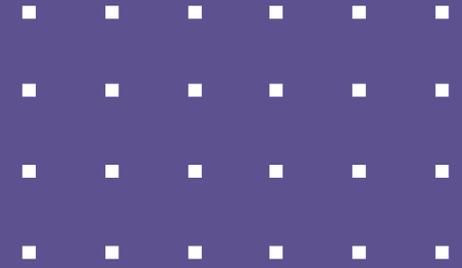


# THE FABRIC THAT BINDS

**HOMEWOOD CHILDREN'S VILLAGE**  
**Annual Report**  
July 2013—June 2014



# WE ARE THE FABRIC THAT BINDS



While we often talk about the need for a village to raise a child, what may go unsaid is that these villages need to be cultivated and organized around this cause. The Homewood Children's Village works directly and behind-the-scenes to connect partners who can provide the services our children and their families need to succeed. In 2015, we'll continue our role as the fabric that binds this village together. We plan to deepen and strengthen our relationships so that children receive consistent support and encouragement from kindergarten all the way through their post-secondary education.





At the Homewood Children's Village, we believe that each child in our network of programs has the potential to change the world. And through our work with each potential world-changer, each of us has this chance as well.

**DR. SHANNAH THARP-GILLIAM**  
Interim President and CEO  
Director of Research and Evaluation

That's why we take note of our children's stories and track their successes and setbacks. Our staff members record each incremental contact effort, or "touchpoint" as we call them, day by day, as we watch the impact of our work build.

Our approach is simple... our core strategies that focus on children:

- The HCV provides academic, behavioral and emotional, physical health and wellness, and social enrichment activities and services that support children/youth/young adults.
- The HCV convenes and coordinates with other organizations, families, and the community to build a system of support for children.

- The HCV strives to understand partners' needs and to support their work to meet the needs of their students.
- The HCV creates strong, mutually beneficial partnerships by adding our core work to the work of our partners.

As we move forward, the Homewood Children's Village is committed to deepening our work and improving the lives of Homewood's children with an integrated and holistic approach to child-centered supports for youth. We are more closely aligning our core services with the needs of our students and planning strategically with key partners to mesh our services along a pipeline of supports, so that none of our precious ones fall through the seams.

The HCV recognizes the importance of collaboration, partnership, and consistency in order to build support among the community and our partners. Our goal is to build a network of partners and supporters who can count on us to deliver high quality services and demonstrated results.

We are proud of the initial outcomes that resulted from the collaborations with our partners and families. We have seen a dramatic reduction in suspensions, truancy, and missed school days, as well as a significant improvement in literary scores among

the students who are supported by the HCV's Full Service Community School and Promise Fulfillment Network. We also supported families by reducing food insecurity among students through our weekend nutrition program that provides a selection of healthy non-perishable foods each weekend. Additionally, we spread hope among Homewood's students and families with our well-attended celebrations, dinners, and community outreach events.

Despite these significant impacts, there is a long way to go before the students in Homewood's schools receive the level of education and achievement that is unparalleled across the city and State. And the HCV will continue to push for the dramatic improvements that our students deserve. With your support, we press forward with like-minded partners to provide innovative and evidence-based supports and services, knowing that Homewood's future world-changers are depending on us. They are depending on all of us because

**WE ARE ALL THE VILLAGE.**



## Spotlight

AKAYLA

Student at Pittsburgh Faison K-5

# AKAYLA

Akayla is a 10-year-old fourth-grade student at Pittsburgh Faison. She loves to run and is a member of the Pittsburgh Faison Girls On the Run team, organized by the HCV. Akayla motivates her teammates during practice by creating cheers that keep them moving! Akayla's favorite subject in school is math because, in her words, "It's easy." Akayla loves fashion and finds creative ways to incorporate her own style into her school uniform.



Staff Member  
**KRISTI BURRY**  
 Director of Child and Community Health

“I’ve worked with Akayla for two seasons as her Girls On the Run coach, and she is wonderful. Akayla has shown great progress throughout her two seasons in the program. She used to get discouraged and would worry that she couldn’t complete her laps or run a 5K, but she has persevered. Her attitude is now one of ‘I can’ instead of ‘I can’t.’ She shows great leadership with the team and is spearheading the community impact project that the team does each season. She has a ton of great ideas about how to help the community. It is wonderful to see her so excited about giving back.”

**821** CHILDREN AND FAMILIES participated in HCV sponsored community programs

**GIRLS ON THE RUN**  
**Office of Child and Community Health**  
 Girls on the Run is a national after-school program that uses running to inspire girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident. Each season third-grade through fifth-grade girls train for a 5K, while learning life skills through lessons and games.  
**Partner organization**  
 Girls on the Run

**POWER PACK**  
**Office of Child and Community Health**  
 Power Pack is a weekend nutrition program that provides students with nonperishable food items to combat weekend hunger. Students enrolled in the program receive a backpack filled with food items each week throughout the school year.  
**Partner organizations**  
 Ladies Hospital Aid Society (LHAS), Oakland Catholic School, Central Catholic School, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

**DEN ADVISOR**  
**Full Service Community Schools**  
 Den Advisor is a mentoring program that improves student success by addressing in-school and at-home barriers to learning. Students in the program have daily, one-on-one or small group academic support, as well as at-home outreach, to ensure that their needs are met.  
**Partner organizations**  
 KEYS Service Corps AmeriCorps Program, Pittsburgh Public Schools



## Spotlight

### LEMUEL

Student at Westinghouse High School

Lemuel, is a senior at Westinghouse High School. He grew up in Homewood and has experienced a lot of difficulty in his young life. He can be reserved, but, when he does open up, he's articulate and passionate with a deep love for his family, concern for his community, and a budding sense of humor. Lemuel has been accepted to California University of PA. He plans to study computer science and pursue a career developing video games and computer software.

# LEMUEL





Staff Member  
**WALTER LEWIS**  
Manager of Bridge to College

“Lemuel joined the Bridge to College program in the summer of 2012 after a Heinz fellow at Westinghouse referred him. While in his junior year, Lemuel faced some very difficult challenges in his personal life, but during that time he also regularly attended our program, earned his highest GPA, a 3.75, and became Promise Ready. Today, he is a senior who has been an active member in our program for nearly three years. In that time we have taken him on tours of more than 10 different colleges and universities and stood as a constant supporter of his personal and academic success. Whether it was one-on-one mentoring, helping with homework, college prep workshops,

connecting him with opportunities in computer science, or personally driving him to take the SAT, we have been with him every step of the way.

In our time together, Lemuel has also taken advantage of leadership opportunities such as participating in the My Brother’s Keeper action summit, mentoring middle school students in Higher Achievement, and doing community service. Each of these opportunities was the result of his participation in Bridge to College. In the face of tremendous adversity, Lemuel has never given up on himself and continues to inspire us all that we can overcome anything.”

94

STUDENTS

participate in our Bridge to College program.

## BRIDGE TO COLLEGE

### Office of Promise Fulfillment

Bridge to College was created with the belief that all Homewood students can go to college. The collection of after-school, in-school and summer initiatives includes college and SAT preparatory coursework, service learning projects, field trips and life skills workshops.

### Partner organizations

The Maker’s Place, Grow Pittsburgh, YMCA

## HCV COAT DRIVE

### Office of Community Affairs

HCV Coat Drive provides brand new coats to Homewood children who are in need.

### Partner organizations

Allegheny Housing Rehabilitation Corporation (AHRCO), PA Motor Truck Association (PMTA)

## WE PROMISE

### Office of Promise Fulfillment

We Promise prepares students to graduate from high school, qualify for the Pittsburgh Promise Scholarship, and then fulfill that Promise by earning their degree.

### Partner organization

Pittsburgh Public Schools

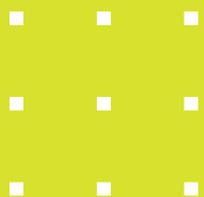


# KIM, MELISSA, AND JOEL

## Spotlight

### KIM, MELISSA, AND JOEL

Family from Homewood



Kim, her husband, and her two children, Melissa and Joel, live in Homewood.

Kim, 54, has worked in food service for Pittsburgh Public Schools for about 14 years and is employed now at Allerdice High School, where Joel is a senior.

Melissa is a junior at the University of Pittsburgh and looks forward to taking advantage of their study abroad program.

## PRODUCE BAG PROGRAM

### Office of Child and Community Health

Homewood Children's Village partners with Grow Pittsburgh to provide produce bags to Workout Wednesday members to help increase their access to fresh produce. Produce bags cost between \$3 to \$5 (depending on the season). The fresh vegetables and herbs they provide are freshly picked from Grow Pittsburgh's Shiloh Farm or Frick Greenhouse.

### Partner organization

Grow Pittsburgh

## HEALTH MATTERS EDUCATION SERIES

### Office of Child and Community Health

The Health Matters Series connects health experts with community members in a comfortable setting. Each session focuses on a different health topic, and provides an opportunity for community members to hear health information and to have their questions answered.

### Partner organizations

Speakers have participated from the YWCA, Susan G. Komen Foundation, Allegheny County Health Department, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

## HOMWOOD HEALTH MATTERS 5K AND HEALTH EXPO

### Office of Child and Community Health

The Annual 5K is a 3.1 mile run through the neighborhood. Then, participants attend a health expo with vendors from different organizations.

### Partner organization

Homewood Community Sports



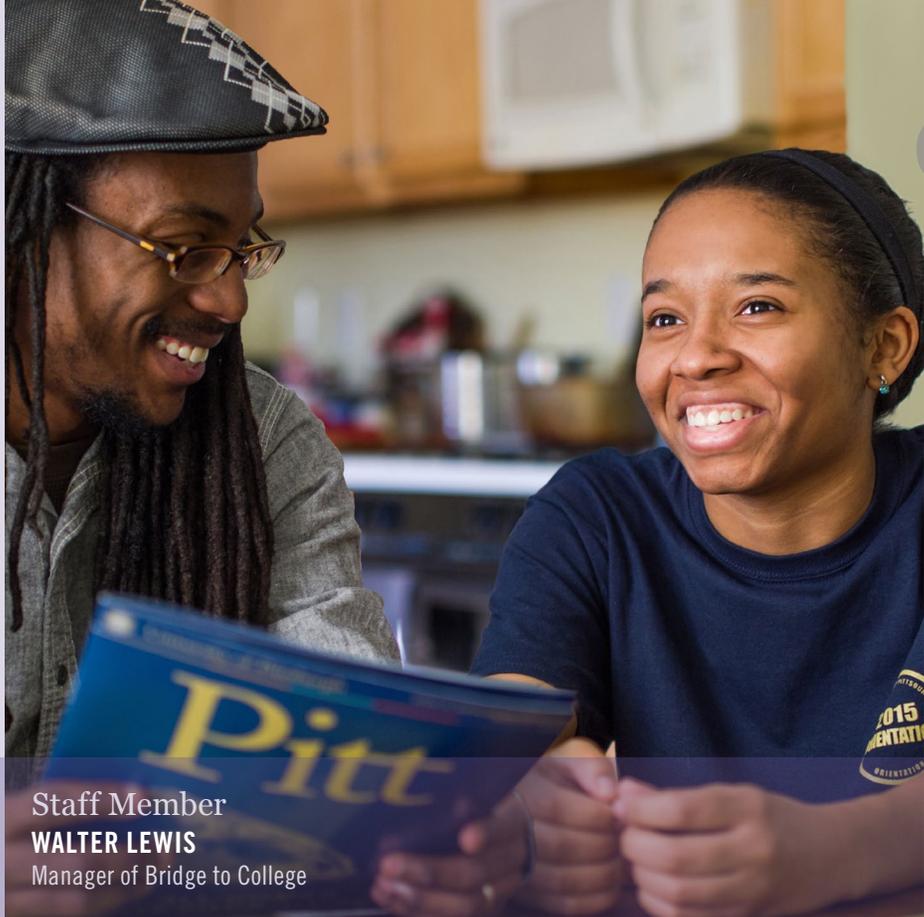
Staff Member  
**KRISTI BURRY**

Director of Child and Community Health

“**Kim** began walking with the Workout Wednesday group in August of 2013 after learning about it through the HCV Back-to-School Block Party at Pittsburgh Faison Elementary. She routinely participates in the Grow Pittsburgh Produce Bag program, and attends most of the Health Matters

education sessions. Kim completed her first 5K, the Homewood Health Matters 5K, in June and placed first in her age group. Kim is now one of our most engaged members and always has great recipes to share for the items in each Produce Bag.”

“**Melissa**, now 20, became a member of the Promise Fulfillment Network (PFN) during her sophomore year in high school. At first, Melissa, like her mother, was very shy and kept to herself. The PFN provided her with a stipend each month during the academic year, and its staff members were there for her when she needed advice. Melissa has also participated in our PFN semi-annual gatherings where we have helped her to develop her plans for after graduation. After being in the program for a few years, she has opened up a lot to us. Melissa is extremely resilient. Though she has struggled with some serious health related issues, she has always persevered and prioritized academics.”



Staff Member  
**WALTER LEWIS**  
Manager of Bridge to College

“**Joel**, Melissa’s younger brother, participated in the Bridge to College (B2C) summer program this year. Joel, 18, was skeptical of the program when he showed up the first day, but we saw him embrace it after the first week. The program has helped Joel think about his next steps after high school. Through B2C, Joel completed more than 20 hours of community service this summer and also tended several community gardens. He also traveled to Baltimore and the nation’s capital during our overnight field trip to visit Morgan State and Howard University. Through the program, Joel has been encouraged to develop his skills and pursue his dream of becoming a professional animator.”

**PROMISE FULFILLMENT NETWORK**  
**Office of Promise Fulfillment**

Promise Fulfillment Network provides high school graduates with the necessary resources they need to capitalize on college and post-graduate opportunities. Dedicated faculty and staff members serve as liaisons between HCV and institutions to assist students, provide academic advising, and recommend on-campus enrichment programs.



**BRIDGE TO COLLEGE**  
**Summer Academy**

The Bridge to College Summer Academy is a 6-Week College Preparatory program where students engage in activities that lead to postsecondary success. Some of the key activities include soft skill development, academic enrichment, college/career readiness, college tours, career-related projects and community service.

**Partner organizations**

The Maker’s Place, Grow Pittsburgh, YMCA

# ACCOMPLISH- MENTS

1,197

**STUDENTS**  
were served by the Homewood  
Children's Village this year.

116,892

**INDIVIDUAL  
CONTACTS**  
were made by staff with  
students, parents, residents,  
and village supporters.

906

**STUDENTS**  
are educated in HCV's Full  
Service Community Schools  
each day.

56%

**OF TUTORED FAISON  
STUDENTS**  
significantly improved their  
GPA by the end of the year.

26,926

**DOLLARS  
IN STIPENDS**  
were paid to students in  
Bridge to College and  
Promise Fulfillment Network.

75

**STUDENTS**  
are transported to and  
from school in partnership  
with Oasis Transportation.

250

**STUDENT ATHLETES**  
participate on HCV related  
sports teams.

207

**STUDENTS**  
are part of our Power Pack  
weekend nutrition program.

0.6

**POINT INCREASE  
IN GPA**  
on teens' report cards  
for every 100 hours of  
Bridge to College.

73%

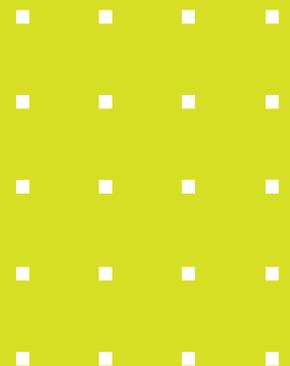
**OF BRIDGE TO  
COLLEGE STUDENTS**  
achieved a Promise Ready  
attendance rate.

34%

**OF BRIDGE TO  
COLLEGE STUDENTS**  
achieved a Promise Ready  
GPA, compared to 20% of  
non-B2C students.

24

**COLLEGE STUDENTS**  
are supported by our  
Promise Fulfillment Network.





**DR. JOHN M. WALLACE JR.**

**Board President**

University of Pittsburgh

The Homewood Children's Village began in 2008 with a dream. In 2009, with the help of a broad group of collaborators and funders, that dream became an organization.

Since that time, the HCV clarified its vision and mission and drafted a plan to make its vision and mission a reality. This report highlights some of the results of the implementation of that plan.

Every day, the Homewood Children's Village works with nearly 1,000 young people at Faison K-5, Lincoln K-5, and Westinghouse 6-12. Although our work is far from done, we have begun to experience significant results in key academic outcomes—improved school attendance, reduced suspensions, improved academic performance, and increased college admission.

In the coming months and years, we are committed to continue to work with our children, their parents, our schools, and our partner organizations to fulfill our mission “to simultaneously improve the lives of Homewood's children and

reweave the fabric of the community in which they live.”

Our successes would not be possible without the hard work of our staff, the commitment of our partners, and continued support of our donors. We want to thank you for your on-going investment in our effort to make Homewood a community in which “every child succeeds.”

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