process. Through those interactions, we observed the challenges that our children and families face and have sought to understand the needs expressed in each voice raised and every story told.

In response to those poignant interactions, we built a structure to systematically address the most pressing issues. Since its official launch in 2010, the Village has evolved to advance our children’s progress along the developmental pipeline. That journey so far is the subject of this, our first Annual Report.

A proverb from the African diaspora states simply: “The health of a village is measured by the well-being of its children.” The Homewood Children’s Village is committed to working with all stakeholders to meet the challenges our children face academically, emotionally, and socially. We are determined to partner with you to regain a sense of community, where our children are safe and thriving; where our adults are empowered and respected; and where all of our citizens are proud to call Homewood home again. In short, we, in partnership with you, hope to spark a renaissance movement, envisioning and rebuilding Homewood as a Village, where “Every Child Succeeds.”

DERRICK LOPEZ
President and CEO
The Homewood Children’s Village would like to acknowledge those who have supported the work of the Village through cash contributions and in-kind donations.

Your generous support has enabled the launch of this comprehensive community initiative and has placed the organization on a solid path toward fulfilling its mission to “improve the lives of Homewood’s children and reweave the fabric of the community in which they live.”

Thank you on behalf of the children and the community we seek to serve!
We convene individuals and existing service providers who work with Homewood's children and families.

We build capacity of individuals and organizations to develop, deliver, and track the services provided to Homewood's children and families.

We coordinate services that individuals and organizations provide to the children and families of Homewood along our developmental pipeline.

We support broader community initiatives to develop the physical and socio-emotional environment of the Homewood community.
A Full Service Community School is both a place of learning and a set of partnerships with community organizations—working together to strategically improve student success.

Pittsburgh’s first Full Service Community School (FSCS) launched in August 2011 at Pittsburgh Westinghouse 6–12 as a partnership between Homewood Children’s Village and Pittsburgh Public Schools. Following the nationally recognized model for community-school partnership, the FSCS director from the lead agency had a full-time presence at the school and participated in school planning and resource allocation.

Over the 2011–2012 school year, Homewood Children’s Village provided 26 consistent, caring, literate adults to assist students during and after class with academic coaching, mentoring, and role modeling. In addition, interns from the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work helped prepare 12th graders for life after high school, including assisting them in applying to at least one college. The IOU (I’m Moving Onward and Upward) Teen Parent Program was created, teaching teen parents about budgeting, planning, goal setting, and parenting; distributing concrete resources such as strollers, books, and holiday gifts; and fostering multi-generational mentoring at a nearby senior center. HCV also provided enrichment opportunities, such as sponsoring Pittsburgh Westinghouse’s first musical in 10 years and taking students to sporting events, museums, and plays. Students also received after-school enrichment through the YMCA Lighthouse Project, which teaches leadership and career readiness through media arts.

The FSCS department also worked in Pittsburgh Faison K–5 to conduct a needs assessment with school staff, students and families, and community resources. This assessment led to a jointly developed plan for bringing student support personnel and resource coordination into the school for the 2012–2013 school year.

LOOKING FORWARD

• Expand the FSCS strategy to other schools that serve Homewood children.
• Evaluate the impact of this strategy on student success.
• Acquire resources as the department expands to support its structures and personnel.
Our services help students build a strong foundation for post-secondary learning in high school and then go on to successfully attend and graduate from college.

The Office of Promise Fulfillment takes its name from the Pittsburgh Promise, a scholarship program for youth graduating from Pittsburgh Public Schools with at least a 90% attendance record and minimum 2.5 GPA. Most of Homewood’s children do not qualify for the Pittsburgh Promise—in fact, many do not graduate at all. We are working to change this reality by preparing students to first graduate from high school, and then go on to successfully attend and graduate from college.

The Promise Fulfillment network takes the next step. It brings together college students, faculty, staff, programs, and organizations aimed at increasing college retention and graduation rates. Faculty and staff members act as dedicated liaisons between the Homewood Children’s Village and their institutions, advising students academically and in taking advantage of college and the world-at-large.

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With an adaptation of the “Plan, Do, Study, Act” cycle as our guide, our approach to evaluation and accountability uses both formative and summative evaluation approaches. Our process starts with deliberate program design that clearly delineates goals and objectives and identifies activities, deliverables, and outcomes from the outset. Program planning includes collaboration among administrators, directors, and managers to develop evidence-based services and also to respond to ongoing program needs. We conduct various types of planning sessions to (1) brainstorm and generate ideas, (2) develop logic models to determine program outcomes, activities, metrics, and indicators, and (3) draft and edit program plan descriptions. We also help draft documents, emails, letters, and surveys in support of the Homewood Children’s Village’s direct services, the networks and collaborative efforts in which we participate. After each implementation cycle, we meet to update program plans and data, and to synthesize successes and lessons learned.

Our goals are to understand the processes involved in what we do and to assess how well Homewood Children’s Village’s activities or services have supported our participants. Further, we hope to increase our understanding of what assisted or limited our interventions by analyzing and reflecting on lessons learned, so we can use that knowledge to improve and grow.

**LOOKING FORWARD**

- Use Efforts to Outcomes database to streamline data entry and provide a data management system.
- Create quarterly mini-reports and briefs to present qualitative and quantitative data to internal and external audiences.
- Publish peer-reviewed journal articles to showcase our work to education and social service professionals.
- Launch the Rising Tide Program to offer fee-based technical assistance to organizations.

**Partners & Affiliates**

Higher Achievement Pittsburgh Neighborhood Learning Alliance
The Pittsburgh Promise
Pittsburgh Public Schools
YMCA Lighthouse Project

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**PROMISE FULFILLMENT**

**The Bridge to College**

- after-school and summer program, piloted in Spring 2012, currently serves students in grades 9–12. Its high attendance, behavior, and academic expectations affirm our belief that all of the students can go to college.
- The program offers:
  - College-prep coursework in Math and English
  - Service learning projects within the Homewood community
  - College, financial aid, and financial literacy workshops
  - SAT exposure, practice, and preparation
  - Discussions and field trips to increase students’ awareness and appreciation of college and the world-at-large

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ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY
Every year, Homewood residents look forward to helping children prepare to go back to school. The large turnout reflects the community’s desire to come together in strong support and love for their children as well as their recognition of the importance of education.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR
This convening linked various health and wellness resources with Homewood community residents as an anchor for the larger initiative of the Homewood Children’s Village. Opening the school-based health clinic at Pittsburgh Westinghouse further supports our vision of wellness as a vital community builder.

HOMEWOOD SPEAKS SERIES
The series gives community residents an opportunity to share their views, voice issues, and provide historical perspectives on Homewood and, in return, allows Homewood Children’s Village to share our mission and vision with the community.
HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Believing that good physical, mental, and emotional health is the basis for lifelong success, we are working to improve health as part of our commitment to improving lives.

Many risk factors adversely affect the health of families in Homewood, including lack of access to fresh fruits and vegetables; high rates of violence; poor air quality; aging housing containing lead paint and asbestos tiles; and a large number of vacant and abandoned properties.

While the Village has focused on improving the well-being of the families of Homewood since its inception, we officially launched the Health and Wellness Network (HWN) in 2012 to address these risks and serve as the lead convener of partners and service providers. The HWN has three overarching objectives for Homewood’s children and families:

- To establish a medical home for all children who live or learn in Homewood where they can receive general dental, health, and vision screenings and follow-up care.
- To establish a model of mental and behavioral health to prevent, intervene in, and manage the undiagnosed trauma that pervades the lives of our children.
- To provide a forum for the community to identify and address other pervasive health issues, such as asthma, exposure to lead, and other concerns.

LOOKING FORWARD

- Target health promotion initiatives emphasizing prevention and early intervention.
- Address the acute need for mental/behavioral health care for students, families, and the community.
- Establish a School-Based Health Center as a medical home providing a range of health services.

As Frederick Douglas once said, “It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.” Working with other organizations, our goal is to ensure the optimal development of Homewood’s children by engaging all of the adults in the child’s ecosystem—including both parents and primary caregivers—and promoting developmentally appropriate practices among them.

In today’s world, college and career readiness actually starts with healthy development and productive early childhood experiences. With the Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children (PAEYC) as our lead partner, a network of 10 organizations meets each month to devise a comprehensive strategy to serve the approximately 500 children ages 0–4 in Homewood.

Discovering that approximately 60% of Homewood’s children enter kindergarten without having experienced a structured classroom, the network worked with the University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development to host two “Kindergarten Clubs” during the summer of 2012 to simulate the kindergarten experience and promote kindergarten readiness. Moreover, PAEYC holds monthly meetings for primary caregivers to promote evidence-based developmental practices for Homewood’s children. During our “Parent-Child Get Together” sessions, our goal is to introduce parents to positive parent-child interactions that will foster curiosity and language development—both gateways to positive learning outcomes for their children. Additionally, during monthly professional development meetings, those who operate family-run daycare centers are provided with training in evidence-based instructional practices for the children they serve and financial literacy practices for the “micro-businesses” they run.

As we look to the future, the Village will continue to convene key partners and service providers to advocate for the needs of our children and families. As we do so, we will remain committed to building strong children and promoting the health and success of Homewood’s children and families.

EARLY LEARNING

We are convening many of the organizations and individuals who serve Homewood’s children from birth through age 4 to coordinate and bring consistency to early childhood programs and services.

Looking Forward

- Distribute Newborn Gift Baskets containing baby supplies that meet basic needs.
- Establish Nurse-Family Partnership for Homewood’s new parents that will work with new parents for two years.
- Launch Kaboom! Playground at the Early Learning Center to promote play as an essential developmental activity.
We have strengthened our relationships with Homewood sports teams and the faith community, recognizing that many of these programs have served our young people for decades without support and recognition.

Homewood Children’s Village has embraced these organizations—the historical linchpin for community pride and goodwill—to support the more than 300 young people they serve each year. These partnerships are strategic in that the Village is supporting athletics to institute the monitoring of attendance and academic achievement, aiming to augment players’ love of sport with a love of learning. One primary objective is to reintroduce the word “student” to the phrase “student-athlete.”

We sent the Westinghouse Bulldog football team to camp at Slippery Rock University in August. This was the first time the team had been away as a unit, leaving the day-to-day challenges of Homewood behind to concentrate on football, team-building, and just being better young men and students.

The Village purchased new uniforms for the Westinghouse Lady Bulldog basketball team, who have been either City League Champion or runner-up each of the past several years. In addition to being tough competitors, these young women serve as role models, tutors, and mentors for girls throughout the community. They are the citizens that we hope to grow and build.

We have partnered with Homewood Community Sports (the Homewood Dawgs) to improve its infrastructure and business practices to ensure its sustainability for the next generation. The Village conducted a coaching clinic on head injuries in partnership with UPMC; purchased liability insurance to ensure access to city parks and recreation fields; and worked with leaders to develop standard business practices for its yearly operations.

The Village has also begun to deepen our partnership with faith institutions, supporting the work of Bible Center Church in its after-school soccer program. We also partnered with Bethany Baptist Church’s Diakonia Ministries, which supports Homewood mothers.

**FAITH, FAMILY, AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME**

**LOOKING FORWARD**

- Hold Academic All-Homewood Recognition Ceremony.
- Launch The Village: Project 240 to support and coordinate strong academic, arts, and athletic programming from 3pm to 7pm daily.
Homewood Children’s Village supports children and families from cradle to college, and beyond. Here is a glance at what has kept us busy over the past year.

**600+** CHILDREN have been involved in the Village’s programs and services

**35+** STUDENTS use free daily busing services provided by the Village

**200** STUDENTS were honored at Pittsburgh Faison K–5 honor roll breakfast

**36** HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS participated in the Bridge to College program

**14** COLLEGE STUDENTS are in our Promise Fulfillment Network

**688** COMMUNITY RESIDENTS attended the block party and the “Homewood Speaks” series

**29** ORGANIZATIONS convened as affiliates and partners to grow the birth through college and career pipeline

**302** STUDENTS attended Out-of-School Time programs and events sponsored by the Village

**100+** COMMUNITY RESIDENTS attended the health and wellness fair

**15** PRESCHOOLERS participated in kindergarten readiness clubs

**26** ADDITIONAL STAFF supported Pittsburgh Westinghouse students daily

**1000+** Children have been involved in the Village’s programs and services
The financial health of Homewood Children’s Village remains strong as a result of continued support from private philanthropy and individual donors.

With the generous support of the “Friends of the Village,” our work continues to move forward to serve the children and families of Homewood. Organizational appropriations for the first three years are reflected in the adjacent chart. Our financial position, as noted in the table, was audited by ParenteBeard for FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

During its first three years, Homewood Children’s Village operated under the fiscal agency of the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh and had a fiscal operating year of April 1 through March 31. In July 2012, the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh launched the Homewood Children’s Village to financial independence. Following the transition, the fiscal year for the Village was changed to July 1 through June 30.

### FISCAL YEAR TOTALS

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<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$157,201</td>
<td>$1,974,918</td>
<td>$1,488,278</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>$23,361</td>
<td>$194,325</td>
<td>$150,898</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
<td>$133,840</td>
<td>$1,780,593</td>
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### APPROPRIATIONS 2010–2012

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The work of the Homewood Children’s Village has evolved in an iterative, dynamic manner, yet strategically builds toward full implementation over five years.

During our first fiscal year, we developed the capacity of our internal offices (Evaluation & Research, Community Affairs, and Budget & Operations). The Village also piloted activities for our direct service offices (Full Service Community Schools and Promise Fulfillment) and convened partners in our networks (Early Learning, Health and Wellness, and Faith, Family, and Out-of-School Time).

During our second year of operation, the Village moved into full implementation of our direct service offices and piloted activities and programs in each of our networks. We also convened partners and submitted planning grant opportunities for our broader community work (Community and Economic Development Collaborative and Research and Policy Collaborative).

During the next three years, Homewood Children’s Village will work toward full implementation of the entire Village infrastructure, with the full operation of our internal offices, direct service offices, networks, and collaborative endeavors.

### OUR JOURNEY

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<td><strong>Hired a project manager</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Began participation in Bringing the Busway with the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh</strong></td>
<td><strong>Completed business plan</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Piloted the African American MalePromise Preparation Project with YMCA of Pittsburgh and Operation Better Block</strong></td>
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<td>Moved fiscal agency from the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hosted 2nd annual block party</td>
<td>2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Launched the Research and Policy Collaborative</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Launched the Health and Wellness Network</td>
<td>2012</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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