



VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

SERVING ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FOR OVER 50 YEARS

The Village View - Spring 2024

Volume LIV Number 2



Director's Note:

We have a problem. In a way, it's a good problem. But a problem nonetheless.

The west annex of our building is a place where individuals with more profound developmental disabilities gather to engage in social activities.

A few years ago, the staff suggested that we should build a deck and awning onto the west door of the annex. The deck would afford a place to get some fresh air, relax in the warmth of the afternoon sun, and just have small talk.

The idea proved tremendously successful. So successful, in fact, that we moved our swing set and a few other yard items close by. From mid spring through mid-autumn, you'll find men and women enjoying relaxing time on the deck.



And therein lies the problem. It's become so popular that we have to take people out in shifts. The deck simply isn't large enough to accommodate all those who would also love to enjoy it. Now, we're on a mission to expand the deck to roughly Three times its size. It's going to cost about \$10,000.



I'm delighted to report that the Etnyre Foundation has stepped forward by giving us a challenge grant.

For every dollar we raise from our supporters, the Etnyre Foundation will make a \$ 0.50 contribution.

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:

This is a great opportunity to show our people the incredible support of this community. We will display on our wall a list of each donor who contributes to this challenge. Every day our men and women enter the Village, they'll be able to see how many people out there support them and, like us, are committed to improving their lives.

Brion



Please consider a donation of any amount. We are so looking forward to building a space of relaxation that everyone can enjoy.

Recycling Project

What started as a class about Ecology and the Earth, turned into a worthwhile project at VOP. Jim took an early lead with this project by announcing to his peers that a box designated for recyclable plastic bottles and aluminum cans should be set up in the cafeteria for everyone to start recycling. He learned



in class the importance of recycling and how a small effort can make a big impact on the environment. Jim helps rinse out the cans and bottles to take to the recycle bin which is conveniently across the street. Jim has been a great leader of his peers who are doing a tremendous job participating in this project of recycling and it makes him feel good to do something to help the community.



PASSION FOR WOOD WORKING



Jeremy discussed the idea of wood working with staff members last year. In December, he made a trip to Menards with staff to purchase supplies to make cutting boards. The Village bought various hardwoods including maple, oak, alder, hickory, and poplar. In January, the process began.

Jeremy worked very quickly with the help of staff and one of his peers, Julius. They patiently learned the process of making food grade quality cutting boards. He started with three 12x12 cutting boards. We posted them on the Village of Progress Facebook page and the three boards sold immediately.

Jeremy was so excited with the positive response, he asked to move forward with making more. Staff assisted Jeremy with expanding his wood selection to include more exotic woods - Zebrawood, Purple-heart, Padauk, Coffee Nut, Grey Elm - along with his current selection of Walnut, Maple, and Cherry.



The Village of Progress is currently looking for a volunteer with a knowledge of woodworking to help oversee and guide simple wood working projects. If you have an interest and a few hours available please call the Village of Progress at 815-732-2126 and ask for Sherri.



All craft projects including the cutting boards are sold at the Village Bakery in Oregon. The proceeds from these projects help fund our meaningful day program and special events.

IMPORTANT DATES AT

THE VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

**JOHN HERRMANN
GOLF PLAY DAY
7/15/24**

**TOSOC
TOUR OF SCENIC
OGLE COUNTY**

**A CYCLING EVENT
AT THE VILLAGE**

**SEPTEMBER
9/28/2024**

**ANNUAL
BANQUET**

**OCTOBER
10/9/2024**

AT 5:30

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

**ANGEL
BALL**

DECEMBER 12/07/2024

AT 5:30

**RIVERS EDGE
EXPERIENCE
IN OREGON**

Retirements



After 27 years attending the Village of Progress, Carla Grove made the difficult decision to retire. Her journey to the Village of Progress began when she graduated from Ogle County Educational Cooperative at Byron High School in 1996.

What we quickly learned about Carla is that she is a “people person” who genuinely thrives on not only making new friends but also becoming a forever friend. Carla sends birthday and special occasion cards to each and everyone that has come into her life.

What a wonderful quality for Carla to share with us all.

Carla is home learning new recipes to cook and being a great asset for her mother around the house. Carla, thank you for all the memories and cards over the years. You will be missed!



Harold Grimes retired in December. He was a committed member of Village of Progress since 1983. He spent most of his time with the Village Cleaning Service. Harold had an impressive three decade career at the Byron Exelon Generation Station (now called Constellation). Despite facing various challenges like malfunctioning elevators or adverse weather conditions, Harold

approached his duties with unwavering diligence and maintained the high standards required by Exelon.

His colleagues fondly recall his positivity and kindness. Harold enjoyed his job and loved listening to his energetic tunes of rock-n-roll as he worked.

Harold is looking forward to slowing down and enjoying a well-deserved retirement, Harold delights in channel surfing and keeping up with friends on Facebook.



We Got Talent



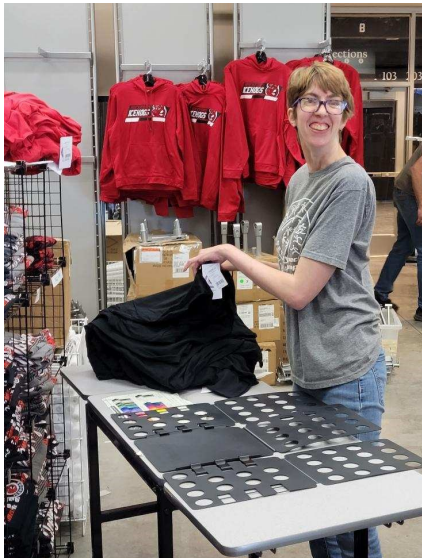
On April 6th we participated in Rockford Park Districts “NASR’s Got Talent” talent show. The talent show displayed the abilities of many of our talented friends which consisted of comedians, dancers, spoken word, a short skit, and singers who performed in front of a large audience and three judges who gave positive praise to all participants. The Village of Progress had three participants who wanted to sing. Deanna choose to sing “Hallelujah”.

Deanna loved

the song. Judges expressed how they could feel the emotion as Deanna was singing. Hope sang “Let Me Let Go”. The judges said they could tell she came from a family of performers. Our third participant Austin sang “I See Fire” and made lots of people laugh with his jokes before and after his performance. The performances inspired our participants to meet new friends and gave the opportunity for the world to see their abilities and courage.



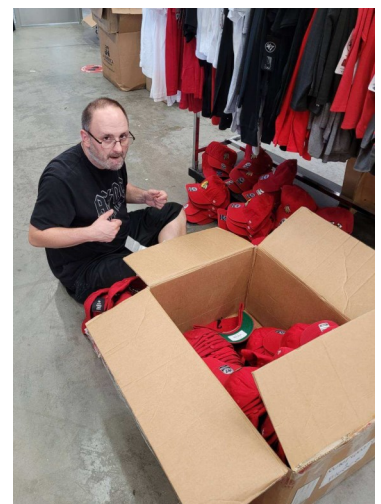
Helping out the Rockford Ice Hogs



This year the Rockford Ice Hogs, Chicago Blackhawks minor league team, has contracted us to help merchandise the newly enlarged store. We have had ten different VOP attendees working up to five days a week. We were busy hanging clothing, putting price tags on items, arranging clothes by size, as well as some light cleaning.

Many new skills have been learned, by working in a retail setting. This will be a season long job with us returning to restock the store and also to possibly

work the retail store during game days. Next time you are at a game please stop by and look at all the hard work we have done.



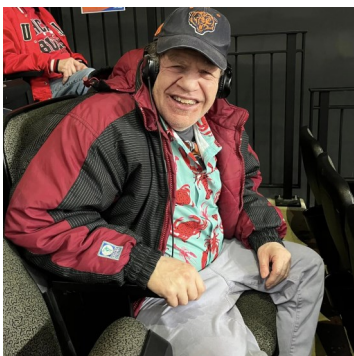
Village of Progress Donations

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Village of Progress Donations



VILLAGE & FOUNDATION—Nareman Abdallah • Rehanna Abdallah • Richard & Carol Anderson • Edward & Kelly Beeter • Kevin Brehm • Noel Bruns • Byron Knights of Columbus • Craig & Gretchen Carpenter • Constellation Employee Matching • Kenneth & Cheryl Deason • Larry & Deb Drew • Tom Felker • Mark & Carmel Finnegan –



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In Honor of: Tom & Jan Champley • Larry & Joyce Groenhagen • Robert Groenhagen



In Memory of: Joe Baker • Reuben Barnhart • Thomas Brown • Ralph & Edith Davis • Matt Glaser • Joan Glendenning • Mark Glixon • Leona Groenhagen • Bernice & Pam Hammer • Carly Heller • Linda Huckabee • June Kereven • Maurice & Carolyn Koebler • Doug Lieving • Donald McMillan • Robert & Eleanor Moehle • Jim Mickey • Pat Mohr • Darlene Rago • Chuck Snyder • Melody Snyder • Bud Wiener •



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!

The John Herrmann Golf Play Day

JULY 15, 2024

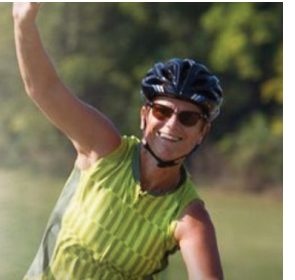
**CHECK OUT OUR
HANDMADE SEASONAL
CRAFTS THAT WE SELL
AT THE VILLAGE BAKERY**

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



T̄̄S̄̄OC

tour of scenic ogle county



www.Bikereg.com



September 28, 2024

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
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Oregon IL 61061
Permit No. 17

Village of Progress
PO Box 418
Oregon IL 61061
Return Service Requested

32ND ANNUAL JOHN HERRMANN MEMORIAL GOLF PLAY DAY

Village of Progress
Foundation, Inc.

Larry Young
& Friends Charities

Monday, July 15, 2024

At Prairie View Golf Course in Byron, IL
12:30 p.m. shotgun start.

REGISTRATION FORM

Organization: _____
Contact: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ email: _____

☐ ***I want to sponsor a hole or tee***

Numbers of holes and tees: _____

Name of Business: _____

Our check for \$ _____ (\$200 per hole/tee) is enclosed.
_____ Please bill us.

Please mail this form to:
Village of Progress Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 418
Oregon IL 61061
Or fax to 815-732-3228
Checks payable to
Village of Progress Foundation

Join us for a great day of golf,
food, and prizes. And help the
Village of Progress continue to serve
Ogle County adults with
developmental disabilities.

18 holes of golf, cart, goodie bag,
drink tickets, steak dinner,
raffle and silent auction.

☐ ***I want to sign up a Foursome***

Golfer #1: _____

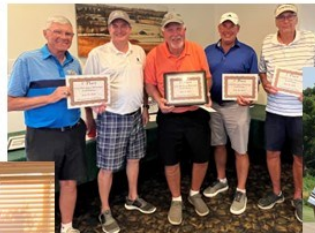
Golfer #2: _____

Golfer #3: _____

Golfer #4: _____

____ Our check for \$500 is enclosed.

____ We'll pay at the event.



NORTHERN ILLINOIS SCENIC BIKE TOUR

TOSOC

tour of scenic ogle county

September 28, 2024

ROUTE 1 :: 10 MILE ROUTE

ROUTE 2 :: 32 MILE ROUTE

ROUTE 3 :: 62 MILE ROUTE



Register online and
search TOSOC Bike Ride

www.Bikereg.com



Check us out on Facebook
by searching TOSOC Bike Ride



All proceeds benefit the Village Of Progress, a non-profit agency providing training opportunities to individuals with developmental disabilities.