



VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

SERVING ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FOR OVER 50 YEARS

The Village View - Summer 2023

Volume LIV Number 3



Director's Note:

The other day as I was sitting at my desk I happened to look out my window and saw several volunteers gathering in the parking lot. They were there to go on bike rides with our men and women.

As I watched, they turned and started walking toward the Village, where the bikes were parked and waiting. Then I had this moment where I imagined the scene from the film, "The Right Stuff", where the astronauts are shown walking side-by-side toward the camera. It's an epic scene.

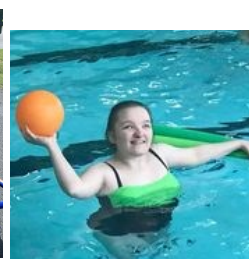
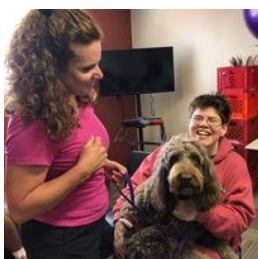
That's when it struck me. Here were a group of volunteers who had come to the Village simply to provide a little joy and fresh air to people with disabilities. I'm sure they saw their role as quite modest.

But what they fail to appreciate is that their small act of kindness multiplies into a much larger act in the eyes of those they came to serve. In the eyes of our people, volunteers are no less than celebrities. And no sooner had I thought this than one of our women, burst through the doors and, with open arms, yelled out the name of one of the volunteers and ran up to give him a big hug.

Others followed her out and, while not quite as exuberant, had smiles on their faces and were so happy to get started with their friends.

I recall a case worker once told me that, for many who attend the Village, coming here is regularly the best part of their day. And part of that, I expect, is because of the volunteers who, by their mere presence and friendship, make that particular hour the best part of their time here.

And I'm not just talking about the bike club. We have a volunteer who comes to read off the letters and numbers for bingo. We have volunteers who come with their dog to offer pet therapy. Other volunteers go with us to Nash for swimming. Some come in to play board games or work one-on-one with life skills.



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:

I expect that if you asked any of these men and women about their work here, they'd minimize their impact. "I'm just here to do..." They're being humble, of course. But I hope that in their humility they don't fail to appreciate the much larger impact their making in the lives of our people.

For a group who does not often have the opportunity to enjoy the company of friends in the community, knowing that people from the community are actually interested in their lives, will take time out of their lives to come here, and enjoy their company – that's huge.

Every day I see volunteers coming to the Village, for any capacity, I am grateful that there are people who care enough to spend their time and talents with us.



Brion



VOP University Art Class

The VOP University Art Class just finished up and it was a tremendous success, so much so that it will be offered again to a new group of students very soon. This first group learned about the French Impressionism movement that shaped famous works by artists like Degas and Monet. Some more modern artists like Pollack were discussed in class as well. The students did a wonderful job with the interpretation of each week's assignment using different mediums each time. The grand finale of the class, the Art Show, was a beautiful showcase of the skills they learned in class.



JUST KEEP SWIMMING

The story started when Stacy got sick and had to stay home with mom. One day they watched a movie "Finding Nemo". Stacy told her mom she felt like Dory. Dory is a fish who had a short term memory loss. Dory swam around dazed and confused as to what was going on. As time went on Dory just kept swimming thus Stacy's slogan - "Just Keep Swimming".

Stacy's co-workers wanted to do something to show support for Stacy. They decided to create t-shirts. They combined Stacy's love for the color purple and butterflies with her new slogan—"Just Keep Swimming" to create the shirts. Stacy is now back to work 2 days a week and her memory is getting better. We are happy for her to be back.



New VOP Hiking Club

"You're off to great places today is your day. Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way." -Dr. Seuss. That is one of the quotes that was considered as the motto for the new hiking club at the VOP. The idea started as an activity that would get people out and about without much expense that would encourage physical activity. It is amazing how much interest would form around this group and it is exciting that so many are enjoying being in nature and exploring new places. To date, there have been at least 28 individuals participating in the new hiking club which has gone hiking 6 times to 5 different places. The quote that was eventually adopted for our unique group, "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all." – Helen Keller, and I could not say it better myself.



IMPORTANT DATES

AT
THE VILLAGE OF
PROGRESS

TOSOC

TOUR OF SCENIC
OGLE COUNTY

A CYCLING EVENT
AT THE VILLAGE

SEPTEMBER
9/23/2023

ANNUAL
BANQUET

OCTOBER
10/18/2023

AT 6:00

ST MARY'S LEARNING
CENTER IN OREGON

ANGEL
BALL

DECEMBER 12/02/2023

AT 5:30

RIVERS EDGE
EXPERIENCE
IN OREGON

The John Herrmann Golf Play Day

Congratulations to the Rock Valley College team that won first place at The John Herrmann Golf Play Day!

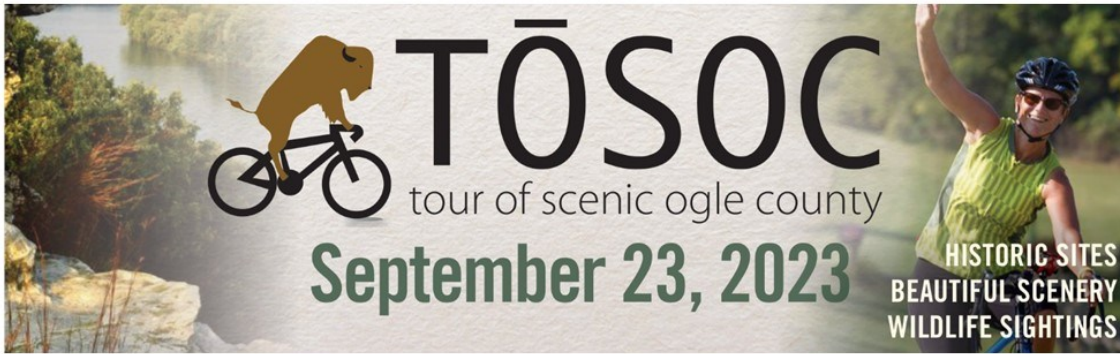
Enthusiastic golfers and generous supporters helped raise over \$18,000 for the Village of Progress Foundation. Generous sponsors, gracious donors along with fun participants and volunteers were the key to a successful day. Those who attend the Village are truly fortunate to have such supportive friends. We would like to give special recognition to the Rock Valley College team who took first and the Cacciatore team who took second who generously donated winnings back to The Village of Progress.

Sponsors & donors make the difference every year in how successful our golf play day will be at raising funds for the Attendance Grant Program. We can not brag enough about our top notch sponsors and donors: **Anderson-King LTD • Assured Partners • Byron Bank • Byron Wealth Management • Cacciatore Family • Constellation • Country Financial– Mike Guzman • Gary & Susan Davis • Don & Nancy Etnyre • FN Smith Corporation • Mike & Renee Fager • Doris & Gary Ferb • Gallagher Global Brokerage • Bill Geist • Gray Hunter Stenn LLP • Larry & Joyce Groenhagen • H.A. International • Harvard State Bank • Herrmann Family • Paul & Kathryn Lieving • Dan Manning • Martin & Co. Excavating • Northern Illinois Football Officials • Butch Peters • Prescott Brothers • Jim Sibigtroth • Sterling Federal Bank • Stillman Bank • Mark & Kathi Tremble • The Village Bakery • The Toby Way Family • Youngberg Industries • Jim & Vicki Zalzal.**

Bidding wars occurred on several of the auction items - special thanks to Kelly Wirth and Jamie Stewart for the generous donations! And a huge shout out to Jim Kaufman at SuperValu in Oregon. He made our pick-your-prize and beer wagon raffles a huge success by hand selecting wonderful beers and wines.

The golf play day helps fund our Attendance Grant Program which is a unique benefit provided by the Village of Progress. The Attendance Grant Program lets individuals who are on the state's waiting list attend the Village on a part-time basis—free of charge. To learn more about the Village of Progress, the Attendance Grant Program, or our John Herrmann Golf Play Day visit our website.





This is a unique and affordable opportunity to sponsor an event that promotes our community, the businesses that make us strong & the Village of Progress. We hope you will consider sponsoring this year. Over 300 hundred cyclists will be touring our community on September 23, 2023. Help us make them feel comfortable.

**Supports the VOP
Attendance Grant Program**

SPONSOR FORM—ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR _____

Business Name: _____
 Contact: _____
 Business Address: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

**Business Sponsor
or Individual/Family
Sponsorship \$150**

Mail your sponsorship checks to :
**Village of Progress -
 PO Box 418
 Oregon, IL 61061**

Your company name or logo (whichever you prefer) will appear on a large sponsor board where the ride begins and on the back of the long sleeve shirt. Sponsors will also be recognized on Facebook and in newsletters. Logos can be emailed to: segan@villageofprogress.org.

In addition sponsors are encouraged to welcome cyclist on their business signs. Cyclists are encouraged to stay in the community after the event.



VOP FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

For 25 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. We offer two scholarships, in the amount of \$1,000 each.

The first Scholarship for \$1000 is made through the generosity of the Pete & Wanda Cacciatore Family. 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 26 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 Amanda Tauch. Amanda is a junior at Illinois State University. She is pursuing a degree in Music Therapy. Amanda lives in Oregon. She has volunteered time to ride bikes at the Village of Progress during the summer months and observed our Music Therapy sessions. Amanda is described as "a person who models kindness, compassion, and a genuine desire to see individuals with disabilities achieve their full potential."

The second scholarship for \$1000 is made possible thru 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 Charity was given to Gracie Prose. Gracie is a senior holding a 3.96 GPA at Oregon High School. Gracie will be pursuing a degree in Communication. Gracie wrote that she has a deep passion for helping others as well as a keen eye for detail and emotional shifts. She truly tries to use every opportunity available to impact the lives of others. Gracie's reference commended her for the countless volunteer hours that she donated to the Village of Progress; her work as an aide with OCEC students at her high school; and her ability to form immediate connections with people.

To learn more about scholarships opportunities visit the news and events section at www.villageofprogress.org.



Pictured to the left: Amanda Tauch, Oregon, IL with Wanda Cacciatore, Board Member Village of Progress Foundation receiving a check for \$1,000 from the Village of Progress Foundation in honor of the Pete and Wanda Cacciatore Family.



Pictured to the right: Gracie Prose, Oregon High School Senior with Larry Young, Board Member of The Village of Progress Foundation receiving a check for \$1,000 from the Village of Progress Foundation made possible by Larry Young & Friends Charity.

Village of Progress and Foundation Donations

Nareman Abdallah • Rehanna Abdallah • Marian Baker • Dorothy Bellows Trust • Ted & Joann Boddiger • Kevin Brehm • Eric Brown • Craig & Luanne Cann • Tom & Janet Champley • Jean Colbacchini • Crum & Halsted • Larry & Deb Drew • Randall & Sandra Ebert • Don & Nancy Etnyre • Etnyre Foundation • First Presbyterian Church of Rochelle • Teresa Fearer • Dennis Flanagan • Dave &



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Thi Tran • Sharon Thunberg • Ben Wagner • White Rock Township • Ashley Williams • Linda Wills • Jackie & Jennifer Wirth • Margaret Wolf • Karen Young •

In Honor of: Bob Groenhagen's Birthday • **In Memory of:** Ralph & Edith Davis • Henry Dixon • Dave Stenger • John Roe Sr. • Helen Wales •

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!



ANNUAL BANQUET

10/18/2023
AT 6:00

ST MARY'S LEARNING
CENTER IN OREGON

**CHECK OUT OUR
HANDMADE SEASONAL
CRAFTS THAT WE SELL
AT THE VILLAGE BAKERY**

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




TOSOC

tour of scenic ogle county

September 23, 2023



**HISTORIC SITES
BEAUTIFUL SCENERY
WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS**

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