

Kemmerer Voices

July 2020

A Presbyterian Child Care Agency since 1914



Salvation

My spiritual walk with Christ at KV.

By Joanna

Hi my name is Joanna and I'm 16 years old. I have been involved with Christ and going to church since I was 6. When I came to KV, I came to church almost every Sunday. I had a hard time trusting God when I first got here. I got a Bible for Christmas and I started reading a little every now and then. When I went to church one day, Mr. Brandon was there doing it. Something inside of me clicked to where I wanted to know more about God. So, Mr. Brandon started this Life Group where he helps us learn how to read and understand the bible and how to pray. Ever since we started and I've been going every Monday my spiritual life has started to improve every week. I used to not pray that much and now I'm praying at least 9 times a week and I find myself reading the Bible and getting into God's word. When I'm having a bad day, I go to a Bible verse that will make me feel better. I like Psalm 23, because it talks about how God is always there and how good he is to us. I also have a favorite bible verse, Jeremiah 29:11. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

See I used to think I wasn't worth anything, but when I read this it changed my whole perspective on my life knowing that God has plans for me, plans for me to follow. The more I read the Bible the more closer I'm getting to know God and the Closer I'm getting to God.

If it weren't for my adopted parents, my pastor, Kemmerer, Mr. Brandon and the staff of KV I would not be as close to God as I am now. Mr. Brandon showed me this bible verse and it helps me not worry Matthew 6:34. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of it's own.

Sharing the story of a Hero

Stories from the past 106 years of caring for children elicit great pride, hope and inspiration. It is always exciting to hear from people who called Kemmerer home and their families who share their stories with us. A special salute to Sharon Nader for this one.



This Kemmerer child turned war hero is once again celebrated. Born in 1918, Herman Grimm and his two brothers Gayle and Norman lived at Kemmerer in the 1920's.

Herman joined the Army Air Corps as a radio operator in the 447th Bomb group. Herman operated out of Rattlesden, England. He completed at least 20 successful missions. One fateful trip to Berlin was his last. Crossing the English Channel they encountered wake turbulence from another plane. His aircraft was flipped over and crashed in the North Sea. A year later, his body was recovered and buried by the Germans. He is now laid to rest in a military cemetery in Belgium. His memory and heroic death lived on at Kemmerer Village this Memorial Day.



We were blessed with this story by the wife of Herman's great-nephew. She reached out to us via Facebook helping fill the need for teen Bibles. She also included a special gift with it. The model B-17 plane is an honor to the brave Kemmerer kid who flew it, and the current child who enjoyed putting it together. Trace worked with his therapist to put the plane together. He found it very therapeutic

and said the plane would remind him to fly away from unpleasant thoughts and remember life can take you somewhere incredible.

Kemmerer Voices

Michael A. Havera Editor
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From the Director's Desk

I am excited to announce that Presbyterian Camp Carew will be added to Kemmerer Village's array of programs for youth and families beginning January 1, 2021. Presbyterian Camp Carew, located in southern Illinois, is an established Christian camping program that has operated for 68 years; 48 of those years as a ministry of the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois (PSEI). The transfer of ownership of Presbyterian Camp Carew from PSEI to Kemmerer Village was the result of months of discussions, meetings and legal review by both PSEI and Kemmerer Village attorneys. The legal agreement of transfer was unanimously approved by all three affected parties: Presbyterian Camp Carew Board of Directors, Kemmerer Village Board of Directors and by PSEI. The fact that it passed unanimously by all three parties, confirmed to many of us that this is God's will.

Many of you are already familiar with the excellent summer camping experiences that Presbyterian Camp Carew provides to children and youth. For those of you who are not; you'll be seeing and hearing more about it in future Voices, Kemmerer's website and Face Book pages. You can also visit the Camp's website at www.campcarew.org.

Over the years, Kemmerer Village has added a growing variety of programs, as noted in past issues of the Voices: an on-grounds school, individual, group and family therapy, Therapeutic Recreation, pre-vocational training, Chaplain services, Equine Therapy, Illinois Interagency Athletic Association and canine assisted therapy. Each addition has increased our ability to make a connection with our youth through at least one of these programs. Once one connection is made it often leads to a youth being open to lessons taught through our other programs. I believe the experiences and lessons possible only through Camp Carew will have this same kind of impact. Especially as we collaborate on separate camp sessions geared toward some of the therapeutic needs of Kemmerer's children and youth.

Rest assured, the traditional summer Christian camping experience and eight-week season that Camp Carew has provided throughout its years will remain intact, with the emphasis on Christian camping. Our goal is to increase the number of campers attending these weeks by promoting Camp Carew using all mediums by which we have promoted Kemmerer Village (e.g. KV Voices). Dan Kingery will remain Camp Director, for which we are grateful for his experience as Director and his passion for the outdoors and for the campers. We'll go by the old adage, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it"; and we'll rely on Dan's guidance on that.

For those of you who have donated to Camp Carew in the past we hope that continues, and I want to assure you your donations will continue to go only to the operation and support of Camp Carew. We look forward to many, many years of Camp Carew giving children and youth a wonderful summer experiences.

Ron Little
Executive Director

Kemmerer Village Adoption on WAND news.



TAYLORVILLE, III. (WAND)

On Mother’s Day weekend, one mother got the gift of a life time. Kate Graham says it’s a celebration that’s been 525 days in the making. “It’s a little surreal right now,” Graham says. “I don’t even know that its hit me yet.”

Graham has been fostering five-year-old Monroe for more than a year. “I’ve been fostering for about 18 months,” Graham says. “This is my older sons half-sister. Going into it, really quickly, we knew it was going to be a long-term

commitment.

Patty Hornbuckle, Monroe’s new grandmother, says Monroe fit into the family right away. “[Monroe’s] first two years of her life were a very, very huge struggle,” Hornbuckle says. “It wasn’t a good situation.”

Graham says from the beginning, everyone knew Monroe had to be a part of their family. “When she first moved in, and I asked if she wanted to call me auntie Kate or mom; she said I just want to call you mom,” Graham says.

According to Graham, she was originally supposed to adopt Monroe in April. “We finally got adoption day, then COVID comes in and that postponed everything,” Hornbuckle says. After months of anticipation, Monroe was finally able to take the Graham last name.

“It was a little bit of pushing, and pleading, and praying and they went ahead and created a Zoom event,” Hornbuckle says. “This is the official adoption, the very first of its kind.” COVID-19 restrictions kept the official adoption ceremony small, but many people in the Taylorville community drove around the town square to cheer for the family in celebration.

“We live in such a wonderful community. They are always out supporting so many wonderful things,” Graham says. “I think right now, it’s great to see this. We need happy things to get us through this time.”

Graham says she’s very happy her family of three has now become a family of four. “I’m a little overwhelmed with emotion. I’m excited, happy,” Graham says. “I always wanted to be a girl mom and now, I’m a girl mom.”



Thank You To Our Generous Supporters!

In a time of so much uncertainty, you all proved we can count on you. We are grateful for the donors who reached out to us over these past few months. Many extremely talented & generous supporters of Kemmerer Village, created over 200 homemade masks for our Foster Care Families, Residential Children & Staff.

In an effort to meet spiritual needs & provide comfort to our children, several donors sent in Teen Study Bibles. We have collected over 100 Bibles so far this year! Three children have made the decision to become followers of Christ, during this pandemic!

Supporters also donated card games, board games, puzzles & craft supplies. These items brought hours of joy and entertainment. Thank you for continuing to bless and enrich the lives of these children.



Campus Track Meet Takes Place with The Enthusiasm of Residents and Dedication of Staff



On May 26th, the Kemmerer Village Campus was filled with energy and excitement. With the cancellation of both the conference and Illinois Interagency Athletic Association track meet. With the cancellation of Illinois Interagency Athletic Association's Conference and State track meets, a decision was made to reward the team for their efforts this spring by holding a campus track meet. Youth participated in 4 field events and 6 running events.

Although it was not quite the same as getting to go off campus for the state meet, our youth enjoyed participating and all received ribbons for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place in their divisions. Although one of our youth could not physically participate in the meet, he was a huge help.

A big thank you to all the staff who helped the track meet run smoothly. The track season did not go as planned, but the Kemmerer Village track team ended the season on a very positive note and should be congratulated on their efforts. Also, they will be participating in a virtual track meet where their scores and times from the campus meet will be compared to other agency members of the Illinois Interagency Athletic Association. We are looking forward to seeing those results.

KV Kids Keep Busy During COVID 19 Epidemic

Kemmerer Kids, as with kids around the world, had to make a lot of adjustments this spring due to the Corona Virus / COVID-19 epidemic. The fulltime nurse on staff and healthcare workers at Kemmerer have been able to help keep our youth healthy and meet their medical needs. Our entire staff worked hard keeping our residents busy and their anxiety levels at bay.

With school being closed, our kids spent more time in their cottages and small groups. In an effort to continue their education, Residential Counselors challenged our kids to keep reading and writing. They also spent time in the computer lab along with music and art classes.

The children needed to remember that God is in control and to have faith that He would see us through this. To meet their spiritual needs, they were able to continue with youth group gatherings and bible study, while adhering to social distancing guidelines. Each cottage has a masters level therapist helping our kids stay calm and focused. Residents were also able to continue their regular therapy sessions as well as Equine Therapy.

On days when the weather cooperated, Residential Counselors were able to take the kids outside. Sunshine & fresh air can make everything better! The children played games, worked on their softball skills, horsemanship, gardening and practiced their track events.

When they couldn't be outside, our kids entertained themselves playing Bingo, board games and Ultimate Rock, Paper, Scissors. Other favorite ways to pass the time included exercising, playing video games and scrapbooking.

We could not be more proud of the way our Kemmerer Village Staff and kids have worked together to get through this epidemic as a family. We pray your family is happy and healthy as well.

KV Auxiliary

Kemmerer Village Ladies Auxiliary is the most amazing group of Christian women. Their numbers are small but not their hearts or their dedication to the children of Kemmerer Village. The ladies meet the first Wednesday of every other month at 10:00am in the Campus Center. They meet to discuss the needs of our Kemmerer children and ways we can improve their lives as well as fundraising ideas. They also enjoy refreshments, devotions and prayer together, followed by lunch and fellowship in our cafeteria.

We are always looking for more ambitious ladies to join our Kemmerer Village Ladies Auxiliary group. If you are available, please consider joining us. Bring a friend! We would love to have you! We are also looking for individuals who would be interested in being a liaison for Kemmerer Village at their own church. These volunteers will keep their church informed about all things Kemmerer: needs, fundraising, mailing lists, Box Tops, etc.... If this is something you would be interested in, please contact us. We welcome you to join our team & would greatly appreciate your help!

Thank You For The Memories!



Mike shortly after starting with Kemmerer Village, taken at the open house in Sept. 1985 with daughter Nikki & son's Michael & Mark.

It was Monday, August 19th, 1985. The President of the United States was Ronald Reagan and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom was Margaret Thatcher, as I began my first day of employment at Kemmerer Village.

Little did I realize, that at the age of 32, I had found my life's calling. I would spend

the next 35 years fulfilling the dream of Phillip and Sarah Kemmerer of providing a safe haven for "the friendless poor of all denominations".

Thirty-five years, don't they go by in the blink of an eye? However, the memories come flooding back as I recall the relationships and friendships that I have established through the years with children, families, employees, donors, board members and professional colleagues.

If I had one wish for you, it would be that you find a life as lucky as mine. One where you wake up each morning to a loving family and a career that you thoroughly enjoy. What a blessing!

The progress we have made and continue to make would not be possible without the generosity of our donors, the time, energy and commitment of both our Kemmerer Village Board as well as the Foundation Board and our

dedicated and compassionate staff. You have made it all possible.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart. You make it so hard to let go but I guess that's life.

I hope you and your families "stay safe" in these most difficult times that we are experiencing.

Best Wishes and God Bless!

Mike Havera

Mike

Director of Financial Development



Grandson Nathan Havera, born on April 23, 2020 to proud parents Mark Havera and Susie Noeth-Havera.



Son-in-law Trent Lohman & Daughter Nikki Lohman with grandchildren, Taylor & Reece Lohman, Daughter-in-law Kyra Havera & Son Michael Havera, with grandchildren, Livia, Kallie & Maddex Havera, Daughter-in-law Susie Noeth-Havera with Son Mark Havera and Cherie Havera and Mike Havera Sr.



Introducing the New Director of Development

For those of you who have not had a chance to meet her yet, Kemmerer Village is happy to introduce Autumn Warren as the incoming Director of Financial Development. She has been an integral part of the Financial Development team since 2015. Autumn has done numerous presentations to churches and groups all over the state and would love to come speak with you. She is also responsible for kemmerervillage.org and all of our social media platforms.

Autumn has a Master Degree in Nonprofit Administration with a specialization in Development from Louisiana State University and undergraduate degrees from Blackburn College, where she recently served as President of the Alumni Association. Autumn currently lives in Shelbyville, Illinois with her husband and children, who can often be found pitching in at Kemmerer's Horses & Heroes.



Kemmerer Village could use twin size quilts!

These are a cherished item we give the children on their first birthday with us.

Please contact Amie if you can help provide for this mission (217) 226- 2130



In Memory & Honor of Those We Love

January 31st, 2020 - June 15th, 2020

There are occasions of joy and sorrow in the lives of our family and friends that call for a response from us. A Memorial Gift or an Honor Gift to Kemmerer Village is a way to express love and respect at appropriate times.

Your gift, large or small, is an investment in the lives of troubled children. These gifts help to provide for their day to day care: food, clothing, medical care, educational needs, and Christian ministry.

The name of the deceased or honored is in bold type; the donor names are listed below in regular type. Please notify us of any errors.

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Kemmerer Village

27th Annual Charity Golf Classic

September 11, 2020

At Oak Terrace in Pana, IL



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www.kemmerervillage.org

You can view & print the Kemmerer Voices
from our website

**105 Years of Making a Difference in the
Lives of Children & Families!**

A mission of the Presbyterian Church USA



Mission with Meaning

From compassion to action, giving your time to Kemmerer can make all the difference! Cleaning, carpeting, organizing, or building, no matter what your skill, interest, or commitment level we have jobs to suit all groups. Contact us to discuss a day trip or the opportunity to stay in our retreat center. This is a great chance to bring your mission group, book club or even just your friends to build memories and give back.



Our children love receiving mail! Please consider sending a birthday card & a prayer for the following kids:

GIRLS

Tessa S — 9/7/05

BOYS

James B — 8/7/04

Nikolas S — 8/14/05

Connor H — 9/27/05

Alex T — 9/30/04