



# VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

SERVING ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FOR OVER 50 YEARS

The Village View - Spring 2022

Volume LIII Number II



## Director's Note:

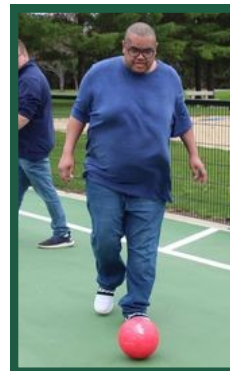
I want to share with you three separate, but related, activities we've been engaged in.

This past winter several men and women from the Village went to the Oregon Park District's Nash Fitness Center to try their hand at different games and sports. Activities ranged from basketball skills to kickball and hockey to soccer. Each Thursday the staff at Nash would greet our people and coach them in their desired activities. Each session would end with a group dance.

When the winter fitness program ended, the Park District hosted an Olympic ceremony, of sorts, at the Nash Center. The public was invited and Catherine Bohan Greene, a former Olympic swimmer representing Ireland, gave the opening remarks.

Awards were announced, trophies and flower bouquets were given to the bronze, silver and gold medalists. The audience was enthusiastic in their support. And after the ceremony, there was – again – much dancing.

For many of the participants, these Thursday mornings were the highlight of their winter. But, as I've been told by some of the staff at the Park District, it was the highlight of their winter, too. The joy which our men and women showed in competing each week was refreshing and uplifting to those who work there.



## 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:

Starting last spring Crest Foods has invited us to bring work crews to help them package food. It started with just a couple days a week and eventually grew to us supplying workers there daily. Our men and women



love going to Crest and challenging themselves to break their old production records. Crest loves having us. Again, what's often referenced most is the enthusiasm our people bring to the work. In the next week, we and Crest will be celebrating with a first anniversary party.

Until the rise of the pandemic, a small group of men and women from the Village would go to the Oregon Living and Rehab Center every few weeks to do craft projects with the residents. We've been told that some residents who declined to engage in any group activities would nonetheless look forward to doing a craft with the people from the Village.

A couple life lessons I learned in seminary seem to apply here. First – emotions are contagious. Angry people often raise anger in others (if you don't believe me, visit Facebook). But when you show joy, others become joyful. I think people from the Village are often welcomed by others because of the joy they bring with them. Its contagious.

A second lesson I learned is that, when grace abounds, it's hard to tell those who give from those who receive. I've seen this over and over during service projects. One group goes out to lend a hand to another that's in need. When it's over, those who went often feel that they received more than those they helped. Both parties are hard-pressed to really know who benefitted more.

At the end of the day, I believe all these groups – our Village Olympians, the Park District staff, our work crews, Crest Foods employees, the seniors at the Oregon Living Center – would say they received more than they gave. And in God's economy, that's just fine.

I'm so grateful that our staff has a front row seat to witness these things. And I'm so grateful that each of you join us on this journey.

*Brion*



# A Creative Park District

A big shout out to Debbie Leffelman and The Oregon Park District for always thinking about how to incorporate The Village of Progress into their programming. We are lucky to visit them regularly for fitness opportunities and swimming. But they also often include us in special occasions, most recently a “Gone Fishin”- themed dance and the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Debbie Leffelman and The Oregon Park District are routinely responsible for many smiles at the Village — as you can see in the pictures.



**IMPORTANT  
DATES  
AT  
THE VILLAGE OF  
PROGRESS**

**THE JOHN  
HERRMANN GOLF  
PLAY DAY**

**JULY  
7/18/2022**

**PRAIRIE VIEW  
GOLF COURSE**

**BYRON, IL**

**TOSOC  
TOUR OF SCENIC  
OGLE COUNTY**

**SEPTEMBER  
9/24/2022**

**CYCLING EVENT  
AT THE VILLAGE**

**ANNUAL  
BANQUET**

**OCTOBER  
10/19/2022**

**AT 6:30**

**ST MARY'S  
LEARNING  
CENTER IN OREGON**

Thanks for a great time!



# Welcome to the Village of Progress



**Wes Karpinski** comes to us from Freeport where he had been living in a CILA and attending Malcolm Eaton Community Day Service. He now is living independently with supports in Oregon and attending the Village of Progress. He enjoys bowling, basketball, playing video games, going out to eat, and playing with his cat. He also describes himself as “the hugest” Packers fan.



**Kaitlyn Williams** comes to Oregon after living in an ICF/DD group home in Freeport and attending Malcolm Eaton Community Day Services. She also is now living independently with supports and attending the Village of Progress. She loves to swim and hike. She enjoys country music, concerts and dances. She likes watching ghost stories and comedies on TV.

## Donald retired - He will be missed!



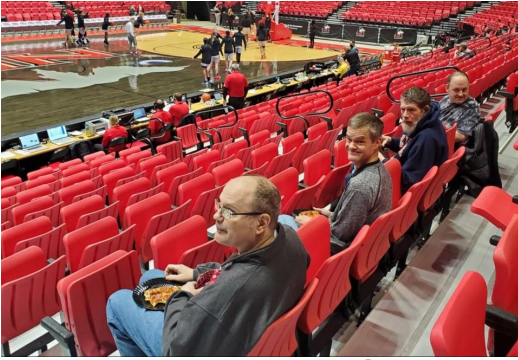


# COOKING CLASS is a HIT !! Whether we are making dog treats for the Bakery, shamrock cookies or lunch for friends.





# Exploring Our Community



**NIU Basketball Game**



**Bowling**



**Local Parks**



**Granny Rose**



**Pallets in the Parks**



**Cin's Treasures**



**Burpee Museum of Natural History**



**Nicholas Conservatory**



**Spring Valley Restaurant**

# Exploring Our Community

The Village of Progress is continuing our goal to increase each individual's exposure to the community. Everyone chooses the activities they want to participate in each time. In the process we are working on self advocacy, informed decision making, budgeting/money skills and most of all greater life experiences.



**Hectors**



# Remembering those we have loss



**Carolyn Sue Warren** known to most as **Cookie**. Cookie always approached life with love for others, generosity for everyone, and kindness for all. She had a love of sports from the time she was a kid and was always involved in one way or another. She spent 24 years as a Special Olympics coach at the Village of Progress in Oregon, IL. She loved each one of her athletes and referred to them as “her kids.” Cookie was married to Bill and had two daughters, three grandchildren and one great grand child.



**Chet Kobel** loved his family, his friends and his community. Doing good was his thing. Chet was one of the original members for the Village of Progress Foundation Board. He served on the Village of Progress Foundation Board from May of 1990 to June of 2017. During those years he served as secretary/treasurer from July 2001 to June 2003. Chet requested that memorials be to the Village of Progress. Chet will be missed.



**Nicholas McDowell** loved going camping and fishing, being with his friends at OCEC and the Village of Progress, but especially being with his family. His bedroom was his favorite spot to be. He adored pizza and bacon. He loved watching the “Dukes of Hazzard” and “The Fonz”. He was a great athlete winning many medals in bowling, softball toss, 50-yard dash, and wheelchair races with the Special Olympics. Nick attended the Village of Progress from May of 1999 to March of 2018.



**THE JOHN HERRMANN  
GOLF PLAY DAY**

**JULY 18, 2022**

**THE  
VILLAGE  
BAKERY  
IS OPEN**

**7 DAYS A  
WEEK**

**7AM-3PM**



**TōSOC**  
tour of scenic ogle county

**September 24, 2022**

**HISTORIC SITES  
BEAUTIFUL SCENERY  
WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS**

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



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# Village of Progress Donations

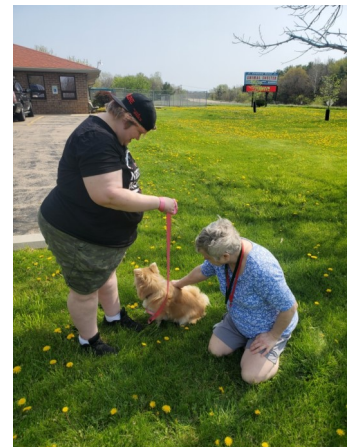


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## Memorials:

Ann Egyed • George Glendenning • Harold Hilliard • John Klinger • Chet Kobel • Nancy Kubat • Nick Mc Dowell • Nancy Nutt • Peggy Oelke • Christine Scott • Joel Shoemaker • Bob Stahl • Cookie Warren •



THANK YOU.... Our ability to maintain meaningful days, celebrate with special treats and create effective programs for Ogle County adults with disabilities depends on your donations & volunteer efforts!

## In Kind Donations:

A special thanks to Cindy from Cin's Treasures. We love painting ceramics in your shop and now thanks to your generous donation of paint, we can get creative at the VOP. We will make good use of all the paints!

