



# VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE • 1969-2019

The Village View - Winter 2020

Volume LI Number 1



## Director's Note:

Last week I spent a couple days visiting Western Seminary (my alma mater) in Holland, Michigan. My head is swimming with thoughts and emotions.

About ten years ago, Western Seminary built the Friendship House. Perhaps the first of its kind in the nation, the Friendship House is an apartment building where each three-bedroom unit is occupied by a person with an intellectual disability. The other two bedrooms are occupied by seminary students. While the seminarians may stay for a year or two, until they graduate, the residents with disabilities (who the seminary calls 'friends') are there for as long as they'd like.

It's been a truly great experience for all involved. As one professor once quipped, "God tends to bless all sides of a triangle."

For the seminary community, the presence of persons with disabilities in their halls and at daily chapel have been a constant reminder that there is joy and fellowship in sharing space with those of all abilities. In the meantime, the seminary is raising new pastors who are ever appreciative of the gifts of those with disabilities.

For the students who stay at the Friendship House, it's been a humbling reminder that they are not there to 'fix' anyone. (Indeed, they often find that they are the ones in need of fixing.) Rather, they are there to simply enjoy community, extend hospitality, and show respect for all, regardless of ability.

For the Friends in the apartments, they are learning the difference between being merely included and actually belonging. (To be included in a group is to be noticed when you're present; but to belong is to be missed when you're absent.)

The long conversations I had with the director of the Friendship House and its residents make me wonder if something like that could happen anywhere – not just in a college town.

I recently read that over 80% of adults with developmental disabilities still live with their parents. A large part of the reason is that there simply isn't adequate housing. While many of these folks cannot live independently, they can function just fine if they had well-placed supports: an apartment mate, personal aide who visited to help with shopping, laundry, and the like, a friend who will stop by on a regular basis.

## THE VILLAGE VIEW

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Oregon IL 61061

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## Director's Note continued:

It is amazing to hear the stories of growth that the Friends at Friendship House have experienced over the years. They have moved from feeling totally dependent on a parent or family member to now feeling as if they can make it with just a little help from their friends.

Imagine if Ogle County became known as a place that truly and intentionally supports all people, regardless of disability. Certainly, all would be challenged. But maybe, in the process, all would also have the opportunity to be blessed.

*Brion Brooks*

## Marguerite "Maggie" G. Nye



The Nye family have been long and faithful supporters of the Village and its mission of serving those with developmental disabilities. Phil served on the Village of Progress Foundation board until 2006. Maggie then joined the Village's Board of Directors in 2010 and served until her death.

Marguerite "Maggie" G. Nye, 78, passed away in her sleep at home Monday, December 16, 2019 after a long illness. Maggie was born on April 29, 1941 to E. Kevin and

Marguerite (Peltier) Glynn in Chicago, Illinois. In 1959, she graduated from Aquinas Dominican High School and in 1964 she graduated from the University of Iowa with her B.A. in sociology. She was an Illinois Licensed Social Worker and worked for the Rochelle Community Hospital and Serenity Hospice. On June 9, 1964, Maggie married Philip Hastings Nye, Jr. in Chicago, Illinois and they had 3 children together.

Maggie was an avid reader, accomplished oil painter and enjoyed traveling with her husband, Phil. Maggie served on the Ogle County Board from 1982-1992 and again from 2008-2018. She is believed to be the first elected woman to have served on the Board. During her service, she served as Chairman of the Juvenile and Probation Committee, Chairman of the H.E.W. Committee and the Courthouse Restoration Committee. Maggie was a member of St. Bride's Episcopal Church in Oregon, IL, a member of the Rochelle Community Hospital Auxiliary and a member of many boards including The Village of Progress.

Maggie will be remembered as a vibrant and passionate advocate for all who face unique challenges in life. She will be missed greatly.



## Polar Plunge 2020

On Saturday, March 7th these two brave folks from the Village of Progress (Jacob Werner and Jeremy Reynolds) will take the Polar Plunge to raise money for Special Olympics. The plunge takes place at Olson Lake in Rock Cut State Park in Rockford. Good luck guys and stay warm!

## 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Card Contest

We held our 46<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Card Contest, open to entries from all the men and women that attend the Village. For the last 25 years Hub Printing, Rochelle, has awarded certificates of participation and a small cash prize to all entrants. Hub also prints each year's winning card for use as both the Hub Printing and the Village of Progress Christmas cards.

This year's judges included Dawn Todd of the Village and Chris Haas of Hub Printing along with his wife, Lisa. They looked at twenty-four entries before selecting a design by **Cameron Mabrey** of Rochelle for the 2019 winning entry. **Rylee Leonard** was awarded second place honors and **Rachel White's** card received third place recognition.

Cameron attends the Village thanks to the Foundation's Attendance Grant Program while he waits for state funding. Cameron is outgoing, kind and a good friend.



2019 Christmas Card Contest Participants & Judges

### IMPORTANT DATES

AT

### THE VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

VOP CLOSED

SPRING BREAK

MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup>—27<sup>TH</sup>

### THE JOHN HERRMANN GOLF PLAY DAY

JULY 13, 2020

PRAIRIE VIEW GOLF COURSE

BYRON, IL

TOSOC

TOUR OF SCENIC OGLE COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 26, 2020

CYCLING EVENT AT THE VILLAGE

ANNUAL BANQUET

OCTOBER 21, 2020

AT 6:30

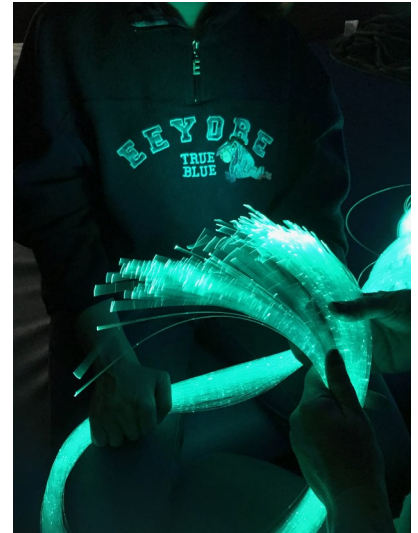
ST MARY'S LEARNING CENTER IN OREGON



# Sensory Room Update:

Our sensory room is space that was specifically designed to help individuals engage their senses and relax. We started with simple fifteen minute hand and foot massages, but we had a list of ideas to improve the room.

Last fall we were able to start redecorating the room thanks to a generous donation from the Chili Pepper Grill and Bar (Diane and JT Wells). They donated the proceeds from their annual Golf Play Day. We were able to paint the walls an earthy green and black out the ceiling tiles. The room has a very calm and warm feel to it. We were also able to add a few fun additions including beautiful light covers, a small foot massager, a portable massaging back pad and weighted blankets.



ing tiles. The room has a very calm and warm feel to it. We were also able to add a few fun additions including beautiful light covers, a small foot massager, a portable massaging back pad and weighted blankets.

Dawn Todd, our sensory room lead explains, "It is very rewarding to see the anxiety, tension, and stress melt away after a session. Folks leave the room calm and relaxed."

We have been able to continue the transformation of the room with some wish list donations that included a large bubble tube, several musical CD's that play rhythmic and relaxing music, and fiber optic lights.

Each person that spends time in the sensory room responds uniquely to the experience. It is a favorite activity for many at the Village. We appreciate everyone that donated to make this room

possi-

ble.

## Looking ahead at Special Olympics

- ◆ **March 13th -15th - State Basketball Competition in Normal, IL**
- ◆ **May 9th - Spring Track and Field held at Harlem H.S. in Rockford, IL**
- ◆ **June 12th -14th - State Summer Games in Bloomington, IL**
- ◆ **August 15th thru 16th - Regional Bowling in Rockford, IL**

**Special Olympic Support Group Meeting**

**May 16 at 9:00am**

**The Village Bakery in Downtown Oregon**

# 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 are held at the Village of Progress and The Village Bakery.

## VILLAGE OF PROGRESS CREATIVE EXPRESSION - K thru 4th WITH ADULT

Allow your child to express their creativity by making a portable tic tac toe game with the men and women at the Village of Progress. Kids will be working alongside our staff and people with developmental disabilities to create the tic tac toe game that can be used at home, at friends, in the car or at any time to offer a fun way to fill time. Participants must be accompanied by an adult. Fee \$6/\$7 NR

7/24 - Summer Fun - 9:30 - 10:30

## THE VILLAGE BAKERY CLASS - 1st grade thru 4th grade

Join The Village Bakery and their talented staff for an exciting decorating experience. Don't miss this amazing experience to take home some memories and a box of delicious baked goods.

Fee: \$16/\$19 NR

7/28 - Summer Fun - 9:30 - 10:30



## Low Carb & Gluten Friendly Sandwiches expand the menu!

We have a Low Carb Wrap, Chaffles (an amazing egg and cheese waffle), and Gluten Free White Bread as an alternative on ANY of our breakfast or lunch sandwiches.

**The Village Bakery Hours:**  
**Monday - Friday 6am - 6pm**  
**Saturday & Sunday 7am - 4pm**

## Open House Schedule for The Village Bakery

**March 20 & 21 11am - 2pm**  
**August 28 & 29 11am - 2pm**  
**November 6 & 7 11am - 2pm**



## Village of Progress & Foundation Donations:

Rehana Abdallah • Richard & Betty Adams • Mary Agre • Richard & Carol Anderson • Autumn on Parade • Brad & Donna Bauer • Gerald & Gail Beck • Ron Bry • Byron Exelon • Byron Women's Club • Craig & Gretchen Carpenter • Cherie Chopp • Catholic Daughters • John Champley & Julie Keck • Tom & Janet Champley • Chana Playday • Cherie Chopp • Dalmer Clawson • Lorene Coy • Ronald & Alice Craven • John Thomas Dauner • Larry & Joyce Davis • Charles

Dilbeck • Larry & Deb Drew • Sherri Drew • Elim Reformed Church • Exelon • Richard & Linda Faivre • William & Mary Ann Fearer • Dennis Flanagan • Friendly Society • Marilyn Geiken • Dave & Cynthia Gesin • Clyde & Nancy Gelderloos • Grand Detour Town



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Karen Sikorski • Dave & Sharon Smith • Kirstin Stahl • Sheryl Stern • Frank & Diane Swingel • William & Catherine Thiede • Sharon Thunberg • United Methodist Women of Oregon • Rob Urish • Robert & Catherine Van Stedum • Dale Voegler • Garth & Norma Watson • Morris Wiener • Jay Werner • Nina & Thomas Whetsel • Raymond & Judith Wiltfang • Jennifer & Jackie Wirth • Margaret Wolf • Karen Young •

**Memorials:** Ralph & Edith Davis • Jack Doyle • Duane Herrmann • William Fearer II • Dottie Flessner • Matt Glaser • Loran & Erma Glock • Carly Heller • Lisa Iverson • Jim Kereven • Dianne Klancir • Jack Leamanczyk • Richard Lee • Kevin Messer • Steve Messer • Joe Meyers • Robert & Eleanor Moehle • Lewis & Lenore Mohr • Maggie Nye • George & Pauline O'Brien • Carol Rauch • Art & MJ Shoemaker • Mark Shoemaker • Ed & Rose Sowa • Kathy Sowinski • Bob Stahl • Lela Stronberg • Shelby & Lenore Walker • Leonard & Vada Wood • Donald & Della Young •

**In Honor:** Tom Champley • Heather Hatch • Village of Progress Staff •

**In-Kind:** Harold Miller • Oregon Lions Club • Steve James







**WISHLIST:** Anderson Feed • Sid Anderson • Charles & Sandra Armbruster • George & Sally Berg • Larry & Becky Brown • Tom & Janet Champley • John & Beth Chase • Karen Churney • Conover Yarn Group • Mary Ellen Considine • Creston Booster Club • John Crisham • Gary & Susan Davis • Dement Township • Sherri Drew • Kenneth & Carol Eichholz • Don & Nancy Etnyre • Exelon • Teresa Fearer • Gary & Doris Ferb • Todd & Judith Flessner • Carol Garkey • Dave & Cynthia Gesin • Jeffrey & Michele Glen • Gary & Joan

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Moehle • Jean Mongan • Mike & Mary Mudge • Timothy & Beverly O'Brien • Oregon Healthcare Pharmacy • Oregon Snyder Pharmacy • Jonathan & Donna Ortman • Wanda Pettenger • Pine Rock Township • Nick & Charity Prose • Jan Prose • Kathy Qualkinbush • Kim & Mary Rick • Gerald Rinehart • John Roe Sr. •



Barbara Rosenbalm • Margaret Siddens • Barbara Snyder • Diane Stahl • David Stouffer • Eleanor Stouffer • Frank & Dianne Swingel • Bill & Kay Tallyn • Mark & Kathy Tremble • Mark & Linda Wills • Margaret Wolf • Gary & Jonette Wood • Larry Young • Richard & Cecelia Zimmerman •



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



# TōSoc

tour of scenic ogle county

**September 26, 2020**

HISTORIC SITES  
BEAUTIFUL SCENERY  
WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS



## THE JOHN HERRMANN GOLF PLAY DAY

**JULY 13, 2020**

The Village is funded in part by  
the Ogle County Community  
Mental Health (708) Board) .



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# New Faces at VOP



**Rylee Leonard** lives with her mom in the Byron area. Rylee enjoys their pets and generally likes to just keep busy.



**JR Dunseth** resides with a host family near Davis Junction. His favorite activities are playing basketball and going to concerts.



**Ashley Williams** is a transition student. She lives with her family in the Leaf River area. Ashley enjoys shopping, 4H and church youth group.



**James McMurray** lives with his parents in Rochelle. He likes to watch programs about rebuilding old cars and is looking forward to being involved in Special Olympics.



**Summer Coffman** comes to us from Rochelle where she lives with her mother. She enjoys participating in community events that are in the area.

## More New Faces - Sophie, Lora, Mark & Matt

Over the past few months we have added a few more new faces to the VOP staff.



**Sophie Terry** lives in Oregon with her boyfriend Caleb. She has two cats and her favorite place to eat is Dos Amigos.

**Lora Stenzel** lives in Oregon with her husband Steve. They have one child and two grandchildren. Lora loves sports.

**Mark Probasco** has 15 years of experience with the special needs community. Mark is very active and enjoys 5k's, half-marathons, and triathlons. He has been married 19 years.

**Matt Browder** graduated from Kishwaukee College of Nursing. He lives in Waterman but plans to move closer to the area with his girlfriend Olivia.

Please introduce yourself and say hi to all of our new faces at VOP. We are excited to see our VOP family grow.



## New Contract at VOP - Midland Paper

The Village of Progress has acquired a new contract from Midland Paper. It requires us to remove small bubble bags from a large pile of bags. Our

folks straighten and stack the bags and put them into a master carton. This contract is wonderful because it utilizes a skill set that many of our folks possess—so almost everyone can work on it.

