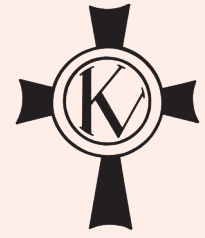




# Kemmerer Voices



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

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October 2017

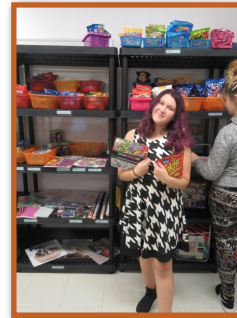


## Hurricane Drive

Kemmerer kids and staff banded together to bless the survivors of Hurricane Irma in a big way! Assistant Director of Recreation Brandon Smith organized a campus wide Hurricane Drive that brought in boxes of diapers, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, socks, paper towels, razors, and other toiletries that are in high demand in hurricane-torn Florida. Our children spent hours making cards and writing letters full of comforting words to send along with the donated items. This was a wonderful lesson for our youth about charity and reaching out to help those in need.

## Sweet Rewards!

School can be challenging for kids of all types, but the kids of Kemmerer Village have more roadblocks than most. Kemmerer Village is working hard to make education an enjoyable experience for our kids. One of the many ways we are continuing to foster a positive attitude in our school is the introduction of the new school store! The students earn tokens for good behavior, participation, attendance, homework and reading. The students were asked what types of things that would motivate them, and shelves are stocked with those items including candy, games, bedding and toys. The students who have met their goals get to cash in on their hard work once a week. This has been a great way to encourage our youth to engage and learn! If you would like to help motivate our youth to continue to learn please consider donating to help keep the shelves stocked!



## Officer Rankin Inspires Youth

The Exchange Club in Mattoon gave us the opportunity to share the good works happening at Kemmerer Village, and then one of their own, Sheriff James Rankin brought his story to our campus. The kids were in awe hearing his tale. A special thanks to James for inspiring our children. He reminded us all it's not where you come from, it's where you are going that matters. If your group would like to hear about Kemmerer Village call us or email us for more information.

Kemmerer Village is thankful for all of our friends and supporters! A special thank you to our work groups this season: Jonathan Creek Christian Church in Sullivan and First Presbyterian in Harvard Illinois made great improvements on our campus. Thank you to all the volunteers who support our staff and youth in a variety of ways. A giant thank you to our donors who keep our mission running. What we do is possible because of you. Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving and a safe Harvest Season.



# 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

## Kemmerer Voices October 17, 2017



Ron Little  
Executive Director

Kemmerer Village has been providing Foster Homes for the care of infants and youth, primarily from the central Illinois area, for nearly forty years. Over that time we've seen an ebb and flow in the number of children needing Foster Care; as well as changes in the primary reasons for children being removed from their parent's care. In April of this year there were 65 children in Kemmerer Village Foster Homes, a number that we've pretty well averaged during the last five years. Six months later, as I write this, we have 105 infants and youth in our Foster Care program.

The rapid increase of children being placed in our program is due to something you've no doubt read or heard about in the news: the Opioid Epidemic. Our Foster Care program provides services to the five county area of Christian, Montgomery, Shelby, Macon and Fayette counties. The predominant substances being abused in this region are heroin, methamphetamine and synthetic marijuana; which directly or indirectly has caused children to be removed from their homes.

For the most part, these children are being placed in the home of a relative. Kemmerer Village staff license and monitor these homes, along with providing social work case management and support services to the relative Foster families. During this six month period we've hired three additional Case Workers and a Case Aide to meet the growing needs. One of the major support services we provide is transportation. Our staff transport children to doctor's appointments, visits with their parents, and in some cases, transporting the parents to counseling and treatment services as part of the plan to eventually have their children return home.

As you might imagine, our staff and Kemmerer Village vehicles log a lot of miles over the course of a year. It is of course important that the vehicles be safe and well-maintained, which they are. However, we do have two vehicles in the Vehicle Pool that have exceeded 200,000 miles (they are mechanically safe and sound) that we are looking to replace this year. When replacing a vehicle, it's been our practice to look for used vehicles with 40,000 or less miles, for \$12,000 - \$16,000. If you are capable of donating to help support the ongoing transportation needs of Kemmerer Village and the growing Foster Care population please contact the Financial Development Department at (217) 226-2120. Kemmerer Village is grateful to be able to continue to meet the needs of children throughout the state of Illinois. Thank you for making the work we do here possible and continuing to support our mission.

God Bless!

Sincerely,  
Ron Little  
Executive Director







Mike Havera  
Director of Financial  
Development & Fundraising

## United We Stand

The 103 year mission of Kemmerer Village has always been about a united effort- People wanting to do good for those less fortunate children and families in desperate situations.

Kemmerer Village has survived through many hard economic times. From our early years in the 1900's through the Great Depression, and yes, amid today's tough financial times too, we have survived because of your prayers and generous monetary support.

The Kemmerer Village Board of Directors, in 2009, established the Kemmerer Village Foundation to protect and provide oversight regarding the future assets of Kemmerer Village, as well as the gifts of our donors. All contributions to the Foundation will be utilized for the sole purpose of furthering the mission of Kemmerer Village, today, tomorrow and well into the future.

Fall is traditionally a time where we express thanks for the blessings we have received. It is also a time for pause as we make plans for the future. For many, it can also be an opportunity to share with others through charitable gifts.

Thinking carefully about what to give as well as when to give can help magnify the impact of your gifts.

In addition to gifts of cash and securities, there are a number of other options you may want to consider in today's environment.

Memorial Giving, Honor Gifts, Matching Gifts, Year End Giving and Planned Giving are all ways to assist us in carrying out our mission to help children and families as well as ensuring that Kemmerer Village will always be here for those in need.

We will be pleased to provide more information to you and/or your financial advisors as you act to complete your plans. To request more information do not hesitate to contact me at 217-226-4451 or go to our website at [www.kemmerervillage.org](http://www.kemmerervillage.org).

As always, God Bless!

Sincerely,

Mike Havera

Director of Financial Development & Fundraising



## Blessed With Beauty Inside & Out

The Bless'It Beauty Salon absolutely blessed the kids of Kemmerer Village and made them look great too! Bless'It Beauty Salon is a non-profit organization that believes in helping people enhance and maintain their outward appearance building confidence. They are focused on providing skills and knowledge in order to obtain healthy skin, hair and nail. This improves self-esteem, employment opportunities, lowers suicide rates and builds family connections. This wonderful group of people came to campus and really showed God's love to our kids. They made great connections and taught them the importance of taking care of themselves.

We'd like to thank those hard working people from Bless'It for volunteering their time to our young people. We would also like to thank our Ladies Auxiliary for donating to this organization helping offset their cost to come back again! If you are interested in being a part of the wonderful things our Ladies Auxiliary do here at Kemmerer Village please contact Alice at (217) 226-2132.



## Herd It Here First!

The exceptional herd of therapy horses at Kemmerer Village has grown in amazing ways this year! First, the new colt LexLin's Sir Philip of Kemmerer was born in May. He is spunky and sweet. Like most newborns he seems to be growing over night. Our second new addition is the beautiful Oreo. Kemmerer Village is thankful for everyone who took time to vote for us in the Gypsy Gift Facebook Contest and another huge thank you to LexLin Gypsy Ranch for giving us such incredible horses. Oreo is calm and adoring and fitting in great at Kemmerer Village. She is quickly becoming a favorite among our youth.

We are pleased to announce that LexLin Gypsy Ranch is extending their generosity to us even further by allowing us to keep Philip's mother Mop Legs! Mop Legs came to Kemmerer Village last year under an agreement that we would send her back when the baby was weaned. Mop Legs has been an amazing part of our program the time that we have had her. She is strong and affectionate and a great mother. We are so excited about continuing to utilize her in our therapy programs. Thank you to LexLin Gypsy Ranch for blessing Kemmerer Village with gypsy vanner horses to benefit the children.



## Summer Enrichment Activities 2017

Summer Enrichment was full of trips, activities and fun. Here are a few things that kept the kids at Kemmerer Village engaged this summer!

**Trips:** St. Louis Zoo, Richland Community College, Illinois State University, Water Park, Trampoline Park, Air Force Base And Museum, Scovill Zoo, Ballard Nature Center, Abraham Lincoln Museum, Bowling, Ramsey State Park, The Bank, Lake Land College

**Projects:** Mock Interviews, Fishing, Career Fair, Swim Lessons, Built Solar Powered Ovens, Planted Flowers, Canvas Painting, Self-Esteem Boards And Journals, Tie Dye, Egg Drops, Cooking, Nutrition And Food Pyramid Projects, Model Air Planes, Catapults, American Flag Displays, Pom Pom Rugs, Glamour Day, Dream Catchers

## Summer Olympics

Kemmerer Village Summer Olympics were a treat as always. The obstacle course challenged our kids to beat their best time. It was a battle of speed, balance and determination. The water balloon toss made a big splash and great memories for our kids. The highlight of the event was probably the watermelon eating contest. Kids and staff alike enjoyed the great treat at record speeds. The KV Summer Olympics is a tradition the entire campus looks forward to every year. It is a great end of summer celebration. Thanks to everyone who made this possible.







# Kemmerer Village

## CHRISTMAS

### Wish List



### Activities

- Journals - No Metal
- Address Books- No Metal
- Car & Plane Models  
(Non-Toxic Glue)
- 3D Puzzles
- Legos
- Young Adult Books
- Fishing Poles
- Sports Balls & Equipment
- Stuffed Toys
- Action Figures
- Rubiks Cube
- Etch-A-Sketch
- Transformers



### Gift Cards

- Always a hit and enables us to match a child's wish! Here are some commonly requested:
- ITunes Amazon
  - Best Buy Pizza Hut
  - YMCA Taylorville
  - Target Old Navy
  - Shoe Carnival Wal-Mart
  - White Oaks Mall-Springfield, IL
  - Hickory Point Mall-Decatur, IL



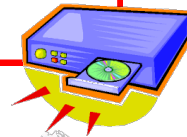
### Arts & Crafts

- Art and craft kits
- Drawing Pencils
- Pastels
- Beads/ Jewelry Making
- Markers
- Glitter Glue
- Water Colors
- Felt Art Posters with markers
- Loom Bracelet Kits
- Adult Coloring Books
- Scrapbooks (No Metal)



### DVD's

G or PG Rating Only



### Games

- Stratego
- Dominion
- Trouble
- Scene It
- Phase 10
- Skip Bo



### Clothes

- Adult Sized:
- Sweatpants and Shirts L-XXXL
  - Low Rise Socks
  - Pajama Pants- S-XXL
  - Hoodie Sweatshirts
  - House Slippers
  - Shoes



### Video Games

- Rated E
- Xbox 360 Games:
- Madden '16
- Wii Games
- Wii Sensor

### Personal

- Inexpensive Watches
- Alarm Clock with Plug
- Picture Frame No glass
- Photo Albums No Metal
- Posters
- Throw Pillows
- Hair Accessories
- Vaseline in squeeze tubes for lips

**A few things to Remember:** These are suggestions, Kemmerer Village is grateful for anything you are willing to give to help our youth! However, our children in treatment are not allowed to have metal or glass for safety reasons. Also, their presents need to be unwrapped for that reason. A few common favorites: Sports, Cardinals, Cubs, Bears, Harry Potter, Hunger Games, Star Wars, Horses, Dogs, Outer Space, Planes, Batman, Tweetie Bird.



## Undercover Agent Makes A Splash



Last fall, Dave Dance, Kemmerer Village Recreation Director and Director of the Illinois Interagency Athletic Association (IIAA) and I discussed the yearly, swim meet. Dave commented that some of the kids who come to the meet can't actually swim. I learned our kids were not taught before the meet to improve their swimming skills. No one had ever done this. I was surprised and frankly embarrassed. I have worked at Kemmerer Village for 23 years and all that time, I didn't contribute my knowledge of swimming to help our kids have the best experience possible and gain this valuable life skill.

I am the youngest of four kids; we all swam on teams through high school. Two of my siblings swam in college, and my sister worked as a high school swim coach in Springfield for several

years. As young kids, the YMCA swim team was the one place our mom could drop us off for practice and have an hour to herself. All of my siblings and I taught swimming in our back yard, at camps and public pools through high school and college. This year, my own daughter taught swimming at the Taylorville pool.

I decided to work with the Kemmerer Village kids who signed up for the meet. Twice a week, 2-3 children and I spent time at the Taylorville YMCA pool. Only one young man who came to classes had ever swam in a meet before. Two told me they **'could not'** swim with their heads in the water or do rhythmic breathing. We worked on stroke skills, rhythmic breathing and on building endurance through swimming laps. On the day of the meet, I could not have been more proud of the KV swim team. All of the kids swam better than they had during lessons. Each demonstrated the skills that we practiced. The very best part was that each swimmer told me they were very proud of themselves for all of their hard work.

Every day, I hear about and observe wonderful interventions by our staff. Working with our KV swim team gave me a rare opportunity as an administrator to contribute to our mission directly. One young man asked me why, as an administrator, I was teaching swimming lessons. I explained how much I love swimming and how much I wanted our kids to enjoy their IIAA meet experience. He commented that I was **'like an undercover swimming teacher'** because I hid my swimming skills all day in my office. I can't wait for next July to begin my undercover work again.

## The 24th Annual Charity Golf Classic was a record year!

### Thank you to all the Major Sponsors:



- Kemmerer Village Board of Directors · Kemmerer Village Foundation · Mrs. Betsy Hauser · Obermeyer Wood Investment Counsel ·
- Morrell Auto Service · G.A.B. Electric · Hurford Architects · Hickory Point Bank · Joe Coleman & Son · RBC Wealth Management · First National Bank of Assumption · Meyer, Austin and Romano · Neikes Floor Covering · Kurt Schenk ·
- American Central Insurance · Assumption Community Pride Association · Monte & Joyce Throneburg & Renee Potter · Consolidated Communications · Mutual of America · Arthur J. Gallagher & Co ·



### Winners of the Championship Flight

Kevin Kietzman,  
Jason Arndt, Matt Sparks  
and Brandt Wernsing



### Winners of the A Flight

Jeremy Weller, Josh Weller,  
Gary Weller and  
James Denton

## 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

June 24, 2017 to October 13, 2017

**Mrs. Carolyn Stone**

Ms. Terryl A. Peterson

**Ms. Janet R. Andersen**

Mrs. Dorothy M. Andersen

**Miss Melva F. Gage**

Ms. Terryl A. Peterson

**Mr. Ed Madsen**

Ms. Terryl A. Peterson

**Miss Katie Svetlik**

Ms. Rita J. Nortrup

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June 24, 2017 to October 13, 2017

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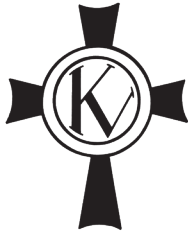
Mrs. Janice A. Keeley

**Mr. and Mrs. William and Leona Lash**

Ms. Terryl A. Peterson

**Mr. William E. Thomas**

Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Thomas



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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

Marissa F. 2/20/01  
Gabrielle M. 10/25/02  
Erika B. 01/15/03  
Kyla J. 2/7/99  
Tessa N. 11/12/01

### Boys

Cody S. 2/7/03  
Ronson B. 1/25/01  
Zach M. 11/22/99

## #GivingTuesday

November 28th is Giving Tuesday! Last year in 24 hours \$168 million was donated to charity. This year we're hoping you will help Kemmerer Village have a great campaign. The donations raised on that day will be matched by the Gates Foundation, so you can double your money! Please check our Facebook for exciting posts and join the fun.

### Amazon Smile

As you gear up for Christmas this year, remember to go to Amazon Smile before placing your Amazon order, choose Kemmerer Village as your charity and Amazon will donate to Kemmerer Village for you!

### Box Tops

Thank you for all the Box Tops, they are a great way of giving to the Kemmerer Village School. Keep them coming!

### Coke Rewards

The Coca Cola Give program will donate from 5 to 30 cents for your Coca Cola rewards codes. These codes can be found under the lids of bottles, or inside the 12-pack and cases of any Coke product. Just go to <https://us.coca-cola.com/give/>, choose Kemmerer Village as your school, and enter your codes to help our children and support our school. Every cent counts!

