

VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

The Village View

Summer 2018

Director Note:

One of my goals for the Village since becoming the director in 2014 has been to remove some of the barriers that naturally keep an agency like ours a bit separate from the surrounding cities and towns. I've often joked that the Village seemed to be one of Ogle County's best kept secrets.

Much of this is understandable. There are times when protecting a person's dignity requires protecting their privacy. But there are many more times when, with the permission of our men and women and their guardians, much self-worth and dignity can be gained by interacting with the public.

Over the past several years, the Village has been intentionally creating more opportunities for the men and women who attend the Village to interact with people in the community. And this also means creating more opportunities to invite the community to experience the Village of Progress. I like to think of it as "bringing the Village to the community and the community to the Village."

For many years, we've enthusiastically supported local school students and summer campers who've had an interest in volunteering for a day or two at the Village. I've watched them play games, sing songs, go on walks, and joke with the men and women here. It is so encouraging to see adults-in-the-making becoming more aware of the unique personalities of each person they encounter.



The Ogle County Sheriff's department has brought the Special Olympics Torch Run through Oregon for the past several years and has invited one or more of our Special Olympians to run with the torch. It's been a great way to raise awareness of the Special Olympics program as well as involving the Village in their efforts.



In May we celebrated the first year of The Village Bakery – our newest program to give people with disabilities a chance to learn new skills and work directly in the public eye. What's less often said is that it has also offered the community a chance to regularly interact with those who have disabilities – bringing both groups into closer relationships.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

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

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Director Note Continued:



This spring we launched our Village Bike Club. Over two dozen volunteers have signed up to ride specially-designed side-by-side tandems with individuals from the Village. It's proven immensely popular and a great way for the community and the Village to regularly engage in a shared activity.

Then there's just been such an outgrowth of community support in general – church groups, gardeners, the Park District, Exelon, have all stepped up to offer help in so many different ways.

Perhaps it's both fitting and important to close by remembering that this is by no means a one-way street – where the community comes to serve those with disabilities.

As was recently reported on TV, one member of the Village knits small caps for premature babies born at Mercy Health in Rockford – the same hospital where she had been prematurely born.



Every week a small group of people from the Village heads over to do craft projects with some of the residents at the Oregon Living and Rehabilitation Center. We've heard that some of the residents don't participate in any other social activities except for this one. I've come to believe that our people see themselves as serving the residents; and the residents see themselves as serving our people. And the more I've thought about it, the more convinced I've become that this is exactly how it should be.



May you each give more than you receive but feel as if you've received more than you've given.

Brion Brooks

The Flame of Hope



Dan Daub organized Ogle County First Responders, pictured with Jacob Werner who ran a stretch and is a Special Olympic Athlete.

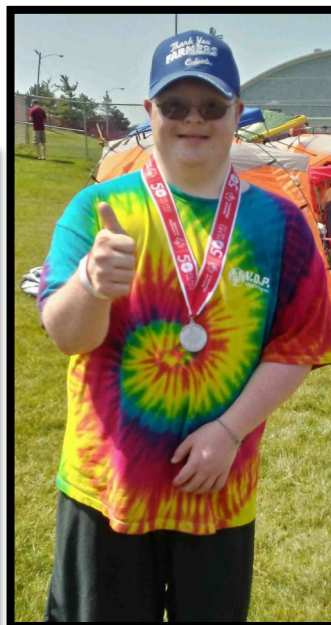
It was a beautiful day in June for the Flame of Hope to pass through downtown Oregon. The Village of Progress handed out water to thank Ogle County First Responders for their support of Special Olympics and all that they do for our community. The Torch Run is a state wide fundraiser that helps pay for Special Olympics in Illinois. Dawn Todd, Special Olympic Coach at the Village explains, "It is truly a goose bump moment to be witness to the officers carrying the Flame of Hope into its final destination – the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics Illinois Summer Games in Normal, Il."

Group Photo at Torch Run in downtown Oregon, IL. Special Olympic motto "Let us win, but if we can not win, let us be brave in our attempt."



2018 Summer Special Olympics

Three Village of Progress athletes qualified for State competition, traveling to Normal for the Illinois Summer Olympics Games. Tim qualified to compete in the softball throw. Megan qualified to compete in shot put and Jason qualified to compete in 200 M run. Tim's event was in the morning and he won a silver metal. Unfortunately afternoon events were cancelled due to the extreme heat. But, everyone still enjoyed participating and making new friends.



IMPORTANT DATES

AT

THE VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

THE VILLAGE BAKERY FALL OPEN HOUSE

AUGUST 24TH—25TH
9AM—2PM

CLOSED -
LABOR DAY

SEPTEMBER 3, 2018

TOSOC TOUR OF SCENIC OGLE COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 22, 2018

CYCLING EVENT
AT THE VILLAGE

CLOSED -
COLUMBUS DAY

OCTOBER 8, 2018

ANNUAL BANQUET OCTOBER 17, 2018

SAINT MARY'S LEARNING CENTER IN OREGON

THE VILLAGE BAKERY HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

NOVEMBER 9TH-10TH
9AM—2PM

ANGEL BALL DECEMBER 1, 2018

BARNACOPIA POLO, IL

New Board Member Dr. Tom Champley

Tom Champley joined the Village of Progress Board of Directors in October 2017. Many of you know Tom as Dr. Champley, the veterinarian who owned the Pines Meadow Veterinary Clinic just down the road from the Village. Recently retired (well, mostly retired – he still works one day a week at the clinic), Tom is actively involved in the Oregon Lions Club. It was Tom's help with demolition and reconstruction of the Village following the flood that made him more familiar with the work and mission of the Village. It also made the Village more familiar with Tom.

Tom grew up on a dairy farm near Princeton and graduated from the University of Illinois in 1971 with a degree in Veterinary Medicine. Tom is a member of Freedom Lutheran Church and Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center (LOMC). His hobbies include model railroading, racquetball, biking and traveling. He and his wife, Jan, recently celebrated their 50th anniversary. They have 3 children and 9 grandkids.



Dave Nelson Joins The Foundation

Dave Nelson joined the Village of Progress Foundation board in October 2017. Though Dave is a recent member of the board, he's counted as a long-time friend. Dave's first wife, Lois, served on the Village's staff for a number of years. Since her death, Dave has helped host the annual Lois Nelson Memorial Walk through Mount Morris, which raises funds for Northern Illinois Special Olympics.

Dave's background has been farming. He received a degree in Business Agriculture from Illinois State University and is a partner in the Nelson Family Farms and Nelson Cattle Company.

Outside of work, Dave has had a strong community involvement. A life-long resident of the community, Dave is active in the Oregon Rotary, St. James Lutheran Church, the Ogle County Fair, and the Kable Band. "Most important, though, my wife Gretchen and I enjoy taking care of our two grandchildren, with a third on the way this winter!"

Virtual Dementia Tours Available at Village of Progress

If you are a caregiver or have a loved one with dementia, this experience will help you better understand the challenges they face. Serenity Hospice will be offering free Virtual Dementia Tours on **August 30, 2018 at The Village of Progress**. Call the Village at 815-732-2126 to reserve your time slot and gain insight into their world.



Summer Camp Donations



For many of our folks, day camp activities are the highlight of the year. This year, donations to our day camp fund will allow men and women from the Village of Progress to enjoy a three course meal and country concert at White Pines Inn.

Thanks to the following Day Camp donors who helped create lasting memories and make the lives of our folks more enjoyable: Alice Akins • Richard & Carol Anderson • Becky Brown • Gary & Beverly Bunger • Michael & Susan Burke •

Roger & Julie Cain • Lynette Carmichael • Karen Churney • Jean Colbacchini • Creston Booster Club • Dr. John Crisham • William & Mariles Davis • First Presbyterian Church • First State Bank • Dave Gesin • Joan Glendenning • Larry & Joyce Groenhagen • June Kereven • Lynn Kereven • Darlene King • Kiwanis of Oregon • Kiwanis of Rochelle • Knights of Columbus Byron • Knights of Columbus Oregon • Knights of Columbus Polo • Tim & Kathleen Leary • Eldon LeFevre • Richard & Betty Messer • Nancy Miller • Sandra Netz • Oregon Lions Club • Oregon Masonic Lodge • PEO Sisterhood Chapter CU • Greg & Julie Reckamp • James & Vada Rosenbalm • Joseph Simeone • Charles Snyder • Judy Snyder • Sterling Federal Bank • Stillman Valley Lions Club • Helen Wales • Wilbur & Nina Whetsel •



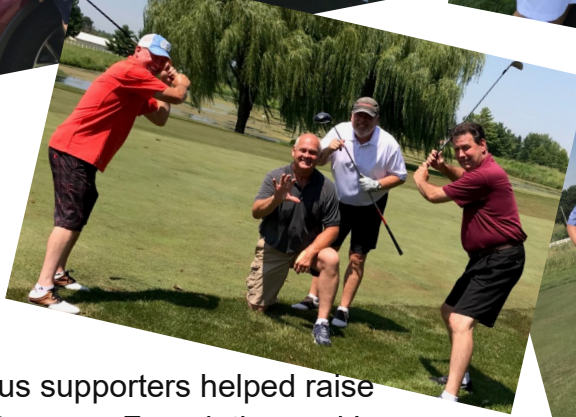
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In Memory : Harold Best • Ralph & Edith Davis • John Herrmann • Wanda Hinricks • Linda Straith • Richard Voss • Lenora & Shelby Walker •

In Honor : Brion Brooks • Bob Groenhagen • Floya Hawkins • Virginia "Jean" Norma Hill •



25th Annual John Herrmann Memorial Golf Play

Enthusiastic golfers and generous supporters helped raise over \$16,000 for the Village of Progress Foundation and Larry Young & Friends Charities. One hundred and thirty six golfers played in the event.

Generous sponsors, gracious donors along with fun participants and volunteers were the key to a successful day. Those who attend the Village are truly fortunate to have such supportive friends.

A huge thanks to Oregon Subway for donating their delicious sub sandwiches, and to Woody Buick and William Manny Insurance for their special hole-in-one premiums. Our top notch sponsors include: Blount/Woods Equipment • Broadmoor Insurance • Wanda Cacciatore • Central Bank Illinois • Don & Nancy Etnyre • E.D. Etnyre • Fearer, Nye & Chadwick • Doris & Gary Ferb • Franchescos Restaurant • Bill Geist • Generations at Neighbors • H.A. International • Harvard State Bank • Hub International • Knights of Columbus Oregon • Kobel Family • KSB Hospital • Legal Shield/Identity Guard • Paul Lieving • LOTS Transportation • Manning Insurance Co. • Martin & Co. Excavating • Chris & Ann Martin • Oregon/Dixon Autobody • Oregon Healthcare • Butch Peters • Raymond James & Associates • Jim Sibigroth • Sauk Valley Bank • Savant Capital Management • F.N. Smith Corp. • Smith, Birkholz & O'Brien • Snyder Pharmacies • Stillman Bank • Frank & Dianne Swingel • Mark & Kathi Tremble • Wills Concrete • Larry Young • Youngberg Industries •

Bidding wars occurred on Cub Tickets, thanks to Dan Bellino & Jim Sibigroth for donating the Cub tickets. And Jim Kaufman at Super Valu made our pick your prize raffle a huge success by hand selecting wonderful beer and wine.

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



Experience beautiful scenery along the banks of the Rock River, Nachusa Grass Lands and Lowden-Miller State Park. See wildlife sighting of bison, eagles, red-tailed hawks or great blue herons. Pass by historical sites like John Deere and the Oregon Train Depot. Enjoy well-marked routes on quiet paved country roads with rest stops that include baked goods from The Village Bakery.

Please mail this form :
 Village of Progress Foundation, Inc.
 PO Box 418 • Oregon IL 61061
 Or fax to 815-732-3228
 Or Email: TOSOC@villageofprogress.org

CONTACT FORM

Contact: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ email: _____

- I want to ride in TOSOC** Please send me a registration form.
- I want to Volunteer at TOSOC on September 22, 2018**
Please contact me.
- I want to sponsor the event & promote tourism for \$125.**

(Name on back of shirt and on signs during ride) Name : _____



The Village Cycling Club

It's 8:45 on a Wednesday morning. The sun's out and there's a slight breeze in the air. Volunteers from "The Village Bike Club" are pulling the Village of Progress three side-by-side tandem bicycles out of the garage.

About ten years ago the Village received a donated side-by-side tandem. Since that time, the bike has been used occasionally by a volunteer or two.

Over the winter, however, Ogle County's 708 Mental Health Board solicited projects to receive "mini-grants." The Village thought it would be a great time to expand its biking program by adding a second bike. The grant was accepted.

The opportunity to expand the program even further arose when BJ at Green River Cyclery in Dixon offered funding to help secure a third side-by-side tandem.

By spring, all three tandem joyriders were set up and ready to go. The Village Bike Club recruited 20 cycling-minded volunteers from the community and 25 men and women from the Village signed up for rides.

Joyce Stephens was among the first to sign up as a volunteer, completing CPR and First Aid training in April to become a lead cyclist. Joyce explained "Last week I was riding behind Karen Baylor and Sandra. Sandra was coasting down a hill, as she had her arms in the air like she was riding on a roller coaster. I snapped a picture and I feel like it just epitomizes the freedom and joy that these "joyrides" provide."

Joyce Groenhagen, another volunteer, added, "I really feel like we're receiving so much more than we're giving."

The men and women who attend the Village feel the same way. Each day they thank the volunteers for taking them cycling. Teresa commented, "I really like the ladies and guys I ride with." Sandra added, "I love it."

Typically, the three tandems are used in the morning for 2-3 hours five days a week, weather permitting. In two months the program has logged almost 200 hours. Brion Brooks, the Village Executive Director explains, "I am very pleased with the response to the program. And the great thing about the cycling club is that two people are spending forty minutes experiencing a shared activity, a little exercise, and some fresh air. There's really no better way to get to know someone."

Trips start from the Village's parking lot and head over the Oregon Park District's boardwalk and through areas of Park West. Cyclists take a short break in the shade while talking about their day and sipping on some water. The ride then continues around the soccer field and back over the boardwalk. "Having the Boardwalk and Park West so close has been such a gift," said Brooks, "it allows our cycling club to go on rides without worrying as much about traffic." The Village Bike Club will continue into the fall and then start again in the spring.



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



10/5 Scarecrow-Child size porch decoration
9:30am - 11:00am

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

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



THE VILLAGE BAKERY CLASS PRE-K TO 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 approximately 10 baked goods. Fee: \$16/\$19 NR

10/24 Halloween Ghosts and Goblins - 3:30-5 pm

12/12 Christmas Treats - 3:30-5 pm



**Village of Progress, Inc.
49th Annual Dinner**

**Wednesday, October 17, 2018
6:30 p.m.**

**St. Mary's Learning Center – Oregon, IL
1 Mile West of Oregon on Route 64
Call us for tickets (815) 732-2126**

Adult - \$15.00
Children 5 to 12 - \$5.00
Children 4 & under - FREE



THE VILLAGE BAKERY
FALL OPEN HOUSE
AUGUST 24TH—25TH
9AM—2PM

TŌSOC Sept 22, 2018
tour of scenic ogle county

- Beautiful Scenery
- Wildlife Sightings
- Historic Sites



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



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