



# Kemmerer Village

Supporting children & families since 1914

March  
2022

## A BOOK IS A GIFT THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

This winter, Kemmerer Village was blessed with approximately 600 books, for children of all ages! One of our Foster Families celebrated the adoption of two of their children by hosting a book drive. Kemmerer families are a wonderful part of our Village and we are thrilled they opened up to tell their story.



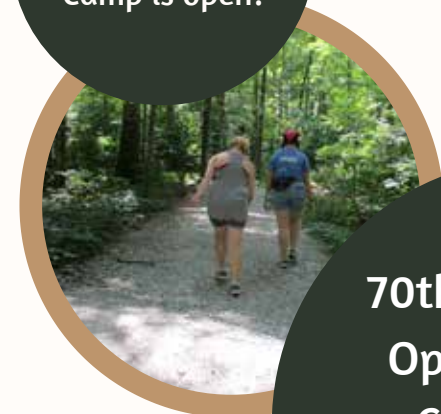
“My husband and I always had a pull on our hearts to become foster parents and we took the leap and started the licensing process in spring of 2018. That fall, just weeks after we got our license, we said yes to our first placement. We understood the purpose and plan for foster care and realized the likelihood of adopting was slim, but we were open to that if the opportunity ever arose. Our desire was to welcome kids into our home, help them connect, grow, and know they are loved whether it was for a little while or forever. One of the easiest ways for us to connect with the littles was by reading stories.

The oldest of the two placed with us was 2 when first arriving and she quickly showed interest in the few, bright Children’s books we had. As winter approached, the library became a favorite place. One day I remember reading 30 minutes straight before she hopped down and wanted to play. Her little brother soon picked up interest as well and would often grab books and just flip through the pages in between storytime. Fast forward 3 years on this journey and they both joined our family forever in 2021. After the adoptions, my husband and I talked about ways we could share the joy and outpouring these two brought us, and books just made sense. We began a book drive for other foster care youth still in care hoping a book in their hands would offer a time of connection with them and their foster family. I wish I had counted exactly how many books we dropped off but it was enough to fill the entire back row and trunk of our minivan. I pray the kids who get handed those books will be as full of wonder as ours were and that this will cultivate a love of reading in lots of little hearts. Foster kids go through so much and allowing them to step into a good book and stir the imagination is priceless.”

Registration for  
Christian Summer  
Camp is open!



70th Anniversary  
Open House at  
Camp Carew  
May 14  
1-4 PM



# Kemmerer Voices

Autumn Warren... Editor

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## The Executive Director's Perspective

*'Life is Meant to be Fun, and Joyous, and Fulfilling'*  
Jim Henson

As I finished my first full year as Executive Director for Kemmerer Village, I have taken time to reflect on the last twelve months and consider our progress and areas for continued growth. I am excited to reach out to our community partners and share our Joy.

Seeking fun, joy, and fulfillment in the last twelve months has been seriously challenged by the pandemic. Just when we thought our lives could return to something resembling normalcy, other variants emerged and pushed back. At Kemmerer Village, we have met the challenges of pandemic management quite well overall. Certainly, keeping our on-campus kids safe in their group living setting has been a focus of our effort. As I write this, we have not had a single positive Residential Treatment kid test positive for COVID while they were living with us. Our Foster Care kids living in the surrounding communities have been consistently well cared for and none have been hospitalized with COVID-related illnesses. These are significant accomplishments that reflect many people's hard work and dedication. My appreciation for our Kemmerer Village team members is ever-expanding. I want to share my pride in all our agency accomplishments with our community partners.

As I expressed in the last Voices, Kemmerer Village has faced significant challenges with adequate hiring in the last year as well. Most businesses have faced similar struggles. Again, as I consider the work by Kemmerer Village supervisors and administrative teams with application review and interviews, my heart is full. We are moving forward with strong hiring trends, although we still need several more staff to completely fulfill the needs of all Kemmerer Village kids and families. I want to reach out to our community partners, offering professional fulfillment, fun, and joy to those who aren't aware of our broad range of employment opportunities.

Actively linking with our community partners is a key component of my 2022 goals. We are seeking speaking opportunities to share our joy and to offer fulfillment. I am hopeful that Kemmerer Village representatives, including me, can again share the wonderful Kemmerer Village happenings with Churches, Community groups, and in individuals' homes. I am hopeful that our community partners will renew their interest in coming to our campus or to our camp to volunteer. Jim Henson's Muppets brought fun and joy to thousands of people. He found fulfillment in this work. Inviting a speaker or visitor from Kemmerer Village or coming to our Assumption campus or Camp Carew can bring you fun, joy, and fulfillment.

Please contact us soon!

*Schäles Nagle*  
Executive Director

# Continuing Education

When the prodigal son returns home, the Father welcomes him with open arms. This Biblical illustration is the embodiment of God's love; Kemmerer aims to share that same caring spirit with our children. Children live at Kemmerer Village for a relatively short time, but our prayers and support go beyond their time residing here.

This fall a former Kemmerer kid reached out, and our Village was able to answer the call. Justin was at Kemmerer Village for a couple of years. He fondly recalled his graduation at Kemmerer remembering his favorite educator Joanne Coady, who is currently the Principal of Kemmerer's School.

Joanne had a lasting impression on Justin. She mentioned Kemmerer Village was willing to assist future education with college or vocational training funds. Since leaving Kemmerer Village, Justin has found that he needs to acquire training that will assist him in finding steady and meaningful employment. Justin connected with the Village for that assistance. Justin is now enrolled in college. Generous supporters of Kemmerer Village have made it possible to provide a scholarship for all of Justin's classes to date. Kemmerer Village is grateful we are able to help him and others like him in this journey.

As a Village, it is rewarding to help a person working to better their life. Providing the tools they need to move forward and reach for their dreams. We have seen this happen often over the years. We wish Justin the very best for his future. Your partnership in our Village makes a success like Justin's possible.



## KV KIDS BIRTHDAYS

### GIRLS

Along with many children in care, whose names we cannot share:

Kaeann C. 3/22/07  
Lacey J. 5/27/05

### BOYS

Mar.—8 children  
Apr.—11 children  
May—4 children  
June—14 children

Adam H. 5/20/06  
Kyler J. 7/22/08



We would love to talk with you or your group.

Schedule a meeting by calling  
(217)226-2130



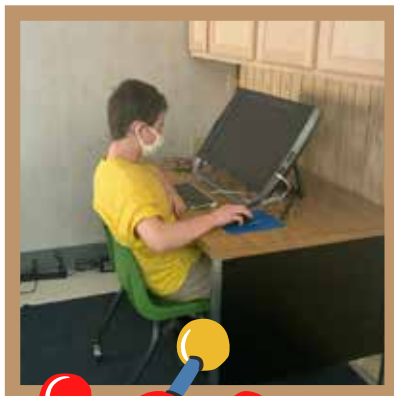
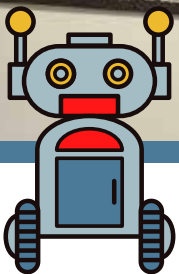
# We are the Village



Hello. My name is Dawn Sabol. I started working at Kemmerer Village in 1994 as a Residential Counselor. Since then, I have worn many different hats. I was the Caseworker over one of the cottages, managing all of the kids and Residential Counselors. From there, I became a Night Shift Supervisor, supervising the entire campus and Residential Counselors. After 27 years of being directly involved with the kids and staff, I was promoted to the position of Director of Programming Operations. I look forward to continuing to serve Kemmerer Village in my new capacity with many new challenges, as well as, remaining true to my roots.



## Watch for more on Our New STEAM Lab

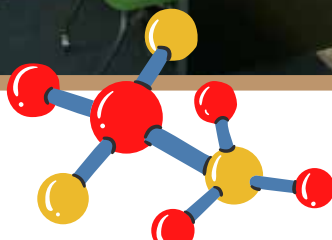


*The KV Orchard will take root this spring.*

*Trees will be planted to honor:*

- First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City
- First Presbyterian Church of Greenville
- First Presbyterian Church of Taylorville
- Niles Community Church
- First Presbyterian Church of Orland Park
- First Presbyterian Church of Morton
- Mt. Vernon Presbyterian
- Arcola Presbyterian Church
- First Presbyterian Shelbyville
- Morris Presbyterian Church
- Marcus Barrett of Assumption Presbyterian
- Cliff Luke
- Murl E. Tryon
- Myrtle Fay Tryon
- Kathleen M. Mest
- Alan Manchester
- Robert & Catherine Tate
- Dr. Harvey & Anna Pettry
- Doyle & Linda Slifer
- Paul & Verlyn Rosenberger
- J. Fred & Evelyn Telford Adams
- Melvin & Clara Stiegemeier
- Greg Haning
- Larry Janes
- Joan Bliler
- Tilden & Mary Ann Helmich
- Staley Family

Limited trees still available for naming with \$1000 donation



# A Winning Perspective

By Dave Dance

Director of Therapeutic Recreation & the IIAA



Everyone knows that playing sports has many physical benefits; enhanced aerobic fitness, weight management, lower blood pressure, enhanced cardiovascular health, improved strength, and endurance, etc. However, at Kemmerer Village, we focus on the therapeutic benefits of sports, and we take that a step further by also focusing on good sportsmanship.

For the youth that we serve, sports are a very important part of their treatment program. Many of the things they struggle with, such as - depression, lack of focus, low self-esteem, irritability, following directions - can be directly aided by being part of a sports team. Our youth learn their value as part of a team. They learn to work together and respect authority, and leadership skills that many haven't had the opportunity to learn during their difficult lives. Also, physical activity is proven to improve mood, concentration, sleep habits, and reduce stress; all attributes which benefit our kids.

When we throw sportsmanship into the mix, the benefits are increased. Our youth learn to encourage each other, help the underdog, and focus on the positive aspects of all team members instead of just focusing on winning. These are great life lessons that are sometimes missing in our current society.

We stress to our children that while it's nice to win, it's nicer to be a good person to all around you. We teach them to try harder if they lose instead of giving up. We teach them to smile and shake hands whether they've won or lost because the true winners are the good people of this world. And we teach them that whether you've won or lost, you are WORTHY and IMPORTANT to your team.

We pray that the life lessons we instill here at Kemmerer Village through our sports and recreation program will help our children for years to come and make the world a better place one child at a time.



## Horses are Model Therapy

Kemmerer's equine-facilitated psychotherapy program draws from the Natural Lifemanship model of therapy. This facilitates a process whereby children are able to address and move through past or present damaging life circumstances. It helps them understand how those circumstances affect their current interactions and make the personal changes necessary for healthy fulfilling relationships.

We help our clients to build real relationships with our horses and explore what that means in terms of attachment and connected detachment. Survivors of trauma have many hurdles socially that can be explored well when discussing the behaviors of a prey animal like a horse.





# In Honor *and* Memory of Those We Love

Sept 23rd, 2021 thru Jan 26th, 2022

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Congregation

### **First Presbyterian Church of Shelbyville, IL**

Congregation

### **First Presbyterian Church, Gibson City**

Congregation

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First Presbyterian Church, Grand Tower, IL

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A Memorial or Honor Gift to Kemmerer Village is a way to express love & respect. Your gift, large or small, is an investment in the lives of children. The name of the one being honored or remembered is in bold type; the donor is in regular type.

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- Mrs. Jackie Young**  
Mr. James A. Young

Thank you!



Kemmerer Village  
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 Assumption, IL 62510

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Please send address corrections or deletions  
 to [amie.sparks@kv.christian.k12.il.us](mailto:amie.sparks@kv.christian.k12.il.us)  
 217-226-2130



*Elsie Carter*  
 1927 – 2022

Elsie was a long-time member of the Kemmerer Auxiliary and the Mattoon First Presbyterian Church. She was committed to helping the young people at Kemmerer Village and was always ready to help where there was a need. She shared kind words of encouragement with each youth who spoke to the Auxiliary about their activities and dreams for their future. A talented seamstress, she even made clothing, periodically, for one of our Foster Children. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to Elsie's family and friends.



*Legacy of Love*



*Janet Cole*  
 1941 – 2021

Janet retired from Kemmerer Village in 2005 after working as the Financial Development Department Office Secretary for several years. During much of that time, she performed duties also as Treasure for the Kemmerer Village Auxiliary. After her retirement, she continued to be a valuable part of our Village and an active member of our Auxillary. Before moving to Springfield, Janet was a long-time member of Decatur First Presbyterian Church. She had a strong commitment to Kemmerer Village and the youth we care for. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to Janet's family and friends.