



# VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

SERVING ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FOR OVER 50 YEARS

The Village View - Fall 2020

Volume LIV Number IV



## Director's Note:

It's been quite the journey for the Village of Progress this year. Together, we've faced challenges the likes of which we've never encountered before. But we are coming back; and coming back strong.

From mid-March through the end of August, the Village was in what might be best called hibernation. While we weren't fulfilling our mission to serve adults with developmental disabilities, we were still actively working to honor our commitments to our contract clients. And so the staff spent their days filling in for consumers by assembling Wahl Clipper products and baling clothes from Angel Treasures.

Near the end of the summer, Department of Human Services gave the Village and other training centers the green light to slowly start reopening. In August, we submitted our Covid plan to the state then welcomed back the first fifteen men and women. There was a sense of excitement as the men and women returned to a much-changed Village. Tables were spaced at least six feet apart, half the chairs were removed from the cafeteria, masks, screening, and temperature checks were required by everyone. Much to everyone's relief, this first month went relatively smoothly.

In September we invited another eight people back to the Village and were given permission to start sending two-person teams to serve the 16 residents at Stouffer Terrace. Again, a month has now passed and there've been no major hiccups.

Now as we move into October, we're incrementally increasing capacity again. First, we've invited our half dozen friends from Hammer Terrace to return to the Village. Second, we're launching a Virtual Day Service program where we can use video conferencing to reach out to the remaining individuals who haven't yet returned. These Virtual Day Services are held daily and are intended to reduce isolation and provide emotional, mental, and (through exercise classes) physical stimulation.

## 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's Note continued:

In the meantime, the Bakery has continued to weather the pandemic storm. While the in-store dining has been closed all summer, the drive thru service has never been stronger.

I am so proud of how our staff – whether here at the Village, the Bakery, or our cleaning service – has stepped up to meet this challenge. And I'm humbled and amazed at the support of this community.

It's been said that the front windshield is so much bigger than the rear-view mirror because what's in front of you is so much more important than what's behind you. This has been our philosophy throughout the pandemic. Look forward to what is coming at us next. Respond creatively, shore up our strengths, and prepare for the next uncertainty.

This year has doubtless been the most challenging in the Village's 50 year history. But with a dedicated staff, faithful men and women who we serve, and a loyal and loving community, we will get through this. The road ahead is uncertain, but we continue to move forward. Together.

*Brion Brooks*

## Retirements

Shirley McPhillips and Louie Wehmhoefer, two long time employees, recently retired from the Village of Progress. Shirley joined the Village in 1989, retiring after 31 years. Louie joined the Village in 1985, retiring after 35 years. Both will be missed by staff and the individuals we serve. Their years of service and their contributions to the Village are greatly appreciated.



# THANK YOU!



This year marked our 5th Annual Tour Of Scenic Ogle County (TOSOC) Ride. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as you all know, we made changes in how our ride occurred. Everyone was invited to ride TOSOC unsupported anytime between September 19<sup>th</sup> and October 18<sup>th</sup>.

There were no fees charged this year for the TOSOC ride, but as this is normally a fundraiser for the Village of Progress, donations and sponsorships were appreciated.

As in the past, we still offered a TOSOC t-shirt with our favorite bison wearing a mask! Seems about right for 2020. The shirts were actually picked up at The Village Bakery where many of our folks work.

We were thrilled with how many folks came out and enjoyed the ride. Thank you to everyone that supported us - both by sponsorship and individual donations. Together we made over \$8,000, while everyone said they missed the volunteers and comradery, the ride was still a great experience.

Again thank you! We really appreciate everyone that donated and sponsored our event! We believe over 400 people enjoyed a great ride, learned about the Village of Progress and experienced our beautiful scenic area. See all the photos on our Facebook Page by searching TOSOC or learn more about TOSOC by visiting our website at <http://villageofprogress.org/tosoc-bike-ride/>.

**THANK YOU TOSOC Sponsors/Donors:** Ruth Andrews • Central Bank • Brad & Donna Bauer • Karen Baylor • Saad & Ashwaq Blaney • Dr. David Brodnax • Dennis Cheatwood • Jeffrey & Ann Currie • John & Fran Donahue • Ellwyn Englof • Exelon • Marve Farber • Mari Fee • Larry Finney • Fischers Inc. • F.N. Smith Corp. • Mary Gharrity • A & L Grahame • Green River Cyclery • Robert Hanson • David Hatch • Jacob & Heather Hatch • Dean Hoppesch • Johnson Oil Co. • KSB Partners in Health • Mark Krueger • Cecilia Mann • Andy & Katie Martin • Byran Merrill • Oregon/Dixon Autobody • Oregon Lions Club • Jennifer & Chris Madden • Thomas & Carrie Milroy • Mary Pierce • Dave & Kathryn Ramp • Paul & Kim Rampenthal • Elaine Roquet • Barbara Rosenbalm • Jim Ryan • Sauk Valley Bank • Paul & Cynthia Scheibelhut • Terry Schuster • Smith, Birkholz, O'Brien • Pam Steele • Sterling Federal Bank • Scott Stephens State Farm • Stillman Bank • Kathryn Storm • Karie Strangeway • Frank & Diane Swingel • George Tarbay • Nancy Tipps • Ann Volante • Sheryl Pitts Wolff • Toney Xidis • Larry & Joan Young •



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**Save the date for next year - September 25, 2021**

Again thank you! It is a rare gift to be able to show off our community and do good in the process. We really appreciate everyone that donated and sponsored our event! We believe over 400 people enjoyed a great ride, learned about the Village of Progress and experienced our beautiful scenic area. See all the photos on our Facebook Page by searching TOSOC or learn more about TOSOC by visiting our website at <http://villageofprogress.org/tosoc-bike-ride/>.

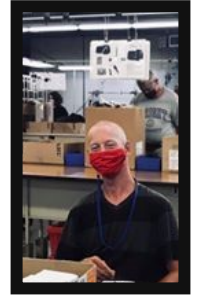
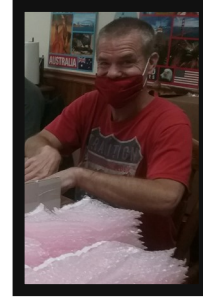
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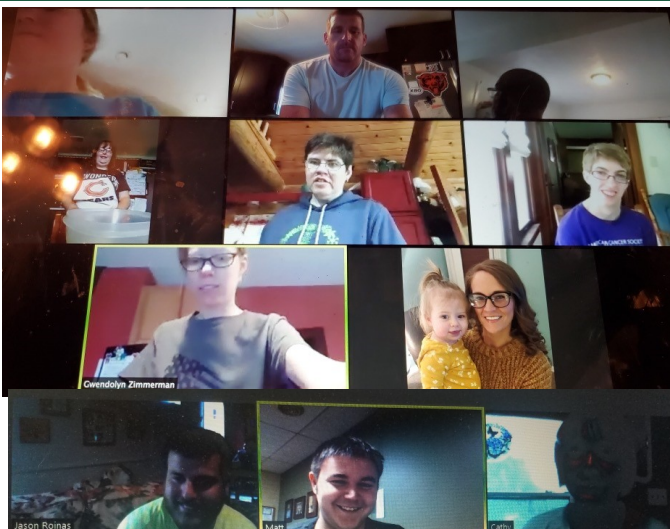
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# Keeping Production Going

Production continues to be a high priority in multiple locations including our workshop, our annex building, and at Stouffer Terrace. Everyone pitches in to get all the work completed - whether it is packaging WAHL, sorting bubble wrap for Midland Paper, preparing yarn samples for Lion Brand, or packaging discs for Blount Equipment.



## ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM!

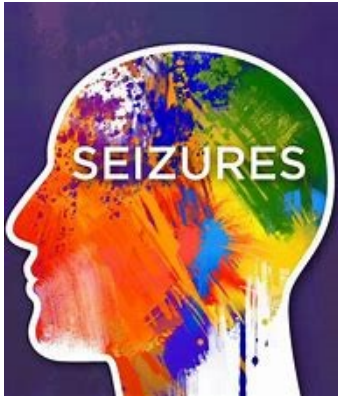


Over the next few months we are excited to be expanding our Zoom activities. You will see some of our volunteers playing games and hosting chats. A new Zoom calendar will be sent out every month. Make sure to check it out and join us. Many folks continue to miss the daily routine of work and social activities at VOP and it is our hope that Zoom has helped us stay in touch and have fun together.

## Tammy Sigler

Tammy Sigler passed away - April 4th - in her home surrounded by her loving family. Tammy was a ray of sunshine and will be missed by everyone at the Village of Progress.





## SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS WITH SEIZURE DISORDERS

The Village of Progress has been informed of a grant made available to Blue Tower Training (BTT) to provide information by way of Zoom for individuals with developmental disabilities and those who are supporting individuals with a seizure disorder. This hour long Zoom meeting has been scheduled for **Monday, November 23 at 2:00pm**. Cate Adelman from BTT will be sending out packets of information to all who register to participate. These packets include such things as charting to track issues that often effect seizures (getting meds on time, eating habits, sleeping patterns, etc.) common triggers for seizures, how the individual might best be supported after a seizure, and other useful information.

If interested in participating, please register by calling 815-732-2126 before November 2 and ask for Marla or email [mrozeboom@villageofprogress.org](mailto:mrozeboom@villageofprogress.org) and provide name, address, phone and email address. I will share your contact information with BBT so packets can be sent to you before November 23.

For each person that participates, our Self Advocacy group (VOP Voices) will be receiving a monetary gift which they will be able to use for our consumers as the group chooses.

If you have any questions, please call Marla at 815-732-2126.

## An Amazing Handful of People

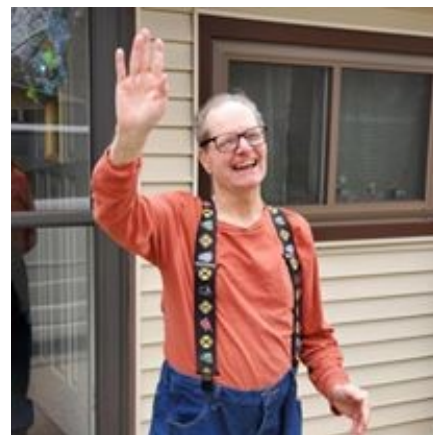
As many of you know our annual golf outing was cancelled this year because of COVID. What you may not know is that a small group of volunteers and their friends decided to hold their own. They found sponsors, received donations and reserved a course. In the end they raised over \$8,000 for The Village of Progress. It's amazing how a few good people could raise so much money. Those that attend the Village are truly fortunate to have such supportive friends. We hope to be back next year with the VOP John Herrmann Memorial Golf Play Day scheduled for July 12, 2021.

**Special Thanks to Sid & Tom Anderson • Wayne King • Cindy King Ebany along with Sean Adams Construction • David Anderson • Patti Lynn Anderson • Jenny, Kyle & Greg Berger • Jeffrey Bicksler • The Chili Pepper • Joe & Dawn Clinton • Gary & Sue Davis • Father & Son Venture • Felker Pharmacy • F&F Construction • Rob & Jess Green • Kyle Groenhagen - Country Financial • Phil Hasz – Country Financial • Ben Holmstrom • Mike Kamiski • Leaf River Lions Club • Ronald Lessen • LR Land & Cattle • Chris Martin • Elisha Meador • Daniel Miller • David Nelson • Nelson Family Farm • Northern IL Contractors Assoc. • Kevin Plesic • Rochelle Park District • Toni's Restaurant • Kathy Wickler • Kerry Wickler Insurance • Jim Wiles Lawn Care •**



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**IN MEMORY OF:** Ralph & Edith Davis • Eldon Leisson • Art & Mary Jane Shoemaker • Tammy Sigler • Chuck Snyder •

**IN HONOR OF:** Bob Groenhagen • Leona Groenhagen • Gretchen Nelson •

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



Special thanks to Mrs. Drew who continues to make and donate new masks that are designed to meet the needs of individuals who have a hard time keeping their masks in position. Thanks Deb for always working with us to meet the needs of the folks we serve.

**THE BAKERY'S DRIVE THRU IS OPEN**



**M-F 6AM - 3PM  
SAT & SUN 7AM - 3PM**

The Village is funded in part by the Ogle County Community Mental Health (708 Board), United Way, Etnyre Foundation & Rochelle Area Community Foundation




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# What have people been doing?



**Stacy** has been watching movies, reading, and painting. Her favorite is painting canvases and having mom make stencils so she can say what she wants. Stacy created the picture on the right during a VOP Zoom. She has also been doing a Zoom Bible study. She really misses work and doesn't like the virus.



**Deanna** was happy to rejoin the staff at The Village Bakery in June. She has expanded her skills beyond making cookies. She now works at the drive-in window and is teaching the younger students the steps needed to perform tasks properly. Working at the bakery has also helped her be more independent as it has encouraged her to learn to use LOTS for her transportation. She was thrilled to be back on the job helping us fill our cravings for great treats. Great job Deanna!



**Rachel** says, " I have been very busy shopping at Walmart with my sister and hanging out in my very nice apartment. I have been spending a lot of time with my parents and doing a lot of cleaning. I miss all my friends and cannot wait to be able to hang out again and work. I really miss working."



**Sharon** says "I miss all my friends at VOP. I have been watching a lot of television. VOP staff has been coming over to see me and I am doing some work, which is good because I am a hard worker."

# What have people been doing?



**Sherri** is staying home mostly. We occasionally go for rides in the van, and sometimes stop in the parking lot at the Village of Progress and talk to Donna and some of the other staff. One day she got to see Matt, Mark and Felipe in addition to Donna! She enjoys seeing Deb Settles, her driver, when she stops with "care packages" each month. She spends her days looking at magazines, doing puzzles, stacking pegs on her new peg board, and playing with dominoes and cards. Although we have not been able to go camping this year, she likes it when she can talk her Dad into getting the golf cart out and giving her rides around the yard.



**Ben** would like to thank everyone for the birthday cards and McDonald treat! Ben had a good summer sitting by the river, taking walks in the park and enjoying the occasional nap! He hopes everyone is well, and he misses VOP!

COVID has given **Daniel** the opportunity to really take care of the stray cats around his house, as well as his favorite indoor pet; Jefferson. When not spending time with his animals, Daniel has been playing video games with his brothers and missing his friends at VOP!



**Gary** began at the Village of Progress in 1972 and after 49 years, he has made the difficult decision to retire. Everyone at the Village will miss Gary very much.