



# VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

The Village View

Fall 2018



## Director Note:

I don't know why, but anniversaries with the number 5 or 10 seem to carry a special significance. And so this year a convergence of events divisible by 5 has put me in a reflective mood.

This coming year will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Village of Progress. It'll also mark my fifth year as its director. And (on a more personal note) I turned 60.

I suppose these 'special' anniversaries are a time to celebrate where we've come and how we've made it this far. It's also a time to regroup and look forward.

Looking back, I'm grateful for solid leadership. Bob Glaser, the Village's founding director, set the DNA for the Village. He established this as a place of professionalism, integrity, transparency, and mutual respect. Key values that still endure today. Craig Carpenter was the second director. Craig was instrumental in guiding the Village through a turbulent time with state funding. At the end of his term the Village was on sounder financial footing than it ever had been in its history.

I'm also grateful for dedicated and talented staff. They have a combination of talent and compassion that is unmatched. On several occasions we've had both visitors and state professionals comment on the uniquely warm and friendly feel at the Village.

As you'll see from the article inside, at the end of the year we'll wish Mary Rick a happy retirement. Mary came to the Village nearly 40 years ago (another big number!). Taking over her responsibilities will be our newest hire, Kelly Hopper.

Coincidentally, at this 50 year juncture the Board of Directors has been putting the final touches on a Strategic Plan for the Village – a roadmap to guide it for the next few years to come. It's been a rewarding experience, allowing us to conduct interviews with several families, donors, and volunteers as well as agencies who regularly interact with us. We'll be sharing more about the results of the Strategic Plan in the months ahead.

I count myself exceptionally fortunate to be surrounded by the staff and volunteers who serve the Village in so many ways. And working with the men and women who attend here is life-changing. It is for them that we do what we do. And it is with you that we're able to do it.

In all the changes over the past 50 years there has been one constant – you. Yes some of the names and faces have changed, of course. But this broad community has always been a truly exceptional community that surrounds and supports us. Thank you for all you do.

Brion Brooks, Executive Director

## THE VILLAGE VIEW

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the Village of Progress, Inc.  
PO Box 418, 710 S. 13th St.,  
Oregon IL 61061

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Brion Brooks

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## Mary Rick Retires From VOP

*When Mary Rick announced that she would be retiring at the end of the year, we asked that she write a short reflection of her time here. As you'll see, the years between her start and her finish tell the story of a woman graciously and lovingly dedicating over half her life to enriching the lives of the individuals we serve. She will be missed!*



### Mary Remembers:

I first visited the Village of Progress for a tour in 1979. I learned that the Village's Special Educator was going to be moving, which created an opening on the staff. After the tour I applied for the position and felt very fortunate to have been selected.

Working with adults with disabilities has been so rewarding. Over the years it has been such a thrill to see how the men and women we serve can, with the right accommodations, accomplish things that they didn't think they could do.

One of the highlights of my forty years here was when two of our individuals had the honor of participating in the 1987 International Summer Olympic Games held in South Bend, Indiana. (Alice Babler in swimming and Karen Young in bowling.) A group of us (other Special Olympians, parents and staff ) took a bus to South Bend to cheer them on. It was an incredible experience. I'll never forget.

Another highlight occurred after our weekly swimming trip in Dixon (we now have the luxury of swimming at the Nash Center in Oregon). After leaving the YMCA we would stop for lunch at McDonalds. The managers and staff there were so accommodating. They always had tables reserved for us, mingled with our folks, and got to know them by name. They would even give everyone complimentary ice cream sundaes. Such hospitality. It was great to see the joy on the faces of the manager and our swimmers. Friendships formed in both directions!

As my season at the Village comes to a close, I feel blessed to have had so many years working with our men and women and with such a dedicated, caring staff.

Kelly Hopper will be taking over for Mary. Kelly comes to the Village with high recommendations and years of on the job experience with adults with disabilities. Kelly has been able to spend 5 weeks directly with Mary learning all her responsibilities. We welcome Kelly to the VOP family.



## New Voices Committee Named

VOP Voices is a committee of peers who meet monthly with Village administration. This self advocacy committee is responsible for suggesting ideas, asking questions, and planning events. It is a volunteer committee with one year terms.



Committee members include: Jeremy Reynolds, Julius Dursch, Megan Voss, Bob Brown, Kelli Nichols, J.J. Stiles, and Sharon Good

## Reynolds heads to Special Olympic State Competition in Bowling

Jeremy Reynolds was our only athlete for state bowling in 2018. As serious as he was about his bowling form, equipment care, and rules to follow he was equally dedicated to his on the floor etiquette. Jeremy did an excellent job of representing the Village, his family and Special Olympics. He received a fourth place ribbon and while disappointed, he thoroughly enjoyed his first state competition. Jeremy is already making a plans for 2019.



### IMPORTANT DATES

AT

### THE VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

CLOSED -  
WINTER BREAK

DEC. 24TH—JAN. 1ST

CLOSED -  
MARTIN LUTHER KING

JANUARY 21, 2019

THE JOHN HERRMANN  
GOLF PLAY DAY

JULY 8, 2019

TOSOC

TOUR OF SCENIC  
OGLE COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 28, 2019

CYCLING EVENT  
AT THE VILLAGE

ANNUAL BANQUET

OCTOBER 16, 2019

ST MARY'S LEARNING  
CENTER IN OREGON

# 49th Annual Banquet

Last month the Village held its 49th Annual Banquet. It was an opportunity to show, on a much larger scale, the tremendous bond between receiving a gift and responding with thanks.

Inside the Village, we recognized five individuals for their outstanding service to the Village. Kelli Nichols received the Robert Stahl Friendship Award. Two personal achievement awards were given: The John Herrmann Personal Achievement Award was given to Jim Lowe and the Robert Moehle Personal Achievement Award went to Angela Warner.

Carla Grove was singled out to receive the Carly Heller Special Olympian Award and John Miller was honored with the Fred Smith Competitive Employment Award for his work for the Village Cleaning Service.

In addition to extending recognition and thanks to those who work inside the Village, the night also provided an opportunity to recognize the generosity of those outside our facility.

We provided three high school seniors with scholarships – each recipient either coping with a developmental disability of their own or committed to a career in this field. The recipients were Brandi Ferrari, Aubrey Headon, and Aryn Mathieu.

The Village was honored to extend the Janie Etnyre Volunteer of the year award to a couple, rather than a single person. Scott & Joyce Stephens received this award together for sharing their love of cycling with the Village.

Finally, Robert Stouffer Special Recognition Award was received by Larry Young and Friends Charities, for their long-time commitment to the John Herrmann Memorial Golf Play Day, which has raised over \$200,000 for the Village over the years.

The Annual Banquet is more than a night of awards given and received. It's a night of thanks extended and gratitude returned. And that is what makes it such a wonderful place to spend an evening.

**VILLAGE OF PROGRESS FALL BANQUET DONORS:** Richard & Ruth Carter • Tom Champley • Joe Clinton • Joel & Eleanor Colbert • Dr. John Brian Crisham • Kenneth & Dee DeHaak • Design Enhanced Manufacturing • Don & Nancy Etnyre • Friendly Society • Dave & Cindy Gesin • William & Suzanne Gilkerson • Thomas & Laurie Guest • Hagemann Enterprises • Lowell & Sandra Harp • Harvard State Bank • Philip & Carol Houston • John & Tammy Koebler • Mark & Myrna Lohman • Julie Mann • Maplehurst • Dirk & Jennifer Meminger • Rochelle Chiropractic Clinic • Smith, Birkholz & O'Brien • Rob Urish • Kathleen Wilson • Dick & Cecelia Zimmerman •

**SPECIAL THANKS TO:** Cedar Siding, Inc., Design Enhanced Manufacturing Company, Inc., FN Smith Corporation, Rochelle Community Hospital & Rochelle Foods who contributed money specifically for the printing of our annual report.



# Village of Progress, The Village Bakery & Oregon Park District Partner to Offer Classes

In our ongoing effort to integrate the community and our agency on shared experiences, both The Village Bakery and Village of Progress are partnering with the Oregon Park District to offer fun seasonal projects for children and their parents. Check out the classes and join in the fun. Register at the park district. Classes held at the Village of Progress and The Village Bakery.

## VILLAGE OF PROGRESS CREATIVE EXPRESSION K-3RD WITH ADULT

Allow your child to express their creativity and create projects out of recycled materials with the consumers and staff from the Village of Progress. Kids will be working alongside people with developmental disabilities to create a seasonal project that can be used to decorate your home. Each participant must be accompanied by an adult. Fee \$6/\$7 NR

**1/18 Snowman-Child size door/wall decoration**  
**12:30pm - 2:00pm**

**2/14 Valentine Framed Picture**  
**9:30 - 11:00am**

**6/26 – Summer Fun**  
**12:30-2:00**



## THE VILLAGE BAKERY CLASS PRE-K - 3RD WITH AN ADULT

Join The Village Bakery and their talented staff for an exciting decorating experience. Each participant must be accompanied by an adult. Don't miss this amazing experience to take home some memories. Everyone takes home a box of baked goods.

Fee: \$16/\$19 NR

**April 18<sup>th</sup> Easter Treats**  
**1:30-3:00**

**May 10<sup>th</sup> Mother Day Treats**  
**3:30-5:00**

**June 14<sup>th</sup> Father Day Treats**  
**3:30-5:00**

**July 10<sup>th</sup> Summer Fun**  
**9:30 – 11:00**



## Village of Progress Donations

: Michael & Joan Alongi • Richard & Carol Anderson • Autumn on Parade • Joe & Marion Baker • James & Marsha Behrens • Blue Cross/Blue Shield • Bernard & Bridget Bodoh • Mike & Kerrie Bowers • Anna Brinton • Dorothy Burke • Byron Nuclear Station, United Way Fund • Wanda Cacciatore • Casey Campbell • Ron & Denise Carey • Carol's Self Storage • John Champley • Chana United Methodist Women • Cherie Chopp • Doug & Julie Conroy • Mike & Laura Davenport • Kimberly Davis • Tom & Kim DeCori • Otto & Marilyn Dick • Anne Dvorak • Charles Dilbeck • Deb & Larry Drew • Sherri Drew • Randall & Sandra Ebert • Andy & Christy Egyed • Jim &



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**Foundation** : Tim & Kathy Leary • John Moehle • Wanda Pettenger • Rob & Karen Urish • Larry Young

**In Memory** : Jake Burke • Pete Cacciatore • Ralph & Edith Davis • Randy Hilliard • Nancy Kubat • Angela Leary • Shelby & Lenora Walker • Sara Whetsel • **In Honor** : Carl Nelson

**In-kind Donations:** Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Direct In Supply, Harvard State Bank, Lifescapes Pantry, Merlin's Greenhouse, Oregon Lion's Club, Snyder Pharmacy, Mark & Kathi Tremble, & White Pines Inn.



**THANK YOU.... Our ability to maintain meaningful and effective programs for Ogle County adults with disabilities depends on your donations & volunteer efforts!**



## 3rd Annual TOSOC (Tour of Scenic Ogle County)

TOSOC – the Tour of Scenic Ogle County kicked off Saturday, September 22nd. The first riders started pulling into the Village’s parking lot to unload their bikes and pump up their tires as early as 6:15 a.m. – over an hour before registration opened at 7:30 a.m. By the time registration closed, over 300 cyclists had signed up and were out on the road. TOSOC was developed with the help of Oregon resident and cycling enthusiast Scott Stephens. Stephens was instrumental in developing a number of biking routes around Ogle County, including the TOSOC routes.

TOSOC had three cycling routes to choose from. The first was a **10 mile family ride** through Oregon. Developed with the help of the Oregon Park District, this ride toured a number of the city’s parks. **A 32 mile route** took cyclists through Grand Detour (stopping at the John Deere Historical Museum) and the Nachusa Grasslands for Bison viewing; **a 62 mile loop** added in some of the scenic areas north of Mount Morris and west of Daysville.

By the end of the day, TOSOC netted approximately **\$11,000** for the Village’s Attendance Grant Program. Attendance Grants were developed by the Village in 2014 because so many people with disabilities, people who are entitled to services, cannot receive them because Illinois lacks the funding. TOSOC proceeds will provide 169 days of attendance. Attendance grants are awarded to men and women in Ogle County, enabling them to attend the Village on a part time basis. Search TOSOC on Facebook for pictures and for more information email [TOSOC@villageofprogress.org](mailto:TOSOC@villageofprogress.org).

**THANK YOU! - TOSOC partners and sponsors: Central Bank • Crest Foods • Exelon Generation • Fischers, Inc. • F.N. Smith Corp. • Green River Cyclery • KSB • Maggie’s Idle Hour • Oregon Ace Hardware • Oregon Autobody • Oregon Lions Club • Oregon Park District • Sauk Valley Bank • Stephens State Farm • Stillman Bank • T-Bird Lanes • The Village Bakery • Village Yarn Shop •**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THE TOSOC VOLUNTEERS - WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE THIS EVENT WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT**

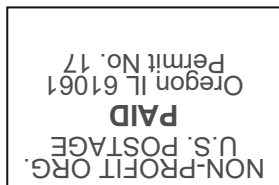


# Village of Progress — By The Numbers

- 275,000 Wahl Clipper kits assembled by the Village in the past year.
- 64,111 Customers served at the Village Bakery.
- 58,331 Square feet of space at the John Herrmann Complex - which is owned by the Village of Progress Foundation.
- 10,118 Miles per month travel by our VOP buses.
- 614 Hours logged tandem cycling in the past year.
- 456 Blood Pressure checks.
- 48 Commercial janitorial contracts served through The Village Cleaning Service.
- 38 Special Olympic Athletes competed in the past year.



A United Way Community Solutions Provider  
Funded in part by the Ogle County Community Mental Health (708) Board



**Village of Progress**  
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