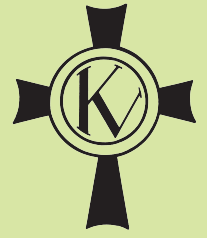




Kemmerer Voices

Published by Kemmerer Village
103rd Year of Ministry — A Presbyterian Child Care Agency

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



March 2018



Keeping up with Philip

Our youngest member at Kemmerer Village exemplifies the hurdles all of our young people are working through. Our colt, Philip, was born in May, and his early days were scary. Philip overcame a serious health condition that is fatal for a majority of horses. You couldn't tell that by looking at him now! He has been thriving at Kemmerer Village. His mere presence at the Franchois Riding arena and pastures is a wonderful reminder of hope and resilience for the kids he encounters. Philip is still a few years away from being utilized for riding, but that doesn't mean he isn't working! He is interacting with and inspiring the children of Kemmerer Village daily. Philip is currently being weaned from his mother. This process has opened important and sometimes difficult discussions with residents about the separation that they are experiencing from their families. They have spent

time in equine therapy exploring issues such as how to become independent in a healthy way, how emotional separation can be, whether it is easier or more difficult to still have some contact while separating and more. This is pretty intense work for an 8 month old colt! When Philip is not helping in therapy sessions or playing in the pastures, he is working on basic training. Philip's current areas of focus in training are leading, backing, giving to pressure and becoming comfortable with various sensory stimuli such as carrying a saddle. Training principles with Philip have many similarities to our work with our residents. Building a healthy relationship that has trust and good boundaries is foundational. Using the correct amount of pressure and rewarding effort builds learning. This is followed by rehearsal of new skills until they become habit in order to facilitate success in new environments. Philip is taking to training so well, we have no doubt he is going to be a star at Kemmerer Village and help so many kids!

Check out Kemmerer Village Facebook page for more updates!



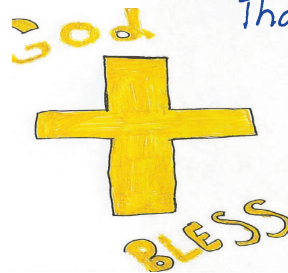
Thank you for all of the donations that were made by you and your neighbors, that made Kemmerer Christmas possible.

You brought joy to the faces of us KV kids.

I am happy to think that we were in your thoughts, and please know, that although I do not personally know you, you are in my thoughts and prayers and I wish ya the best.

Thank you so much!

✂ may the lord be with you, now and always



Sincerely,
Kala

Kemmerer Voices

Michael A. HaveraEditor
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

Kemmerer Voices - February 2018



Ron Little
Executive Director

Kemmerer Village has been a participant in the Illinois Interagency Athletic Association (IIAA) for the past thirty-three years. The IIAA organizes sports and recreational activities for youth who are placed in residential treatment programs like Kemmerer Village's throughout the state of Illinois. The IIAA's mission has long been to enhance the benefits of residential treatment through the use of therapeutic recreation principles such as developing positive social skills with team sports, self-confidence through achieving physical competency, and the use of healthy activities as a means to cope with stress, anxiety and depression.

In January of 2016, the IIAA's long-time Executive Director, Tom Corr retired. Prior to that, he approached Kemmerer Village, requesting that we take over this program based on two factors: 1) Kemmerer's long-standing commitment to having a quality Therapeutic Recreation program as part of our treatment approach, and 2) Kemmerer's Director of Therapeutic Recreation, David Dance, being an active Board member and President of the IIAA Advisory Board for many years. We said "Yes" because we saw this as an opportunity to expand Kemmerer Village's mission of ministering to children in need of support.

Well over 1000 youth participate in IIAA sports and activities during the course of any given year. Youth in residential programs from Chicago to Mount Vernon, Illinois participate in a wide variety of activities, such as: Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Softball, Swimming, Bowling, Creative Writing and Arts & Crafts expositions to name a few. The sports based activities include a regular season schedule with other residential treatment centers culminating in a "State Tournament" and trophies for the best teams. One of the unique things about the IIAA is that Sportsmanship is emphasized and prized above "winning" or "losing" games; so the focus is less on whether you won or lost, but on how the youth handle success or adversity.

Every IIAA event includes evaluation/feedback from the youth who participate in each event, the referees or umpires officiating the event, adults/staff from the other residential facilities and the facility staff from where the event took place. Consistently and continuously the average rating from all groups is "excellent" as to the value of the event to the youth and organization of the event.

The IIAA also provides a two day training conference each year, "Balls, Bats and Brains" open to all Child Welfare agency staff across Illinois. Seminars cover topic such as: "How Trauma Impacts Learning and Behavior", "Recreation and Sports Activities for Kids Affected by Trauma", and "Music Therapy Tips and Tricks" to name a few. It also provides social events during the conference that provide time for sharing ideas and networking with other agency staff.

Pictures and articles describing the IIAA events can be found on our website, www.kemmerervillage.org, under the Services/Therapeutic Recreation menu. I encourage you to take the time to visit the site to see pictures of the IIAA events and the evident happiness and satisfaction on the faces of youth who were a part of the "IIAA experience".

God Bless and Thank you.





Kemmerer is in need of some helping hands!

The bathrooms in some of our cottages are in need of some renovation. There are tiles that need replaced as well as toilets and showers needed. We would love to have some work groups help us out. If bathrooms aren't your thing, there are plenty of other worthwhile jobs your group could help Kemmerer Village with! From skilled laborers to youth groups we have plenty of ways your efforts could shine! If you have the time, talent or resources to help us tackle one of our projects, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Alice at 226-2132 or alice.christenberry@kv.christian.k12.il.us. You can check out our Work Group Guidelines on our web site kemmerervillage.org



You Can Help Us Keep Our Youth Healthy

Have you already given up on your New Year's resolution to exercise, or would you just like

to help the kids of Kemmerer Village be healthier? Our exercise machines are in major need of help. If you have a good working treadmill or machine that you would like to donate, or if you are capable of donating monetarily to help replace the equipment in our weight room you will be giving the gift of strength. The special population of youth that we serve has so much to gain by learning how to live a healthy life, and exercise is one important piece of that puzzle. If you can help support this mission please contact Autumn at 217-226-2131 or autumn.warren@kv.christian.k12.il.us

The Kemmerer Legacy Continues

In May of 2018 Kemmerer Village will recognize a 104 year mission partnership with congregations in the Synod of Lincoln Trails. Today, you can play a key role by joining us in providing hope and a future for our most vulnerable youth.

How you can help:

- Pray for our children, staff and board
- Prayerfully consider including Kemmerer Village in your mission giving.
- Volunteer and/or mentor a youth at Kemmerer Village.
- Collect gift cards or items from our wish list, located at kemmerervillage.org/needs
- Collect General Mills Box Tops, which helps fund our school library.
- Schedule a mission trip to Kemmerer Village. Visit kemmerervillage.org to see work group guidelines. Call 217-226-2130

Kemmerer Village POEMS BY KIDS

LOVE SYMPHONY by Lydia(16)

I know this much is true Love is a violin
Only a gentle hand and certain strings
Make it sound so beautiful.
Life is not a road paved for you.
It's not generous or kind.



SOFTBALL by Alyssa(13)

Whoosh... I see the ball going,
Flying through the air.

Slam

In the pocket of my glove it goes.
I get in my stance and fastly pitch the ball
As fast as I can, to the first base man.



WILT IN MY STEM by Kala(17)

Jagged scars criss and cross over my
skin reminding me of the war I'll never
win. They take over my mind, making
me feel blue. My life is such a struggle
but no one has a clue. Soon enough
they find out, and sort of understand
why I do what I do; why I am who I am.
Then they try to help, a certain few of
them. They give me some support, they
fix the wilt in my stem. Although I'm not
all better, and I still have far to go, they
really helped me..



myplace

No, this isn't a new social media trend; this is another way Kemmerer Village is going above and beyond for our young people.

The MyPlace project is a new program Kemmerer Village has implemented, and it is sure to bring a little light into a difficult situation.

As you can imagine, the day a child arrives to Kemmerer Village is not an easy one. They are leaving their homes, their families, their school and everything familiar to them. This change is a good one, a necessary one. Coming to Kemmerer Village will put them on the road to a better life, but it's not an easy transition. The MyPlace Project is aimed at helping the child feel more at home here. This initiative will give the incoming child an opportunity to pick something special for their room. Donations are allowing us to buy posters, rugs, pillows and a variety of items for the kids to pick something for themselves. Something that helps them feel like their room is 'mine' and this is 'My Place'.



This small gesture of kindness sets the stage for their time at Kemmerer Village. Giving the children this opportunity to create a space that is uniquely theirs not only aids the transition of making Kemmerer Village feel like a safe place for them, it is a way to encourage self expression, boost self-esteem and encourage good choices. This program is sure to have a ripple effect of good.



*Mike Havera
Director of Financial
Development & Fundraising*

Because of You....

Kemmerer Village thrives because of the support we receive from donors like you.

If you're like most people, you assume the government takes responsibility for the children in their care. Fact of the matter is that organizations like Kemmerer Village receive only about 68 to 70% of the funds needed to even minimally care for the children we serve.

The revenue from the direct services we provide at Kemmerer Village only covers a fraction of our expenses. These funds would provide coverage for about 10 months out of the year for our children's most basic needs. Obviously our youth need food, clothing and shelter for the whole 12 months. In addition to covering those two months each year, our donors make possible all of the other services provided at Kemmerer Village that have so positively benefitted our children that have been through so much.

Your donations make the Equine Therapy Program, Recreational Therapy, Illinois Inter-Agency Athletic Association, Summer Enrichment Program, Kemmerer Village Prom and so much more possible.

In 2017, 32% of the funding required for Kemmerer Village to provide the exceptional care that we do came from our donors.

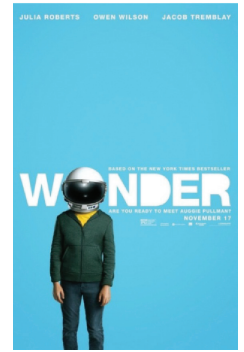
As the cost of doing business continues to rise, we are more grateful than ever for your continued support of our children. It has been 12 years since we last received an increase in funding for our programs and we really could not do this without you. From all of us to all of you, Thank You!

Best Wishes and God Bless,

Michael A. Havera

Director of Financial Development and Fundraising

“Regardless of who we are, or what we look like, we have to find a way to not judge each other and work together.”



Therapeutic Recreation uses a variety of experiences to reach our young people. This season the Lady Knights Volleyball team has been working on the concepts of community and inclusion. They were rewarded for their great attitudes and successful season with a trip to the movies to see *Wonder*. This uplifting film about a boy with Treacher Collins Syndrome reinforced much of what they learned throughout the volleyball season. Every practice and game was more than physical activity and volleyball skills. The focus was on the importance of not being divided, not being judgmental of others, and coming together as a team. The girls shined with their support and encouragement not only of each other but the teams they faced. Some of the students clearly learned a lot and had some great things to say about the lessons:

“Regardless of who we are, or what we look like, we have to find a way to not judge each other and work together.”

“Bullying can have serious consequences and this movie helps me get what you've been talking about coming together and not treating others bad.”

We are very proud of the growth these girls have shown over the season!!

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.

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February 2018

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Miss Melva F. Gage

The Children

Mr. and Mrs. David Shelton

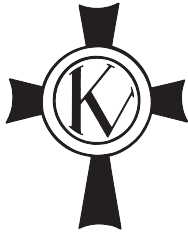
Mr. and Mrs. Tony & Connie Woods

Mrs. Barbara H. Janes

Memorials

February 2018

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Mrs. Ruth W. Kapik
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Mrs. Marilyn Dixon
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- Our Parents**
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casey.dance@kv.christian.K12.il.us

www.kemmerervillage.org

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

**103 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

Kyla J. 02/07/99
Marissa F. 02/20/01
Alyssa L. 03/06/04
Katie B. 04/17/02
Lydia G. 07/08/01
Anaya C. 07/20/02
Jenna W. 07/26/01

Boys

Jayden M. 02/23/01
Skyler P. 05/05/03
David G. 05/17/03
Michael H. 06/05/01
Dakota H. 06/28/02
Kyle S. 07/29/01

Kemmerer Village Quilt Raffle

1 ticket for \$1, 6 tickets for \$5!!

This beautiful quilt would be a lovely addition to any family room or bedroom. It measures 67" by 78", perfect for a twin bed or a gorgeous coverlet on a queen bed. Buy a chance to win and help a child in the process!

This quilt was generously donated by Rev. and Mrs. David and Dolores McNabb

All proceeds will be donated to help the children of Kemmerer Village

Please designate your check for the Quilt Raffle when sending it in.

Please mail to Attn: Casey – (217) 226-2130

Kemmerer Village
941 N. 2500 East Road
Assumption, IL 62510

NEED A PROGRAM

We would love to come and speak to your congregation or small group regarding the ministry at Kemmerer Village. If you would like to learn more about us, contact Autumn (217) 226-2131 or Alice (217) 226-2132. We also have a 16 minute DVD that provides an informative program about our mission to help kids.



Watch our Kemmerer Village Facebook page for updates on the Quilt Drawing.

