



# VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

SERVING ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FOR OVER 50 YEARS

The Village View - Fall 2022

Volume LIII Number III



## Director's Note:

I'm often asked to give a brief presentation about the Village of Progress. "You know," they say, "just tell us a little about what the Village does."

Over the years I've found that request to be both very simple and very difficult.

Simply put, the Village of Progress is a nonprofit agency that provides work and social opportunities to men and women in Ogle County who have developmental disabilities.

And so, it's easy to talk about our work opportunities: contracts we have with local businesses; real world experiences at The Village Bakery; commercial cleaning through our Village Cleaning Service.

And it's easy to list a dozen or more social programs we offer. Programs like: weekly small group outings into the community, Special Olympics; the bicycle club; the library club; and a daily variety of interactive games.



But while this gives people an idea of *what* we do, it barely scratches the surface about *why* we do it.

In everything we do, our guiding principle is simple: to increase each person's sense of self worth and sense of belonging.

There is a world of opportunities all around us.

Most of us just need the confidence and a companion to explore them with us.

## 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:

Working, for example, is more than a way of making money. It can provide us with a feeling of self-esteem, a sense of identity. To know you can do any job well instills pride.

Our social activities also help individuals feel the joy of accomplishment, the awe of exploring something new (or something old in a new way).

Every day, the men and women who attend the Village are welcomed by name, offered encouragement, treated with respect.

Because, deep down, these are the things we all long for – a place to belong, a sense of worth and ability, a voice that is heard.

And we won't stop until we realize our dream – that all men and women with developmental disabilities in Ogle County are valued and respected for the unique individuals they are.

Thanks for walking this journey with us.

*Brion Brooks*



The Village of Progress gathers for our annual photo.

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

We held our 49<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Card Contest, open to entries from all the men and women that attend the Village. For the last 28 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.



This year's judges included Dawn Todd of the Village along with Chris Haas & Tim Remsen of Hub - Remsen Print Group. They looked at over twenty six entries before selecting a design by **Carla Grove** of Forreston for the 2022 winning entry. **Sam Guzzardo** was awarded second place honors and **Abby Wolff's** card received third place recognition.



**Carla** has been part of the Village for over 25 years. Carla is a terrific artist, she has an

electric personality and is everyone's friend. Some of her favorite activities when at the Village include Wii Bowling, riding bikes, coloring, and playing games with her friends.



Carla Grove 1st in Christmas card contest.

## Marla Rozeboom retiring after 24 years

After twenty four years of contributing to the mission at the Village of Progress, Marla Rozeboom has made the decision to retire. Her last day will be December 21, 2022.

Her caseload will be transferred to Cassie Chapman. Her Social Services Coordinator responsibilities will be handled by Angie

Martin - Bakener. Mark Probasco will become Liaison with schools for transition students.

Marla will be missed by staff and the individuals we serve. Her years of service and contributions to the Village are greatly appreciated.



# The 7th Annual TOSOC - 2022

The 7th annual TOSOC – the Tour of Scenic Ogle County was on Saturday, September 24th. Riders started pulling into the Village’s parking lot to unload their bikes and pump up their tires about 6:15 a.m. – registration opened at 7:00 a.m. By the time registration closed, about 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 has three cycling routes to choose from. The first is a **10 mile family ride** through Oregon. Developed with the help of the Oregon Park District, this ride tours a number of the city’s parks. **A 32 mile route** takes cyclists through Grand Detour (stopping at the John Deere Historical Museum) and the Nachusa Grasslands for Bison viewing; a



**62 mile loop** adds in some of the scenic areas north of Mount Morris and west of Daysville.

By the end of the day, TOSOC netted approximately **\$14,000** 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 over 200 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](mailto:TOSOC@villageofprogress).



## We have the BEST SPONSORS!

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# Annual Banquet Awards

In October the Village held its Annual Banquet! We recognized several individuals for their outstanding service to the Village.

**Stacy Mitchell** received the Robert Stahl Friendship Award. Two personal achievement awards were given: The John Herrmann Distinguished Improvement Award was given to **Nora Wojtalewicz** and the Robert Moehle Personal Achievement Award went to **Carla Grove**.

**Elizabeth Bastuk** was singled out to receive the Carly Heller Special Olympian Award and **Cameron Mabrey** was acknowledged for his good sportsmanship with the Coach Cookie Warren Memorial Award. **Cloceal Holman** was honored with the Fred Smith Competitive Employment Award for her work at Crest Foods.



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.

The Rick Hahn Business of the Year was presented to **Crest Foods**. Crest Foods has provided such a great opportunity to help our individuals experience work in the community. And Crest has said they value the strong work ethic and positive attitude of those who come each day. It's truly been a win-win relationship. The Village was honored to extend the Janie Etnyre Volunteer of the Year award to **Steve James**. His main gigs are leading bingo on a weekly basis. During the warmer months he's also involved in the Village's Bike Club. And, he enjoys mowing lawns! Finally, the Robert Stouffer Special Recognition Award was given this year to the **Oregon Park District** for being such a great resource and true friend to the Village.

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.



# Exploring Our Community!

In an effort to increase our exposure in the community, the Village of Progress continues to create a variety of small group outings. Our goal is to promote and improve self-advocacy, informed decision making, budgeting/money skills and greater life experiences. Everyone is able to choose the activities they want to participate in each time.

We explore local restaurants, museums and parks as well as learned how to play billiards, geocache, cook, and volunteer. The small groups really allow their case manager or “Q” to customize activities to challenge individual skills.



Pumpkin Patch



Ice Hogs



Hoo Haven



Lunch in the Parks



NIU



Animals



Crafts at the Library

# HALLOWEEN AT THE VILLAGE



Nora is a busy lady, when she isn't working at Crest Foods, she is working at The Village Bakery. She is often working in back at the Village Bakery making every-one smile with



her infectious laugh. Today she ventured out and made the Cranberry Energy Bites. She did this **COMPLETELY** by herself even doing the math correctly while doubling the original recipe. Way to go Nora!!!

**THE VILLAGE BAKERY IS OPEN**

**7 DAYS A WEEK 7AM-2PM**



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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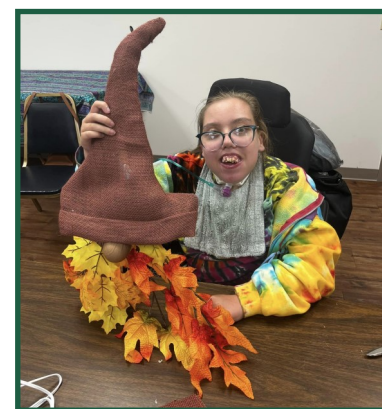
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## IN KIND

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



## Saying Goodbye to Angela Warner

We're saddened to share the news that Angela Warner passed away on Saturday, December 10th. Angela joined The Village of Progress in 2014 after moving in to Hammer Terrace. During Angela's eight years with us, we grew to love her deep belly laugh, beautifully painted nails, and her great appreciation of favorite foods. Angela's favorite thing to do was talk about her sister, Gabby, and she was Batman's biggest fan. We'll miss her calling out "BINGO" every Tuesday and telling us to "behave" on her way out the door.