



# Kemmerer Village

Supporting children & families since 1914



## Kemmerer Village on Grounds School: by Joanne Coady, Kemmerer Village School Principal

Kemmerer Village has an on grounds campus school for 29 years. Each classroom has a licensed special education teacher and paraprofessional to provide the various educational and social/ emotional needs of the students. We provide a modified curriculum and instruction in a very structured setting to ensure all students can reach academic goals. In addition to the modified instructional strategies provided, we also use many behavioral interventions to ensure classroom success. Some of those interventions include noise cancelling headphones, wobble seats, "brain breaks", movement, going for walks, listening to music, drawing, and shooting baskets as well as classroom seating arrangement and visual or verbal cues. All classrooms have Promethean Boards to use for instruction, students have Chromebooks to utilize Google Classroom and online resources. There is a study hall period at the end of the day to provide 1:1 help and tutoring for those students who need a little extra help.

Class sizes are small to enable more individualized programming and instruction to meet the various academic and social/emotional needs of the students, we also try to simulate a middle and high school environment while the students attend classes on campus. Students move from class to class throughout the day, have lockers, use agendas to keep track of assignments just like other schools. The school uses many incentives throughout the year to reward students for meeting their academic and behavioral goals. Some of the incentives include a school store, pizza parties, ice cream sundae parties, "non-uniform days", field trips to movie theater, bowling alley, glo golf, and extra privileges slips to be used in the cottage.



We as a school, work with the residential and recreational side of placement as a cohesive unit. Our goal is to provide the students with all the academic support needed while also working on organizational skills, study skills, and social skills so when students are ready to transition from Kemmerer Village they can be successful.

*Joanne has worked with the Kemmerer Village School for 25 years, the last 15 as Principal. She is retiring to take the position of Principal at St. Mary's School in Taylorville. We wish her well and thank her for the many years of dedicated and successful work with our children.*

## Community Event Kicks Up Connection

Kemmerer attended the Assumption Community Pride kickoff to share with our community. We raffled a basket from our Village. The winner was Tricia Stewart. While she was looking at the Kemmerer things, she noticed something strange. She flipped open the calendar we gave her and said, "That's me!" Her parents worked at Kemmerer. She actually lived on the Kemmerer campus when she was a child. She shared some fond memories of KV. Check June in your Kemmerer Calendar!



# Kemmerer Voices

Autumn Warren... Editor

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## The Executive Director's Perspective

“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.” – Helen Keller



Helen Keller’s quote is meaningful to me because I am truly filled with optimism, hope and confidence for Kemmerer Village.

My March Voice article summarized my first year as the new Kemmerer Village Executive Director, and laid out my hopes and plans for the coming year. In the few months since I wrote that article, we have made good progress. A primary goal is continued growth for Kemmerer Village, even as we face staffing challenges and financial pressures due to worldwide cost increases. We have experienced many blessings, including a few generous donations, success in our hiring for Residential Treatment, and forward movement on our campaign to schedule speaking engagements with individuals, churches, and organizations. Many of you reading this article may have heard our recent radio promotions or received a letter, email or a phone call about scheduling a Kemmerer Village speaker. To support our Mission, we need everyone to spread knowledge of and confidence in our programming, our services and our staff. If you have a positive experience to share, please post on our Facebook page, tell friends, or schedule a speaker to spread our Mission.

A particularly exciting new opportunity over the last several weeks has been Kemmerer Village’s participation in the Assumption Community Pride Association. This wonderful group of motivated local individuals has welcomed Kemmerer Village as a member. We participated in the April Farmer’s Market Kickoff event, had KV youth participate in community clean up day and hosted the Assumption Community Mapping program in May and early June, for over 50 people. We are planning to attend the Assumption Farmer’s Markets this summer and are looking for additional ways we can join ACPA’s efforts to ensure Assumption’s hopeful future. With our over 120 employment opportunities, beautiful grounds, and facilities we are excited to contribute to our surrounding community.

My hope and confidence extend to 2022’s Camp Carew camping season. We celebrated Camp Carew’s 70th anniversary of providing Christian Camping on 5-16-2022. On a beautiful day in Southern Illinois, many past and current campers, volunteers, and staff visited during open house. A record number of kids have registered for summer camp in May and rental usage of camp this Spring has increased as well.

Kemmerer Village still has many job opportunities, especially in our Foster Care Department. Please spread the word and go to [www.kemmerervillage.org/employment](http://www.kemmerervillage.org/employment) to see all our job openings.

I hope each of you have a wonderful Summer and I look forward to speaking to you, your Church or local organization about our confidence and faith in our Mission.

*Schäles Nagle*  
Executive Director



# IT'S WORTH IT



Growing up I had a pink plastic pail with a wire handle and a white plastic grip. This bucket held lots of things but was most often filled with crayons and kept in the much-too-full closet in the hallway. Every Saturday morning I got this bucket out, carried it into

the family room, and laid on my belly on the floor coloring pictures and watching cartoons.

Occasionally, a commercial for child sponsorships would come on. Even then, those children with their big eyes and long sad faces caught my attention and had my heart. I wanted to do something and told myself I would adopt someday. I also remember watching the movie "Angels in the Outfield." It was one of my favorites. Not because I liked baseball or even the general storyline, but because the main character was growing up in a foster home. It sparked my interest and I told myself I would foster someday.



Like most little girls, I had my whole life planned out. I would graduate high school, then go to college where I would meet my future spouse before landing my dream job as a kindergarten teacher. But...the best laid plans. Mr. Right got lost somewhere along the way and I took the very scenic route to landing my dream job, which, by the way, was not teaching kindergarten after all. As I approached my 30th birthday, my life was looking nothing like my childhood dreams, but I hadn't forgotten them. I learned that being married was not a requirement in order to be a foster parent and called Kemmerer Village to start the licensing process right away.

On September 23, 2016 at 4:30 in the afternoon, my phone rang. I was informed that there were three little boys needing a place to stay. With no questions asked, I canceled the plans I had for the evening, turned my car around, and drove home to get things ready. Three hours later, I welcomed an 18-month old, 3 year old, and 6 year old to my home. Throughout the licensing process, I told myself that if a child found themselves in my home, they would not leave unless they were returning to theirs because I would not be another person to let them down or add to their trauma. I wanted them to know that they are loved and that they matter, no matter what, and that providing that assurance to a child would be worth any challenge we would face. These words were put to the test very early on and I prayed frequently: "God, this is really really hard." God answered quickly and clearly every time: "Is it still worth it?" I was never able to say no.

While reunification is most often the goal for children in foster care, it is not always the outcome.

On June 11, 2019, the boys were adopted. When I started the foster care journey, I did not expect to adopt my first placement and I certainly did not expect three boys, but I cannot imagine life any other way...messy, loud, and packed full of challenges, but oh so very very worth it.



# Meet the Village **Miranda Malone** Therapist Supervisor



Hello! I began working in 2000 with a social service agency while completing my Bachelor's degree at University of Illinois in Springfield. I went on to receive my Master's in Social Work from the University of Illinois. I started as a therapist with KV in October 2015. I have enjoyed my experience while at Kemmerer. I work with wonderful and supportive individuals who help make working here great!

Seven years later, I still have past residents call to get some advice, share good news, or just needing some guidance. I have always had a passion for helping others. On those days that are not going right, and I feel not at my best as a therapist, it lights a spark back in me when a past resident randomly reaches out. It reminds me that I am making an impact on a child's life.



## **Jan Traugher** Volunteer & Project Coordinator

Volunteering opportunities at Kemmerer Village are varied but the tasks all have one common intent: to help the children entrusted in our care. My name is Jan Traugher, and my title is Volunteer and Project Coordinator. I bring thirty years' experience to this position having led teams in several area medical practices offices, Heritage Behavioral Health, and Millikin University's Kirkland Fine Arts Center as Director. I have a Bachelor of Science in Management and Organizational Leadership from Millikin. My wish is to assist anyone that would like to donate their time or talents to Kemmerer Village so that their efforts are best matched with the needs of the Village. There are many needs; may I share a few?

- 1) Be a mentor to a resident. I've been mentoring for over a year and it has been a very rewarding experience.
- 2) Do you like to work with cars? We have a fleet of vehicles that are used daily that need some TLC.
- 3) The STEAM lab is open and ready for a volunteer to help us grow in this area.
- 4) Master Gardeners are welcome to assist with special projects such as the orchard and a butterfly garden.
- 5) Traditional volunteering is also greatly appreciated! We have a list of jobs needing to be done that are perfect for either an individual or a group project.

Call Jan for more information about volunteering at Kemmerer Village or Camp Carew (217) 226-2231



*Everything has the opportunity to be a teachable, learnable moment of grace at KV. The children of Kemmerer Village are hitting the lanes and learning a lot.*

## *Bowling*

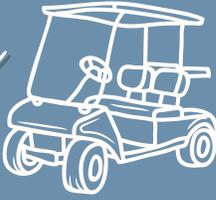


Kemmerer Village took the children bowling. Kemmerer staff did an excellent job of encouraging and helping the children improve. Young Adam was not able to knock down any pins in his first few frames. Although he got discouraged at times, he was able to keep going, and not give up. He was coachable and kept increasing his score.

One girl expressed some extreme anxiety about leaving campus for the event. She didn't know why and hated to miss bowling. She was self-aware and spoke-up, taking responsibility for her feelings. This moment of communication is difficult for many young people; it illustrates the importance of creating these opportunities for children.

Bowling never strikes out! Everyone showed good sportsmanship during the games and the children are one frame closer to perfecting their game.

# Kemmerer Village Campus Tours



"We were bowled over, Alice! Some of us were speechless. We have lived here our entire lives and never knew the extent of Kemmerer's services. God bless you all!"

We were pleased to have a few campus tours this spring. It was exciting to share all the great things happening at Kemmerer Village.

Our friends from Niles Community Church made the trip down with a very generous donation. Another group of talented ladies gifted our children with beautiful homemade quilts, and the spunky ladies from Fairview Methodist stopped by to meet our herd on their way to lunch. If you are like some of these kind people, and have never seen our 60+ acre campus, or even if it's just been awhile, please contact us to schedule a tour. We have lots to see and a golf cart to get you around. Or we can come to you! Someone from KV can come and speak to your church or organization.

We love visitors and are excited to talk with you!

## KV KIDS BIRTHDAYS

Girls

Arianna T. 6/6/08

Boys

Domyntyk L. 6/23/09

Kyler J. 7/22/08

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

July— 12 children

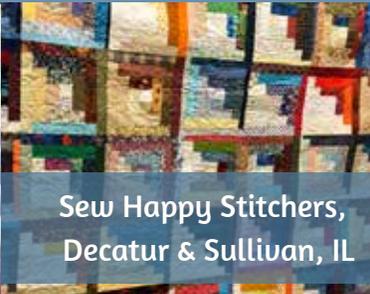
Aug.— 10 children

Sept.— 9 children

Oct.— 8 children



Niles Community Church



Sew Happy Stitchers,  
Decatur & Sullivan, IL



Come See  
KV



Ladies of  
Fairview Methodist Church,  
Nokomis, IL

## KV Supports Families!



What we valued about Kemmerer Village for our grandson was the care shown for him by the staff and his counselor. They provided him with opportunities to continue his education, and got him involved in their sports program. Our grandson found out that he enjoys playing shortstop! He loved the horses, and even volunteered to take care of cleaning the stables. They also gave him the chance to contribute to others with their service projects that he took part in. It made him feel good being able to make a difference. He really enjoys art and loved working on the Yearbook. They had various contests, and he enjoyed winning awards for posters and holiday coloring. We appreciated being able to have regular visits with him, and even got a chance to do a therapy session with him at the horse stables. He introduced me to all the horses. When we had questions or concerns, the people at Kemmerer Village were more than willing to take the time to communicate with us. We felt safe with him at Kemmerer Village and were glad he was there.



*From a Grateful Grandfather*



It's not too late for Summer Camp!

# Camp Carew

For children entering 5-12th Grades

July 10-16 General Camp

July 17-23 Discovery Camp

July 24-30 General Camp

July 24-30 High Adventure Camp



*Camp Carew is accepting affordable facility rentals for groups of all kinds!*

[www.campcarew.org](http://www.campcarew.org)



The Village is such a cool place to be. It's not uncommon to look away from my paperwork, to see a magnificent horse walk by, or excited children playing with one of the therapy dogs. Some days I travel to talk with supporters or help promote our camp. Right in the middle of an average workday, I attend a talent show and see how music therapy reaches our youth. On my way to lunch, I see a merry-go round that families have connected around for generations. In the cafeteria, the cheerful Home Services team serve staff and children nutritious food so we can handle what the rest of the day brings our way. The children of Kemmerer Village are survivors. They are all better off because of every person who shows up for them.

The current pain of KV is that more families cannot use that playground, ride that horse, or eat that meal unless more adults are willing to commit their lives in this mission field. Supporting children and families for another century requires everyone to play our parts. These children deserve the best from all of us.

Please consider showing up for these children. Apply to work here, come and volunteer, or donate. Your donation makes a difference! Donations can be mailed in or given online. Your gift can also be made through your will, charitable annuity or trust. Give me a call - I would love to discuss your plans!



*Autumn Warren*

Director of Development  
217-226-2131

# In Honor *and* Memory of Those We Love

January 28th, 2022 thru May 16th, 2022

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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Anonymous

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*Thank you for remembering your loved ones by supporting our children!*



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Schedule  
Speaker



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*Help the Children of KV Grow!*

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