Our impact lies in the thousands of children and families who have overcome enormous challenges and are now building brighter futures for themselves with help from the treatment, services and advocacy of The Village.
At The Village, we are unwavering in doing whatever it takes to transform lives.

We go beyond the “expected” to help children and families unlock their inner strength, grow healthy and stable, and develop the ability to overcome challenges that life throws at them.

We are committed to changing lives today, and communities tomorrow. We lend our ideas and expertise to improve the system of services for children and families.

Founded in 1809, The Village was one of the first agencies in the country to provide homes for neglected children. Over 200 years later, we continue to help vulnerable children and at-risk families throughout the Greater Hartford region – over 8,000 each year.

Our mission is “to build a community of strong, healthy families who protect and nurture children.”

We achieve our mission when we help children succeed academically and socially, place children in safe and permanent homes, help parents succeed with effective parenting skills, and help families prevent and manage crises.

To accomplish this, we provide a full range of behavioral health treatment for children and youth, foster care and adoption, and community support services for children and their families in the Greater Hartford region.

Our 400 professional staff members include child psychologists, clinicians, social workers and parent educators. We operate out of our beautiful original campus at 1680 Albany Ave. in Hartford, the former Trolley Barn building at 331 Wethersfield Ave., the former Shelter for Women at Gray Lodge at 105 Spring Street, several schools in the City of Hartford, and offices in other towns throughout Greater Hartford, including Bloomfield, Manchester, Meriden and Middletown.

More information about The Village and its programs, including stories of success about our donors, volunteers and clients, can be found at:

www.thevillage.org
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From an early childhood learning center for preschoolers to academic support and truancy prevention programs for teens, and programs for parents such as financial stability and parenting education, The Village provides myriad services – in schools, community family centers and in homes – to strengthen families.

**Basic Human Needs Programs**
The Village offers food pantries through its Family Resource Centers in four Hartford schools: Burns Latino Studies Academy, John C. Clark Jr. Elementary & Middle School, Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School and SAND Elementary School. Clothing, furniture and other items may also be provided as needed for families in crisis.

**Community Life Skills for Girls**
The Community Life Skills for Girls program provides a safe, caring environment where young women ages 11-19 can build self-confidence, improve judgment skills, and gain control over their motivation, behavior and social environment through a variety of groups and classes.

**Community Schools**
Certain Hartford public schools have been designated as Community Schools and offer a range of academic support and enrichment services to students and their families. For each community school, a nonprofit agency is responsible for coordinating the services and supports that students need to be successful in school, while also supporting the development of healthy families and communities.

The Village is the lead nonprofit agency for two Hartford Community Schools, with dedicated space and staff at Burr and Clark. In partnership with parents and the Hartford Public School district, we provide an array of services, including health, mental health, youth development, life-long learning, parent enrichment, community engagement, financial literacy, truancy prevention and pregnancy prevention.

**Community Support for Families**
Community Support for Families is a voluntary, family-driven program that helps families strengthen natural and community support systems to maintain safe and healthy home environments, reducing the risk of child abuse and neglect.

Staff work with families to create an individual care plan focused on the families’ strengths and needs, and rooted in each family’s culture and experiences.

**Early Childhood Learning Center**
As a nationally accredited (through the National Association for the Education of Young Children or NAEYC) preschool for children ages 3-5, The Village’s Early Childhood Learning Center provides a nurturing, open and safe educational environment that helps to promote learning, intellectual curiosity, creativity, independence, social skills, and physical development to help prepare children for kindergarten and beyond.

**Family Financial Stability Initiative**
This program helps Hartford women over the age of 18 with incomes less than $50,000 per year effectively manage their finances and achieve financial goals.

The women learn how to create a budget, understand and improve credit scores, define their financial goals, and develop a plan to reach their goals. They may also open Individual Development Accounts to begin building their savings to purchase assets, and are often eligible for a match, helping them achieve their goals sooner.
Family Resource Centers at Hartford Public Schools

Located in schools, family resource centers embody the concept that healthy development and good education begin with access to quality child care and support services from birth, and take advantage of the physical accessibility of the public school.

Family Resource Centers provide, among other things: preschool and school-aged child care services; developmental assessments for children; training and support for parents in early childhood development; workshops and classes for parents on financial and computer literacy, nutrition, job readiness, and more; positive youth development/teen pregnancy prevention services.

FatherWorks

The FatherWorks program provides young fathers with parenting guidance, help with developing a collaborative relationship with the child’s mother, and stabilizing their financial situation with referrals to educational opportunities and assistance with obtaining a job and housing.

Juvenile Review Board

This community-based program provides juvenile offenders – who admit their guilt – with an alternative to Juvenile Court. Through a mediated process, the juvenile offender understands how their behavior harmed the victim and community, acknowledges that their behavior harmed others, and takes responsibility to repair the harm through direct or indirect action.

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting/Parents as Teachers and Nurturing Families Network

These two programs provide pregnant women and first-time mothers with assistance and support to help promote positive parenting skills and reduce the incidences of child abuse and neglect.

Program staff engages and supports parents before the birth of their child through weekly home visits, parent education and guidance, and social support to promote maternal and child health and foster child development during the crucial early years of life. Opportunities for peer interactions are provided through monthly support groups for the families.

One-on-One Mentoring

Part of the Institute for Successful Families, our mentoring program offers adolescents ages 14-21 a nurturing relationship with a stable adult who can provide guidance and support in setting and meeting goals.

RAMBUH Family Center

RAMBUH Family Center supports the growth and development of children pre-natal through age 8 with programs that enhance parent/child relationships and community involvement. RAMBUH is a place where families can enjoy their community, access resources, and grow and learn in a safe environment.

RAMBUH provides parenting support, home visitation, programs and support for fathers, access to basic needs, adult education, GED classes, early childhood screening/assessments, referrals to additional support services.

Truancy Court Prevention Project

The Truancy Court Prevention Project works with students in grades 1-2 and 6-8 at two Hartford schools to increase their attendance and improve their grades.

The Truancy Court Prevention Project works with students who have a history of chronic truancy and their families, providing case management services that link students to counseling, mentoring, tutoring and job placement. The program offers individual legal representation on issues that affect the students’ school attendance such as education, special education, access to health and mental health services, and public benefits.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

As United Way’s partner, The Village coordinates the VITA program in the Greater Hartford and Windham counties. VITA provides free tax preparation services for individuals and families earning less than $52,000 per year in the Greater Hartford, Enfield, Manchester and Windham communities. VITA also provides information, access and referrals to asset-building opportunities, financial education and other similar resources in these communities.
Child First helps reduce the impact toxic stress can have on a child’s development by strengthening parent-child relationships and addressing families’ basic needs (shelter, food, medical care, employment, etc.). Stressful experiences in early childhood, including exposure to violence, abuse, neglect, unstable or unsafe housing, or parental mental health problems or substance abuse have significant negative effects on children’s brain development.

Families who receive services through Child First – including intensive in-home, attachment-based parent-child psychotherapy, trauma treatment and comprehensive case management – are able to build their resiliency to cope with the stresses in their lives.

Collaborative Trauma Center

As a designated Collaborative Trauma Center (by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services division of the US Department of Health and Human Services) The Village is able to expand the array of trauma treatment options available to our clients.

Recognizing that each individual who has experienced trauma responds in unique ways to treatment, the Trauma Center offers a variety of treatment models, including:

- Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR)
- Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP)
- Trauma Affect Regulation: Guide for Education and Therapy (TARGET)
- Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TFCBT)

These treatment models are offered through a variety of Village programs. More information about the models can be found on The Village’s website.

Also as a trauma leader, we are able to strengthen the broader system of care for children affected by trauma by helping to expand the capacity of other child-serving clinical organizations, providing information, training and other assistance on new effective treatment models.

Enhanced Care Clinic

High-quality treatment for children in the Greater Hartford area facing psychiatric, behavioral and emotional challenges is provided through the Enhanced Care Clinic in several Hartford schools and throughout the community.

Clinicians help children and youth ages 3 to 20 and their parents/family members to identify behavioral health challenges, cope with psychosocial problems (including parenting, behavioral problems, family conflict, sexual abuse, victim trauma and substance abuse) and recognize and build on their strengths to increase emotional and behavioral functioning.

Clinicians work collaboratively with the systems involved in the life of the child, such as schools, physicians, child welfare services and other support programs with the authorization of the parent or legal guardian.

Extended Day Treatment

Extended Day Treatment (EDT) is a therapeutically intensive program that supports children in developing and practicing social and coping skills that will help them to be more successful in their schools, homes and communities.
Children set goals, learn to express feelings and deal with conflict in healthy, productive ways.

Families receive support in connecting with schools and the community to identify opportunities and build a foundation for success.

EDT programs are located in Hartford, Meriden, Manchester and Middletown and serve children in these and surrounding towns.

**Family-Based Recovery**

Integrating in-home, attachment-based parent-child therapy and substance abuse treatment, Family-Based Recovery minimizes children’s risk of abuse and/or neglect, poor developmental outcomes and/or removal due to parental substance abuse.

Case management services help parents identify basic needs and connects them with support services, such as housing assistance, access to transportation and health insurance.

Assessments, intervention and advocacy are available for children, as well as psychiatric evaluation for parents and medication management as needed.

**Foster Care Clinic**

The Village’s Foster Care Clinic provides multidisciplinary evaluations for children who are placed into the custody of the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF). The evaluations identify areas of medical, dental or mental health needs and provide DCF with recommendations on how to best meet these needs. The evaluations are completed in partnership with Community Health Services.

**Intensive In-Home Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Services (IICAPS)**

IICAPS helps decrease the amount of time children spend in inpatient hospitals and residential facilities due to psychiatric and behavioral challenges.

IICAPS works with families and children to provide the skills and resources necessary to allow the child to stabilize at home. The team works in partnership with the family, collaboratively developing and implementing treatment goals.

**Mid-Level Developmental Assessment**

The Mid-Level Developmental Assessment (MLDA) provides a high quality, easily accessible developmental assessment of children ages 6 months to 6 years who are struggling within their home and/or school environment.

The MLDA enables appropriate services to be provided in a timely fashion, before problems escalate, to address a family’s concerns and bring the child back to a normal developmental trajectory.

MLDA was developed by The Village’s early childhood team, with guidance from experts, to fill a gap in services it children and families. It provides a comprehensive clinical assessment and developmental testing, assessing all 6 domains of development: language, cognitive, gross motor, fine motor, self-help and adaptive, social and emotional, and spiritual and moral.

**Multidimensional Family Therapy Program**

MDFT works with adolescents and their families to significantly decrease or eliminate substance abuse, develop a healthy lifestyle, and improve overall family functioning by strengthening relationships and fostering healthy communication. Adolescents are also able to improve behaviors at home, in school, in the community and in peer relationships. Parents increase their self-esteem in order to successfully advocate for their children and access community resources.

“If it wasn’t for the people believing in me... I wouldn’t believe in myself right now and know that I’m capable of more.”

- Client of Alison Gill Lodge
The Village's Intensive Community Program (ICP), developed in collaboration with the Department of Children and Families, provides integrated multi-level treatment for adolescents with complex psychiatric and behavioral needs who meet the criteria for a residential level of care.

Realizing that short-term residential treatment alone is not enough to maintain a child’s stability when they return to the community, the ICP adds an after-care component of consistent, follow-up and in-home therapy and supportive services by a team of staff who’ve served the client from the beginning.

Eagle House Sub Acute Program
Eagle House provides residential behavioral health treatment for children ages 6-13 who are transitioning from psychiatric hospitalization. Serving as a “step-down,” Eagle House helps prepare them for community-based treatment and a family or foster care setting.

Residents attend school onsite and receive intensive clinical support services, including ongoing nursing and psychiatry, family, group and individual therapy, and case management.

Intensive Community Program
The Village’s Intensive Community Program (ICP) provides short-term care and treatment for children with severe behavioral and mental health issues who have left a hospital, a group home for teenage girls, a safe home for children in need of short-term 24/7 care and treatment, and a combination residential and community support program. The goal is to return children to their families, enable them to be successful in school and at home.
Adoption Services

The adoption program serves children under in the custody of the Connecticut Department of Children and Families who are in need of a permanent home.

Prospective and adoptive parents receive comprehensive services including to prospective and adoptive parents including training, preparation and home study to prepare them to adopt an infant, child or adolescent.

Adoptees receive grief and loss counseling to help them with the loss of their birth family, and support with adjusting and attaching to their adoptive family.

Individuals and couples seeking to adopt an infant from outside of Connecticut can also receive services.

The Village offers search services, which provide vital background/medical information to adoptees and helps adoptees and birth parents search for one another for the purpose of reuniting.

Family and Community Ties Foster Care

This is a specialized foster care program that helps youth ages 6-18 struggling with complex behavioral, emotional, physical and mental health issues to develop the skills needed to succeed in a community setting. The goal is to reunify the youth with their birth families or find permanent placement with adoptive families.

Using a wraparound approach, a clinical team works with the child and family, providing intensive home and community-based clinical support focused on trauma recovery, case management services and 24/7 support.

Intensive Family Preservation

The Intensive Family Preservation program helps prevent out-of-home placement by reducing the risk of further harm to children and improving family functioning. Program staff and families work together to achieve these goals.

The guiding philosophy is that families have the capacity for appropriate parenting and, when guided by skilled professionals, can learn the techniques necessary to remain together.

Staff are available 24/7, and services are provided within 48 hours of notification of need. The program is intended to be a short-term intervention – up to 12 weeks. Families are also offered case management services, helping connect them to stabilizing services such as access to food and clothing.

Reunification and Therapeutic Family Time

This program provides intensive support services for families with children in Connecticut Department of Children and Families custody whose permanency goal is family reunification.

The program uses a strength-based, team approach to engage and support families, focusing on transitioning to reunification and strengthening the bond between the parent(s) and child. Staff also facilitates involvement with the foster family, so they can be seen and used as a resource for biological families.
Services include parenting education and skill building, parent-child relationship development, safety planning, therapeutic in-home visitation, case management with linkages to community resources and 24/7 on-call support.

Therapeutic Foster Care

The Therapeutic Foster Care program (TFC) provides safe, nurturing foster homes for children ages 6-18 who have been exposed to trauma and may be challenged with emotional, behavioral and psychiatric issues. Through the use of wraparound services and support, TFC assists children in foster care to achieve their goal of a permanent home.

Foster families receive extensive training, care management support, and support group opportunities. Outpatient therapy, case management, on-call support and referrals to other clinical services are available for foster children.

“The Village gave me a family. And my family is the reason I live an incredible life today. I am definitely one of the lucky ones.”

- Client adopted through The Village