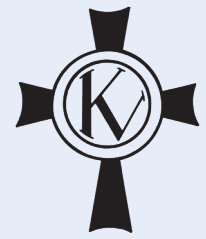


# Kemmerer Voices

Published by Kemmerer Village  
104th Year of Ministry — A Presbyterian Child Care Agency

941 N. 2500 East Road • Assumption, IL 62510  
Phone: 217-226-4451  
KemmererVillage.org



July 2018

## Summer Enrichment:

When thinking about summer, we often reminisce of swimming pools, sports teams, playing with friends and *not* going to school. While Kemmerer Village offers many of these memories to our youth, we also offer activities to keep them busy and engaged. In 2011, Kemmerer Village developed a 5 week activity based learning program we call **'Summer Enrichment'** to add to the recreation activities, sports teams, positive peer interactions and daily programming we currently offer. During this time, the youth at Kemmerer Village are able to learn about various topics led by their staff. The kids will be making vision boards, solar ovens, bird houses, and pillows. They will be collecting and researching insects and other topics of interest. Many of these do-it-yourself (DIY) projects are developed using everyday items people have around the house. Summer Enrichment also allows the kids to take field trips to nature centers and museums and this year includes an informative trip to a bank. This is an amazing opportunity to enrich their summer and show them exciting and healthy ways to learn and have fun. The children at Kemmerer Village do not get the opportunity to go to summer camp or the freedom to walk with their friends to get an ice cream cone. However, we can give them an amazing summer with memories they won't forget. For about \$70 a child, they are given a summer full of activities and experiences, could you help give that to a child? Please consider sponsoring a child for \$70 or making a donation to ensure we are able to provide positive summers for years to come.



## State Track Winners

Athletes from Kemmerer Village competed in the Illinois Inter-Agency Athletic Association State Track meet May 19, 2018 in Riverton, Illinois. Our children worked hard and were rewarded for their effort.

Kemmerer Village brought home two 1st place ribbons, six 2nd place ribbons and an assortment of other awards. Most importantly, we brought home children with a new sense of accomplishment and self-worth. They excelled at being coachable, good teammates and humble athletes. Athletics really are about more than competition at Kemmerer Village.

## Kemmerer Voices

Michael A. Havera . . . . .Editor  
Publication No 292-240

Kemmerer Village is a Mission Agency of the Synod of Lincoln Trails, Presbyterian Church (USA)

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## From the Director's Desk - July 2018



Ron Little  
Executive Director

In previous newsletters, I've shared feedback from both internal and external sources that reflect the quality of treatment and programming of our residential and foster care programs. The remarkably low number of adverse incidents over the past four months and the high marks received from both COA and Medicaid provide tangible affirmation to our efforts. To maintain a high level of quality demands constant effort. Part of that effort is a constant self-evaluation whereby we try to identify those things that contribute or detract from the achieving/maintaining of a high quality program and organization. I believe that one of the contributing factors to the quality of our program is the diversity of experience and approaches toward child welfare, represented among our staff. Each person, regardless of education, experience or age brings with them beliefs and ideas on how to best help children thrive. It creates a pool of knowledge whose sum is greater than its parts; which can benefit the youth and the program by providing several different solutions to a problem. Another great benefit of this diversity is that it challenges us all (both individually and the "institutions" of our program) to either reconsider our position or to be better able to support that which we believe. The sharing of ideas and the debate of those ideas helps to keep the program dynamically alive, better able to adapt to the challenges presented by changes in our clientele and the child welfare profession.

However, as with most things, diversity can be a double-edged sword. Where two people or groups who hold viewpoints at the opposite ends of the spectrum on an issue, the result can either be the demonizing or minimizing of the other person's/group's opinion. If this happens, it can only serve to create divisions among people; those divisions then become the issue, taking the focus and energy off the original issue or problem over which the debate arose. Another potential danger is that diversity can cause a lack of focus, with people (program's too) going off in umpteen different directions, in pursuit of what they believe best. The resulting chaos and confusion makes a Malaysian parliament debate on tax referendums look as serene and organized as a picnic for obsessive-compulsive mimes.

There are three keys to making our diversity a strength, which I believe we do, more often than not: Foremost, we need to respect the person and the viewpoint he or she holds whether or not we agree with that viewpoint. Secondly, as individuals we have to help create an environment that encourages open, constructive debate. By this I mean that we discuss the merit or shortcomings of an idea without personalizing it. Last, that we work out those differences "behind close doors"....staff to staff, and not play out our disagreement with either the decision reached or with another staff in front of the clients; verbally or non-verbally. As I said, I believe we generally do these things, but the better and more consistently we do them, the better the effect on the program.

God Bless,  
Ron Little







Mike Havera  
Director of Financial  
Development & Fundraising

## Yesterday and Today

In the early years of Kemmerer Orphanage (now Kemmerer Village), many of the children were adopted by parents from across the state of Illinois. Children were also brought to Kemmerer due to the loss of a parent or incapacitating illness. At times these families were reunited when the home situation improved. As it is today, foster care was often an option. In those early years the young people spent long periods of time in the care of Kemmerer, forming long lasting relationships with their caretakers and fellow residents. The early 1900's were hard times for many families. We continue to hear stories from former residents and their family members speaking of how Kemmerer Village was a saving grace in their young lives.

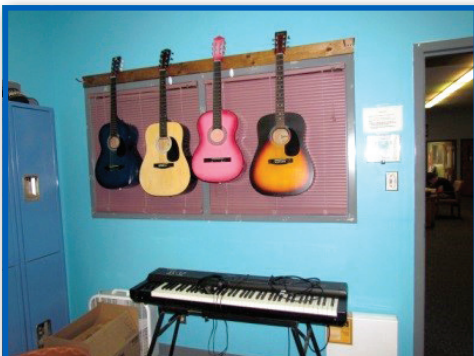
Today with families often being spread out across the country, long spans of time occur without seeing each other. The "Kemmerer Kids" as they refer to themselves will have their annual family gathering on July 29th here on campus. The old "Big House", the original orphanage, where most of these "children" called home is still standing. They plan these gatherings the same time each year to visit with their Kemmerer brothers and sisters. Like all family reunions this is a time to catch up and share good memories.

Today the children arriving at Kemmerer Village are usually in a crisis situation. These young people come to us in need of professional care. Our programs are created to provide care and therapy to meet the specific needs of each child.

We have been blessed over the past 104 years that many individuals, congregations and organizations have been there to help us continue this mission of helping children and families.

Our door is always open to visitors. If you would like to plan a tour and lunch, please contact us. We are also available to give presentations on the work we are doing at Kemmerer Village to help children and families. During the summer we appreciate the groups that spend time on our campus helping with work projects and getting to know us. Please contact us if you are interested in scheduling a visit, work group or presentation. Also, you can visit our web site [Kemmerervillage.org](http://Kemmerervillage.org) and Facebook page to find current information.

Thank you and God Bless,  
Michael A. Havera  
Director of Development and Fundraising



## Looking for Guitars and Portable Keyboards in Good Condition

The Chinese philosopher Confucius said long ago that "Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without."

One of our Therapeutic Recreation staff is busy giving music lessons to our youth. Students are learning on the keyboard and guitars. She has several very interested students.

Our teacher has put out a request for a good used electric bass (not a standup) and an acoustic guitar. She is also interested in acquiring another portable keyboard. We think our students would also be interested in learning how to play the ukulele. Research suggests that regularly playing an instrument changes the shape and power of the brain and may be used in therapy to improve cognitive skills.

If you are interested in providing instruments or have any questions you may contact [heather.ruppert@kv.christian.k12.il.us](mailto:heather.ruppert@kv.christian.k12.il.us).

# Summer Mission Groups Make a Big Difference on the Kemmerer Village Campus

## Jacksonville IL First Presbyterian Church

brought a group to campus on April 21st to place a new roof on a two car garage that is used for storage. They removed the old shingles and replaced with new ones. This fast, hard working group arrived early on Saturday morning and had finished up the job by mid afternoon. This was a much needed improvement to the Kemmerer Village campus. We would like to sincerely thank members of the work group, mission committee and congregation for their effort, donation of materials and long time friendship.

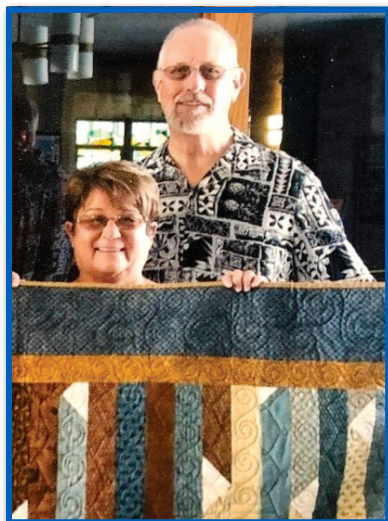


# Members of First Presbyterian Church of Champaign



This was a mighty group of twenty three people, over a period of five days during April, who took on a big project. North Cottage was in need of fresh paint on the walls and ceilings, some electrical repairs, painted kitchen cabinets, new shelving and outdoor carpet removal from the front porch. This was a very busy group. During their stay they did take time to hear Amber Miller talk about our Equine Therapy Program and Horses and Heroes. They also shared an evening with a few of our staff and youth enjoying s'mores over an open fire. We sincerely appreciate all the effort of this group and our longtime friendship with the Champaign congregation.

*picture: at the Kemmerer Village Barn Retreat*



## Kemmerer Quilt Raffle Winner

Pam & Doug Moore from First Presbyterian Church in Mattoon are the lucky new owners of a gorgeous quilt after winning the Kemmerer Village quilt raffle. The winning ticket was sold by Elsie Carter, who is a long time member of the Kemmerer Village Women's Auxiliary. We are grateful to everyone who helped by buying and selling tickets. Thank you for donating this special quilt Rev. David and Delores McNabb. The Moore's have decorated a whole room around this gorgeous piece of art.





## Mental Illness

**By Vince Rodriguez LCSW Director of Clinical Services**

Everyone has experienced some form of trauma, the death of a loved one, being in a car accident, etc. However, some individuals experience more than others. In fact, some people experience events that we wouldn't wish upon anyone. That is the reality for many of the youth at Kemmerer Village. Often times, the kids at Kemmerer Village have been a victim of verbal, physical or sexual abuse, as well as parental, emotional and/or environmental neglect. It's these types of events that nestle themselves deep into the developing brain that can cause mental illness. Mental illness is loosely defined as various disorders that affect your mood, behaviors and thinking patterns. The responses the brain gives are a direct result of the events it has experienced. For example, if a young boy goes to a zoo and gets scared by a wolf, could he associate that wolf with, say a dog and be afraid of dogs? Maybe. Of course, some kids will just avoid the zoo while others may just become a 'cat people'. But what if the 'wolf' was a caregiver and the traumatic event was more than 'scary'? This is where the brain's thinking patterns kick in. The brain tells us how to respond. It could be responding in an aggressive, disorganized or emotional manner. These response patterns are symptoms of mental illness. Often times, professionals group these symptoms, or patterns of behavior responses, together as a diagnosis, in order to aid in professional communication. It's so a doctor doesn't have to list symptoms but rather just say a diagnosis and another professional understands the symptoms. Too often, though, the diagnosis becomes a 'label', despite not being it's intention. For example, Major Depressive Disorder is not just about someone being 'sad', but rather having low mood, poor outlook on the future, and in adolescents, it could also be increased agitation. These symptoms last for weeks at a time. Anxiety is more than just worrying. You know the feeling you get when you look over the edge of a cliff? Someone with anxiety gets that feeling when they are 200ft away from the cliff. But their 'cliff' is everyday settings. It's not our job to label someone, but, rather, to address their symptoms and give the child strength, guidance and treatment to effectively deal with the future events that may trigger the brain to remember the past ones. It's all of our jobs to be that form of support for the kids who experience the 'wolf' or even the 'zoo', for some kids, because with some guidance and help, some of these kids can become 'dog owners' too.

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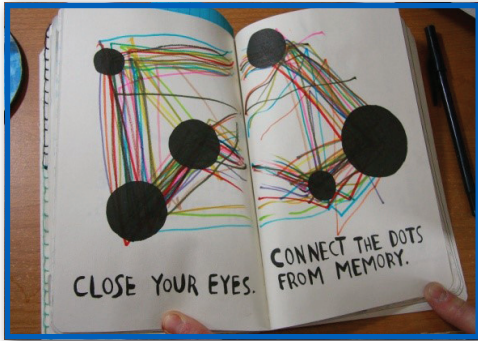
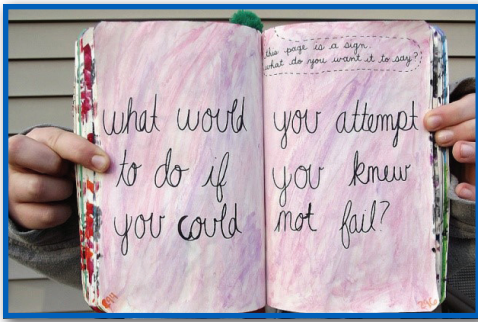
## September 7th Kemmerer Village hosts our 25th Annual Charity Golf Classic!

We are hoping to fill the course with 36 teams, so gather your group and lets make this year the best yet.  
The outing is at the breathtaking Oak Terrace in Pana, Illinois.

**There is over \$3000 in cash prizes up for grabs  
and no one leaves empty handed.**

If you can join us for golf, have a business able to provide a sponsorship or even just a donation to give please contact us. We thank you all for your support.





## Wreck This Journal

Developed by Keri Smith the bestselling Wreck This Journal (which has sold over 3 million copies) has been adapted and utilized by the treatment teams of Kemmerer Village as another great tool helping our kids. Wreck This Journal is an illustrated book that features a rebellious collection of prompts that ask our children to rally their best mistake and mess making abilities to fill or destroy the pages. Children are being encouraged to act out, color outside of the lines and think in new ways. Pages instruct the reader to do things like poking holes through the pages, painting with drinks and scribbling. The pages do more than create, they also have instructions like throw this page away to accept the loss, write a goal for 5 days, 5 weeks and 5 years, and even a page for your inner dialogue. The overall premise is to follow along with the journal and destroy, collect, or add to it and even has a requirement of sharing and community inclusion. The journal was designed to get kids out into the world and away from electronics. While electronic usage isn't something kids at Kemmerer get much of, the journal is still a great way to engage them and a fun alternative to focus their minds on positivity, creativity and individuality.



## Congratulations Graduates

Wishing the best of luck and the brightest futures to all of the Kemmerer Village graduates of 2018! Kemmerer Village has had a school on grounds since 1983. This ensures the children have a safe place to learn in a comfortable environment. All of the teachers at Kemmerer are certified in junior and senior high school with special education credentials. Please keep them, the students and teachers in your prayers.

## Baylee & Bambi



LexLin Gypsy Ranch in Tennessee has blessed Kemmerer Village again! This year they decided to forgo the Facebook competition and gave every center nominated a horse. We were thrilled when we were notified Kemmerer Village was being given Baylee. She is a gorgeous 8 year old mare imported from Wales. They also gave us her baby Bambi who just celebrated her 1st Birthday with us. Both horses have fit in so well that they are already an active part of the Kemmerer Village family.





## In Memory & Honor of Those We Love

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.

### Honors

January 11, 2018 to July 2, 2018

**Mrs. Betsy A. Hauser**  
*Birthday*  
Judge and Mrs. Joseph S. Van Bokkelen

**Mrs. Betsy A. Hauser**  
*Birthday*  
Mrs. Marilee Shore

**Rev. and Mrs. David D. Schwingle**  
*50th wedding anniversary*  
Mr. and Mrs. Rick Darnold

**Rev. Diann Santschi**  
Mrs. Patricia R. Caldwell

**Mrs. Dorothy M. Andersen**  
*Birthday*  
Ms. Janet R. Andersen

**Ms. Janet R. Andersen**  
Mrs. Dorothy M. Andersen

**Kemmerer Village Graduates**  
Mr. Robert McCracken

**Ms. Mary L. Cleverdon**  
*Mother's Day*  
Ms. Carol Booth

**Mrs. Rebecca Thompson**  
*Birthday*  
Mrs. Cheryl Crays

**Mr. Tristan James Smith**  
*Graduation*  
Mrs. Gail Bower

### Memorials

January 11, 2018 to July 2, 2018

**Miss Helen Fairweather**  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald M. Dexter

**Miss Maythel Fairweather**  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald M. Dexter

**Mrs. Carrie Fairweather**  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald M. Dexter

**Conn Dean**  
Ohio Valley Presbytery

**Mr. and Mrs. Gene and Cornelia Gray**  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Gray

**Rev. James Magnuson**  
Mrs. Nancy Magnuson

**Mr. Robert Fergusson Gibbons**  
Mrs. Betsy A. Hauser

**Mr. A. E. Hopper**  
Mr. Charles R. Casey

**Mrs. Arline Siebert**  
Mr. John A. Siebert

**Mrs. Barbara F. Pellman**  
Mr. and Mrs. Jerrold Wagner

**Mrs. Barbara McGaughan**  
Rev. Michael D. McGaughan

**Mrs. Betty McCracken**  
Mr. Robert McCracken

**Mrs. Betty Springs**  
Mrs. Lois McKelvey

**Mr. Darrell A. Dorman**  
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Holcomb

**Mr. Darrell A. Dorman**  
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry W. Galligar

**Mr. David Beatty**  
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Davison

**Mrs. Dawn Gregory Henry**  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary A. Jackson

**Mrs. Denise Gleason**  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Gleason

**Mrs. Dorothy Cheesman**  
Mr. Roy Cheesman

**Miss Margaret Hunter**  
Mr. Wayne L. Nelson

**Mrs. Dorothy Gniffke**  
Mr. Wayne L. Nelson

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Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Workman

**Mr. and Mrs. Francis & Rachel Weinberg**  
Ms. Mary W. Hohe

**Mr. and Mrs. George and Beulah Damisch**  
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**George, Angeline, and Richard Black**  
Mr. and Mrs. David Black

**Mrs. Geraldine Lancaster**  
Ms. CanDee Luttrell

**Mrs. Haroldine Musch**  
Mr. Warren Musch

**Mr. Harry F. Hillman**  
Mrs. Annette T. Hillman

**Miss Helen E. Van Tine**  
Ms. Jane Watkins

**Mr. Henry M. Richardson**  
Ms. Margaret A. Richardson

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Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Adams

**Mr. and Mrs. J. Fred and Evelyn Adams**  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Adams

**Mr. James Cross**  
Dr. William M. Cross

**Mr. James Riley Redpath**  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard M. Redpath

**Mrs. Jean Johnston**  
Dr. D. H. Johnston

**Mr. Jerry Lewis**  
Mrs. Joanne Stone

**Mrs. Joan Zindel**  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Metzger

**Mr. Joe Martin**  
Mrs. Jo Anne Martin

**Miss Judith A. Fribley**  
Ms. Valerie Barnes

**Karyl Pemble**  
Mrs. Margaret Reinhardt

**Mrs. Kathleen M. Kunzman**  
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**Rev. Kenneth R. Bryant**  
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Mr. and Mrs. Patrick York

**Rev. Kenneth R. Bryant**  
Ms. Melinda Snyder

**Mr. L. Rex Spires**  
Mrs. E. Jane Spires

**Mr. Larry Janes**  
Mrs. Barbara H. Janes

**Mrs. Leila Mae Georg**  
Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop Georg

**Mr. and Mrs. Lester and Blanche Lutz**  
Ms. Linda V. Taillon

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Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Workman

**Mr. and Mrs. Marcus & Edna Broom**  
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Tolliver

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Mr. Glen Hamilton

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Mrs. Ruth A. Wimp

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Ms. Sandra L. Stevens

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Mr. Robert C. Green

**Mr. Steven McKenzie**  
Mrs. Donna McKenzie

**Ms. Sue Ellen Fergusson**  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael A. Havera

**Mr. and Mrs. Ted & Mariam Schumacher**  
Mrs. Wilma Stocker

**Mr. and Mrs. Theodore W. Anderson**  
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn D. Pusch

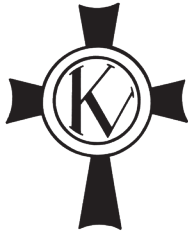
**Mrs. Virginia Bien**  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Luecht

**Mr. William E. Thomas**  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Thomas

**Mr. William White**  
Dr. Ruth Craddock

**Mrs. Wilma Buse**  
Mr. Don Buse

**Mrs. Mildred "Mickey" McAdam**  
Ms. Tammy Kraeger



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**www.kemmerervillage.org**

You can view & print the  
Kemmerer Voices from our website.

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

**A mission of the Presbyterian Church USA**

## Happy Birthday!

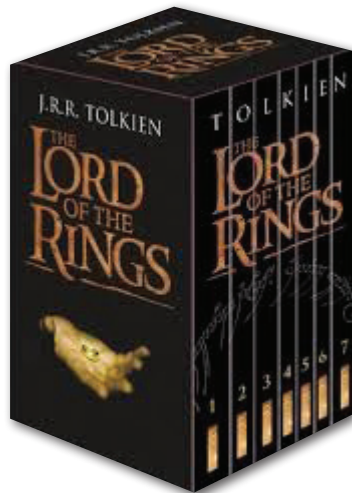
Our young people truly appreciate receiving cards from all of you on their birthday. Thank you for thinking of them. Please put the name of the church and/or organization in the return address area of the envelope. All mail to students is monitored. Thank you.

### Girls

Jayla M	7/13/2001	16
Anaya C	7/20/2002	15
Jenna W	7/26/2001	16
Kala C	8/9/2000	17
Elise R	8/10/2001	16
Alexis W	8/10/2004	13
Brianne C	9/1/2000	17

### Boys

Dakota H	6/28/2002	16
James P	7/23/2004	13
Kyle S	7/29/2001	16
Quan M	8/7/2005	12
Brandon G	8/7/2000	17
Jaydon R	10/18/2003	14



## Request for Reading!

We could use your help getting the books our kids want into their hands! We currently have lots of requests for the Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings series'.

If you have these you would be interested in donating please contact Autumn Warren at 217-226-2131 or autumn.warren@kv.christian.k12.il.us.

If you would be interested in purchasing these for a child you can go to the Kemmerer Village Amazon wish list and they'll ship straight to us. Remember Amazon Smile first and they will donate to us anytime you shop on Amazon.

