



VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

SERVING ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FOR OVER 50 YEARS

The Village View - Fall 2024

Volume LVI Number 4



Director's Note:

One of the greatest longings for adults with developmental disabilities is something that many of us take for granted. To live a normal life.

Yes, going on outings and attending sporting events can be fun and exciting. But at the end of the day for many people at the Village, it's the simple things that can be just as rewarding.

A few years ago, we discovered that sitting out on a deck and enjoying the afternoon sun is one such enjoyment. In fact, this past-time became so popular that the existing deck was quickly becoming too small to accommodate everyone.



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:

That led us to seek a grant from the Etnyre Foundation that we could use to expand the deck. Etnyre responded with a gift of approximately \$3,300. By converting the grant into a challenge, we were hoping to raise enough donations to pay for the approximately \$10,000 project.

And so, in our Spring newsletter we issued the challenge. The Etnyre grant would be leveraged to contribute fifty cents for every dollar raised to build the deck.

Your response was overwhelming. By the end of our challenge, 85 families contributed over \$20,000! We were blown away.

With the additional money raised, we were able to buy patio furniture and install an all-weather awning. The remaining funds will allow us to plant some shrubs, install bird feeders, and maybe even create a space for yard games.

Since the deck was built this summer, its received virtually constant use. Many of our staff have commented that it was one of the best improvements for our clients that we've made at the Village.

Living a normal life isn't always easy when coping with a disability. But your generosity has helped many here at the Village move just one step in that direction.

Thanks to all of you.

Brion Brooks



Donations designated for the deck:



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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.

Deanna Gregory received the Robert Stahl Friendship Award. Two personal achievement awards were given: The John Herrmann Distinguished Improvement Award was given to **Kim Weber** and the Robert Moehle Personal Achievement Award went to



Richard "JR" Dunseth.



Sylvia King was singled out to receive the Carly Heller Special Olympian Award and **Austin Henry** was acknowledged for his good sportsmanship with the Coach Cookie Warren Memorial Award.

Chris Martinez was honored with the Fred Smith Competitive Employment Award for his work at Crest Foods, The Village Bakery and The Village Cleaning Service.



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 **Rockford IceHogs**.



The Village was honored to extend the Janie Etnyre Volunteer of the Year award to **Dave Gesin**. Finally, the

Robert Stouffer Special Recognition Award was given this year to the **Byron Public Library** 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.



The 9th Annual TOSOC - 2024

The 9th annual TOSOC – the Tour of Scenic Ogle County was on Saturday, September 28th. Riders started pulling into the Village’s parking lot to unload their bikes and pump up their tires about 6:45 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 almost **\$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 due to Illinois lacking the funding. TOSOC proceeds will provide over 160 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.org.



Thank you to the BEST SPONSORS and VOLUNTEERS!



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IN KIND: Compeer Financial – Oregon office for donating wish list items • Steve & Dixie Hammer for donating gourds for Annual Banquet • Merlin's Greenhouse for donating greenery for the Annual Banquet • Dave Nelson & Leona Nelson for donating pie slices • Oregon United Methodist Church for donating food • Oregon Snyders for donating mints for Annual Banquet • Oregon Wrestlers for donating apple cider donuts • Pine Creek Farm Stand for donating pumpkins.

IN HONOR OF OR IN MEMORY OF: The Marriage of Philip H. Nye Jr. & Kathy Hollenbach • Donald Campbell • Ralph & Edith Davis • Kathy Forristal • Larry Hackbarth • Sandy Noser • Frank Reeverts • Shelby & Lenora Walker.

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

New Faces at VOP



Matthew Larson

Matthew started coming to Village of Progress's Park District days in 2024 with some friends from Byron. Once participating he decided he would like to attend the Village. Mathew signed up for the Attendance Grant Program and was given one day a week to start. Matthew likes to stay active playing sports, tinkering with items, and talking with peers and staff.



Kari Smith

Kari started attending the Village of Progress as a transition student and is happy to be back. Kari is very friendly and enjoys being around other people. She loves making new friends and help her mom babysit her niece and nephew. Kari also signed up for the Attendance Grant Program and was given one day a week to start attending the Village of Progress, while waiting for her name to be pulled off the PUNS list.

Special Olympics Update



Kolby Harrolle received 2nd place at the Special Olympic regional competition held at Cherry Bowl in Rockford. This closed out the 2024 season. Congratulation Kolby!



Megan Voss & JR Dunseth participated in the inaugural unified Special Olympics cornhole competition held in Dekalb where everyone received ribbons.

The Oregon office of Compeer Financial stopped by the Village of Progress the other day with a wonderful surprise. Unbeknownst to us they went holiday shopping and surprised us with puzzles, craft kits, batteries, kitchen supplies, body care items, and crayons. Thank you for thinking of the Village, our folks are really looking forward to exploring all the fun new gifts!

THE VILLAGE BAKERY IS OPEN
7AM — 2PM
7 DAYS A WEEK



Cassie Hernandez and Shannon Pritchett from the Oregon Compeer Financial office.

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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Christmas Card Contest

IMPORTANT DATES
AT
THE VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

We held our 51st annual Christmas Card Contest, open to entries from all the men and women that attend the Village. For the last 30 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, Chris Haas and Tim Remsen of Hub - Remsen Print Group. They looked over twenty entries before selecting a design by Adam Oltmanns as the 2024 winning entry. Dan Smith took 2nd place and Stacy Mitchell received 3rd place.

THE JOHN HERRMANN GOLF PLAY DAY

JULY 14, 2025

PRAIRIE VIEW GOLF COURSE

BYRON, IL

TOSOC
TOUR OF SCENIC OGLE COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

CYCLING EVENT AT THE VILLAGE

ANNUAL BANQUET

OCTOBER 23, 2025

AT 5:30

ST MARY'S LEARNING CENTER OREGON



Adam Olatmanns (who received 1st place) is 32 and has been part of the Village of Progress community since 2011. He loves playing games on his tablet, staying active through exercise, and being a member of the Anime Club. Adam is always willing to try new experiences and broaden his horizons.



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 was able to choose the activities they want to participate in each time.



Dog Therapy



Cycling



Halloween Dance



Jonamac Orchard



Niabi Zoo



Fun Week



Rivers Game



Special Olympics



KickBall



Ice Hogs Game

**And so many
more fun activities!**