



# VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

SERVING ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FOR OVER 50 YEARS

The Village View - Winter 2022

Volume LIII Number I



## Director's Note:

Since the Village's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary back in 2019 (pre Covid – seems like forever ago) I've been thinking a lot about how much services to people with disabilities has changed, and continues to change.

Back in the 50's and 60's society often chose to place people with disabilities in institutions. Some of these facilities strove to provide quality services, some were little more than cold storage. But the one thing they all had in common – segregating people with disabilities away from the general population. I remember as a child in public school, I and my classmates rarely had any interaction with students who had intellectual disabilities. They rode on separate buses, attended separate classes, even came and left through separate doors.

During the second half of the twentieth century, society began to see the importance of trying to create a more 'normal' life for people with disabilities. Institutions were on the way out, replaced by "group homes" for residential needs and "sheltered workshops" for vocational needs. This was a step in the right direction. But still, men and women with disabilities could go days and weeks living inside their bubble of peers and staff.

Now, well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, new changes have developed. Governments have been promoting integrated employment and integrated social experiences. Yet while stating their goal, federal and state regulators have done little to actually promote such changes. Talk is cheap, and that's what many government policy setters excel at... talk.

Recently, though, the Village has been taking steps to remove that protective bubble that isolates so many of our men and women from the world around them.

For work experiences, we've been doing this through the Village Bakery. The Bakery gives our people experience at real-world jobs in a real-world environment. In the past year we've also started to send small teams of workers to Crest Foods in Ashton. There they work at packaging food alongside Crest's own employees. It's been a wonderful experience for our people and we have heard that Crest enjoys and appreciates them.



## THE VILLAGE VIEW

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Oregon IL 61061

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## Director's Note Continued:

We've also begun taking groups of two or three into the community. Every day one or two people go with a staff person to get the mail at the Post Office. They are getting to know the postal workers and how the mail works. They're also taking trips to local restaurants where they learn how to order from a menu, how to talk to waitresses, and how to pay for their food.



In addition, we've begun taking small groups to do crafts and activities in the community – painting ceramics, visiting animal shelters, line dancing, bowling, trips to the library. All in an effort to help them feel more

comfortable in social settings and more confident interacting with the public.

It's an exciting time to work in this area of social services. And it's so rewarding to see our men and women expand their horizons and discover new areas of interest.



Through it all, you have both supported our work and encouraged us to do even more. For this, as always, we give you so much thanks.

*Brion Brooks*



Congratulations on getting your food handlers certificate. Back row: JR Dunseth, Sylvia King, John Miller, Sharon Good. Front row: Nora Wojtalewicz, Kelli Nichols, Deanna Gregory. Not pictured: Jennifer Meyers, Megan Voss and Ken Wright.

# Honoring Carl Nelson



Carl Nelson was a long and faithful supporter of the Village and its mission of serving those with developmental disabilities. Carl served on both the Village of Progress board from May of 1994 until June of 2003 and the Village Foundation board from May of 1999 until June of 2003. He served as both Vice President (July 1998-January 2002) and President (February 2002– June

2003) on the Village of Progress board. Carl's son, Dave Nelson, has followed in his father's footsteps and currently serves on the Village Foundation board.

Carl J. Nelson, 93, Mt. Morris, IL. passed peacefully on December 6, 2021 surrounded by his family. Carl was born on August 5, 1928 to Carl G and Eda W. Johnson Nelson in Chicago, IL. He graduated from Senn High School, Chicago and attended Northwestern University, Evanston. He married Leona A. Hartje. Carl served in WW II (volunteered for duty) and the Korean Conflict (drafted) where he attained the rank of corporal before his honorable discharge in 1953. Carl and Leona moved to Mt. Morris in 1960 where they raised their three children, Beth, David and Rick on the farm. In conjunction with farming, Carl had pursued and led a successful career in the television and film industry with numerous commercials, films and multi-media events to his credit.

He also served on the Boards of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, The Chicago Farmers (President), Lutheran Brotherhood, Ogle County 4-H Foundation, and Northern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America stewardship committee. He was a member of the Leaf River American Legion, Ogle County Farm Bureau (50 plus years) and volunteered with the Ogle County Sheriff's Association. Carl's faith-filled life led him to serve at St. James Lutheran on the church council, as a Sunday School teacher, Luther League sponsor for many Luther League conventions around the country, church usher and as the consummate acolyte instructor.

## Memorial gifts to the VOP in honor of Carl Nelson:

Kathryn Arnold-Stouffer • Carl & Marilyn Berg • Craig & Gretchen Carpenter • Gary & Joan Groenhagen • George & Rozann Groenhagen • Joyce Groenhagen • Robert & Leona Groenhagen • Robert Hanson • Mildred Knodle • Judith Mc Nett • Bill & Kay Tallyn • Linda Wills • Lindsay Wills • Gary & Marge Wingert • Wally & Mary Ann Wolter •

## IMPORTANT DATES

AT

### THE VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

### WE ARE HOPING TO KEEP

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### THE JOHN HERRMANN GOLF PLAY DAY

**JULY 18, 2022**

### PRAIRIE VIEW GOLF COURSE

**BYRON, IL**

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### TOSOC

### TOUR OF SCENIC OGLE COUNTY

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2022**

### CYCLING EVENT AT THE VILLAGE

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### ANNUAL BANQUET

**OCTOBER 19, 2022**

**AT 6:30**

### ST MARY'S LEARNING CENTER IN OREGON

# Welcome to the Village of Progress



The Village of Progress welcomed **Nicholas Smith** on 11/30/21. Nicholas graduated from Oregon's SOAR Program earlier in the spring. Nicholas lives with his family in the rural Kings area. He is attending the Village one day a week where he enjoys interacting with his new friends, playing BINGO, Wii bowling and other activities. His favorite activities involve video games and he is a loyal Cubs fan. Nicholas is eager for spring at which time he wants to try the biking club.



**Mike Fry** is a part time route driver for the Byron/Davis Junction Route. He was born and raised in Oregon, but currently lives in Mt. Morris. He is retired from the manufacturing world where he worked 20 years for Etnyre as a Senior Manufacture Engineer and 7 years for Guhring as a Tooling Engineer. Mike has been married to his wife, Marcia, for 46 years. They have 2 children and 5 grandchildren. Mike retired from softball after playing for 25 years, but still enjoys playing golf on a very regular basis.



**Lynda Wade** is a part time route driver for the Byron/Davis Junction Route. She has lived in Oregon most of her life. She currently works part-time in health care and part time in cosmetology along with driving a bus for the VOP. Lynda has 2 children. Her son is 27 and is a police officer in Arizona. Her daughter is 15 and just learning how to drive. Lynda loves reading, spending time with her kids and her 200lb Mastiff.

# Village of Progress Foundation Scholarships

For 24 years the Village of Progress Foundation has presented educational scholarships to folks in Ogle County. Applicants must be a resident of Ogle County and a high school senior or full-time college student who either has a disability or is majoring in an area that serves those with disabilities.

The first scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000 is made through the generosity of the Pete & Wanda Cacciatore Family. The Cacciatores have been long time supporters of the Village of Progress. Wanda was a member of the Village of Progress Board of Directors for 10 years beginning in 1988 and has served on the Foundation's Board for over 25 years. Her husband, Pete was also an enthusiastic supporter of the Village. Pete passed away in the fall of 2014, leaving behind a legacy of commitment to the Village and its mission.



This year a scholarship through the Cacciatore Family was given to Gracie James. Gracie graduated from Stillman Valley High School and currently attends Kishwaukee College. Gracie wants to pursue a degree in special education at a University. Gracie has a heart for helping others. Throughout high school she volunteered for many organizations like Bread of Life Food Pantry, Carpenters Place, and Rockford Rescue Mission. She is a member of the National Honors Society. Gracie worked multiple jobs while maintaining her strong GPA. She is described as strong, confident, and responsible, with an excellent work ethic.

The second scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000 is made through a gift from Larry Young & Friends Charities. Larry Young & Friends Charities partner with the Foundation to help make its annual golf outing a success. Larry Young also serves on the Foundation's Board of Directors.

This year a scholarship through the Larry Young & Friends Charities was given to Madison Ost. Madison is a senior holding an above-4-point GPA at Rochelle Township High School. Madison will be pursuing a degree in Occupational Therapy. Madison wrote about her desire to make a difference after observing an Occupational Therapist work with children with Autism and watching the therapist actually elicit eye contact and smiles from the students which were previously staring at a wall. Each of Madison's references commented on the countless clubs and numerous recognitions that she has received over the years.



To learn more about scholarship opportunities visit the news and events section at [www.villageofprogress.org](http://www.villageofprogress.org).

## Village of Progress & Foundation Donations:

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**In Honor of :** Tom & Jan Champley • Robert & Leona Groenhagen •

# 48th Annual Christmas Card Contest

We held our 48<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Card Contest, open to entries from all the men and women that attend the Village. For the last 27 years Hub - Remsen Print Group, from Rochelle, has awarded certificates of participation and a small cash prize to all entrants. They also print each year's winning card for use as both the Hub - Remsen Print Group and the Village of Progress Christmas cards.



Chris Haas & Tim Remsen of Hub - Remsen Print Group along with several of the consumers that participated in the annual Christmas card contest.

This year's judges included Dawn Todd of the Village, Chris Haas and Tim Remsen of Hub - Remsen Print Group. They looked over about twenty entries before selecting a design by **Rebeccah King** as the 2021 winning entry. **Teresa Vaughn** was awarded second

place honors and **Rachel White's** card received third place recognition.



Rebeccah King first place winner!

**Rebeccah** began attending the Village in May of 2021. She lives with her mom outside of Byron and attends the Village full time. She takes great pride in her work. She recently started working a day at Crest Foods with the Village's work crew. Rebeccah likes arts and crafts, music, card games and going to church. She also enjoys volunteering in the community.



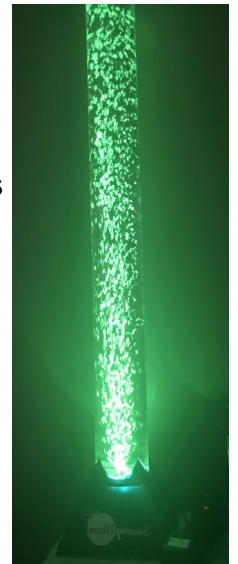
Teresa Vaughn took second place!

## Sensory time - Who wants to participate?



Hands go up when sensory time is offered. A dark room is where it starts. Then we use a multitude of different tools – soft music, a water fountain, a foot massager, weighted blankets, rocking chairs, a bubble tub, and aromatherapy lotions are some of the favorites. Most will close their eyes and quietly settle in, while others will get mesmerized by the lights. Dawn (DSP Supervisor) roams the room with lotions. Dawn commented, "Bottom line, it is about the human touch. Hold hands, from the elbow down communication – that is what our group reacts most to."

Staff and consumers are so excited that our sensory room has been able to reopen. We closed it at the beginning of COVID and have just recently been able to reopen.



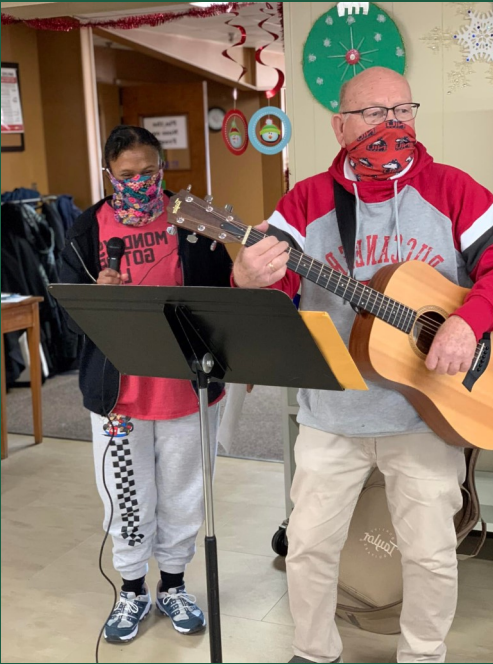
# Favorite Friday From 2021 - Fun Day

Last year we took a Friday off from production work and declared it “Fun Day”! Consumers and staff spent the day playing games, grilling out, soaking up the sunshine, and enjoying each other’s company. We egg-raced around the lawn, tossed a ring around the Polar Plunge bear, and had a scavenger hunt around the walking path. Some of our friends from Crest Foods, as well as a few special volunteers, helped us cook and serve lunch – hotdogs, cheeseburgers, beans and chips! After lunch we returned outside for a surprise ice cream truck! We enjoyed our sweet treats under the shade tents. We wrapped up our day in the best way possible - taking a pie to the face! Three lucky staff had the pleasure of taking a pie to the face. It was a “Fun Day” and we hope to make it an annual event.





# Holiday Highlights



# March Madness at The Village Bakery



Creative Donuts

Mint Chocolate Chunk Cookies



Corned Beef Rye



Andes Mint Lattes



Decorative Cookies

Mint Brownies



Turkey Rye



**THE VILLAGE BAKERY IS OPEN**

**7 DAYS A WEEK 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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