



VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

SERVING ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FOR OVER 50 YEARS

The Village View - Summer 2022

Volume LIII Number III



Director's Note:

“Back when I was a young...”

Funny how, as I get older, I find myself saying that more and more.

A few weeks ago, we offered a ‘reading time’ that was attended by about a half dozen people from the Village and a half dozen kids aged 5-7. The topic of the reading time was having a disability.

With an adult volunteer leading the discussion, the group talked about how special it feels to have friends. How good it feels to be included. And how sad it can feel to be left out.

Funny to say it, but that in itself is pretty incredible, isn't it? Incredible that young school children and full-grown adults with disabilities would even sit in the same room together.

Back when I was young, I attended 12 years of public school; I never recall seeing a student with developmental disabilities. Well, we'd see them occasionally – but they'd ride their own bus, enter through their own door, and attend class in their own room. They'd even have their own lunch time. I now wonder how they felt, being left out like that?



THE VILLAGE VIEW

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Director's Note Continued:

Back when I was young, my parents were friends with a couple who had an adult son that lived at home with them. When the couple would come over to visit and play cards, he'd never come along. When we might go out to eat, he wasn't there. When we'd go to their house, he mostly stayed in his room.

Back when I was young, my aunt and uncle had five kids. At least, five that I knew about. See, they had an oldest daughter who lived in an institution about an hour from their home. I later found out that my aunt would visit her on her birthday; my uncle never went along nor mentioned her name. Was it shame? Was it grief? I'll never know.

But today.... Today I marvel at how far we as a society have come in accepting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It warms my heart to see how many ways the people at the Village are able to get out into the community. Not just *in* the community, but *into* it – talking with people, laughing and joking with them, working shoulder-to-shoulder with them.

I am hopeful for the six children who attended those reading times. I'm hopeful that they might grow into adults who remember how special it feels to have friends and how great it feels to be included. And I'm hopeful that they'll have the eyes to see those around them who may lack friends or are not included, and reach out and embrace them, too.

We have a long way to go. And the road is not smooth. But we've come a long way, too. At least from back when I was young.

Brion



WELCOME BACK BEN!

This summer the VOP was very lucky to have two college students help us transition Ben back to the Village. Ben was home during the entire pandemic and needed help getting used to our routine again. Hannah and CJ did an amazing job. They both majored in Special Education at NIU. Hannah graduated and CJ will be graduating in May. We are excited to see what they will accomplish in the Special Education Field.



BEN & HANNAH



CJ & BEN

Welcome to the Village



Ginger Greenfield joined the Village of Progress in June of 2022. Ginger has lived in Oregon her entire life. She has two children Amelia (7) and Ava (14) - along with two Chihuahua dogs, two goats and one cat. In her spare time, Ginger loves to fish and spend time with the girls. We are excited to have

Ginger as a part of our team. Please introduce yourself to Ginger when you see her around.

This past May, Brittany married her long-time friend and moved full time to Oregon where she participates in line jobs at VOP, a janitorial job in the community, and works at the Village Bakery. Brittany Werner enjoys her games on her I-phone, music, visiting with family and friends and recently learned diamond painting from her new friends at VOP.



**IMPORTANT
DATES
AT
THE VILLAGE OF
PROGRESS**

**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**

**ANGEL
BALL**

**DECEMBER
12/03/2022**

AT 6:00

**RIVERS EDGE
EXPERIENCE
IN OREGON**

Cacciatore Family for the WIN - AGAIN!

The Village of Progress Foundation raised over \$22,000 at this year's golf outing. Generous sponsors and gracious donors along with fun participants and volunteers were the key to a successful day. Those who attend the Village are truly fortunate to have such supportive friends. Team Cacciatore won and generously donated winnings back to The Village of Progress.



Team Cacciatore

A huge thanks to our top notch sponsors and donors: Byron Bank • Byron Wealth Management • Cacciatore Family • Constellation • Gary & Susan Davis • Gallagher Global Brokerage • Gray Hunter Stenn LLP • Larry & Joyce Groenhagen • F.N. Smith Corp. • Mike & Renee Fager • Doris & Gary Ferb • H.A. International • Harvard State Bank • Herrmann Family • Knights of Columbus Oregon • Kreider Services • Dan Manning • Martin & Co. Excavating • Molyneaux • Prescott Brothers • Butch Peters • Sauk Valley Bank • Jim Sibigroth • Sterling Federal Bank • Stillman Bank • Mark & Kathi Tremble • The Village Bakery • Larry Young • Youngberg Industries •

Bidding wars occurred on the Catalina Club Cub Tickets – special thanks to Jamie Stewart and Gray Hunter Stenn LLP for the donation! Jim Kaufman at Super Valu made our pick-your-prize and beer wagon raffles a huge success by hand selecting wonderful beers and wines. And Prescott Brothers offered wonderful hole premiums.



Creating Meaningful Days & Exploring Our Community

When we returned to the Village of Progress after the COVID pause, we decided to broaden our horizons. We made a goal to start getting out into the community more in smaller groups. By enjoying our community in smaller, more intimate groups, we've been able to have more meaningful experiences. Participants are given the choice to partake in their favorite activities, which promotes self-advocacy, decision making and budgeting skills. We've been able to visit many places including: The Niabi Zoo, Nicholas Conservatory, movie theaters, driving ranges, animal shelters, restaurants, sporting events, and numerous parks. We've enjoyed grilling out, craft classes, participating in Park District and Senior Center events, and visiting with folks we meet along the way. We're excited to continue to explore and engage in our community, and to try more new things! We're able to do this with the help of donations. This month all newsletter donations go to support the exploration of our community. Thanks in advance for your support!



The VOP Summer FUN Celebration—Hawaiian Style



Mary Krug Retires After 29 Years



Mary Krug was hired in 1993 as a bus driver for the Village of Progress - Byron route. In 2008 she was promoted to a Direct Support Person in addition to her bus driving. Mary has been a caring, hard-working, supportive co-worker and friend and role model to the adults with disabilities that we serve. On May 16th she made the bittersweet decision to retire after 29 years with the agency and the people she loves. We all wish her a well-deserved retirement and look forward to her dropping in to visit the many friends she made over the years at the Village of Progress.

Raffle of a Kuat Transfer V2 Bike Rack



The Village of Progress will be selling \$5 raffle tickets for a Kuat Transfer V2 Bike Rack with a retail value of \$450. The winner being drawn September 24th at our TOSOC bike riding event and you do not have to be present to win.

The money raised will go directly to our Meaningful Day initiative that has given the opportunity for our attendees to go to a NIU basketball game, Niabi

Zoo, Rockford Rivets baseball game, Botanic Garden of Rockford, Cins Treasures, as well as many dining outings, shopping trips, and cookouts at local parks. Tickets can be purchased in person at The Village Bakery, at The Village of Progress, at TOSOC event or by contacting **Mark Probasco** at 815-732-2126 or emailing him at mprobasco@villageofprogress.org.

Annual Board Staff Dinner



Denny Mumford

In August we held our 36th annual board staff dinner. We had a great mixture of staff and board members in attendance. The Village is very proud and grateful of the strong commitment that staff and board members demonstrate each year to The Village of Progress. This year we recognized two staff.

Denny Mumford who currently serves as a DSP (Direct Support Person) and route driver for 25 years at the Village. And Bryan Watson for 10 years at the Village. He serves as a DSP, route

driver, production and transportation supervisor. Both of these individuals are involved in multiple areas of the Village of Progress. We appreciate the dedication and flexibility they have both demonstrated over the years.



Bryan Watson

ANNUAL BANQUET

10/19/2022
AT 6:30

ST MARY'S LEARNING
CENTER IN OREGON

THE
VILLAGE
BAKERY
IS OPEN

7 DAYS A
WEEK

7AM-3PM



TOSOC
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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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!