A MISSION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SINCE 1914

# Kemmerer Village Voices MARCH



## **Together we served 1,400 children in 2022!** Thank you to all our donors, volunteers and staff:

## **Nurse of 32 years Retires!**

Kathy Jackson has dedicated her life serving as a nurse at Kemmerer Village for 32 years. Her family has long ties to KV. Her husband, Dennis, retired from our Maintenance Department several years ago. Kathy's daughter,

Amy is currently part of our Therapeutic Recreation team. We have been blessed to have all of them as part of our KV Family.

Thank you, Kathy, for your many years of service. HAPPY RETIREMENT!!!

### Facebook Reviews

"I was a resident at kv. My experience there really prepared me for my future. Things that I was taught there by staff who honestly cared about me is still instilled in me to this day. I salute you guys for doing such a great job."

"Great place to work with great staff, it can be challenging at times but every job has its flaws. The kids we do reach is truly rewarding and I like to believe that in time the ones we couldn't reach look back and appreciate what we tried to do."

"Great and helpful staff in all areas. Very good equine therapy program . Foster parent staff and support top notch."

Join our community online to let your voice be heard!

www.kemmerervillage.org

941 N. 2500 East Rd. Assumption, IL 62510

Kemmerer (Joices

Autumn Warren

Editor

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'The Day the Lord created hope was probably the same day he created Spring'. Bernard Williams, philosopher.

Is there truly anything like Spring days to communicate hope and promise joy? While I write this, it may still be a chilly day, but I know in my heart that Spring is coming. My faith in future joy is unwavering.



Our Kemmerer Village Spring includes many wonderful celebrations and reminders of the Mission we all share. In March 2023, we will celebrate 150 adoptions for the Kemmerer Village adoption program. When I think of these 150 children, my heart is filled with pride. These children will never again question which home they might return to after a school day. These children will know that each bedtime will be in their forever home. The Kemmerer Village adoption program offers transition to adoption for children in our Foster Care program. Kemmerer staff, adoptive parents and local courts work tirelessly to bring their kids' cases to a final, joyful closure. We will be celebrating our 150th adoption at the Taylorville Presbyterian Church in early March, with a special reception in the afternoon. Look for pictures on our Facebook page and website!

Also, we will again celebrate Easter with an exciting oncampus Easter Egg hunt! Our Celebrations Committee has started planning for this event which welcomes Kemmerer Village Residential Treatment and Foster Care kids of all ages. Candy-filled eggs and eggs with special prizes help us provide lasting Spring memories for our kids.

Our beautiful Camp Carew is also waking from its winter sleep this Spring. Confirmation Camp March 24th - 26th combines the fun and beauty of camp with focused instruction led by Presbyterian pastors and ruling elders. Visit our website at https://campcarew.org to find out more. Our 2023 camping brochure is out and registration is open for Summer, 2023 regular Christian camping season. But you don't have to wait! Your family or youth group can enjoy the beauty, hope, and joy reflected in our amazing setting on Little Grassy Lake now! Group rental options are available on the Camp website, with a rental form link.

Finally, as the snow melts and the temperatures warm, I am longing for opportunities to visit with our community partners and share the joyous and hopeful Kemmerer Village mission. Please contact me if you are interested in having a Kemmerer Village speaker attend an upcoming service or group meeting. We would love to come and visit one on one as well. One of the best ways that our community partners can support our mission is to spread the word about our wonderful services Schäles Magle Executive Director and staff. Joins us in spreading hope and joy in 2023.



### **KV Foster Care Earns Awards**

#### Foster Care Parent recieves Longevity Award.

Jennifer Morgasson was recognized for 10 years of service as a licensed foster parent. In that time she has welcomed over 20 kids and has adopted 5 children.

DCFS

## **State Award for Innovation**

Kemmerer Village was recognized by the Illinois State Senate and given a state award for our Foster Parent Law Implementation Plan written by Jeannie Karbach, Director of Community Operations. It was chosen 1st place for Innovative Approaches to Service and Delivery and one of the top three plans in the entire state! We are so proud of our Village and all of the work that goes into helping our children.





Kemmerer Village has been pleased to speak at many churches and organizations this year. We have several trained professional who can come and talk to you, your congregation of any denomination or any group about topics including Kemmerer Village, Mental Health, Equine or Recreation Therapy, Suicide Awareness and Trauma.

The mission of Kemmerer is a village made up of the children and families we serve along with our staff, volunteers and supporters. I am fortunate to often serve as a liaison between some of these parts. I hear the success stories and the needs of those we serve, and I share them with people who can help. If you would like to talk about how you can help these children, I would love to speak to you. People willing to donate, volunteer or pray to help the children of Kemmerer are making a difference in thousands of lives every year. Hutunn Dargen Director of Development & PR

Meet The Village

My name is Jocelyn Fluker, and I am a Therapist Intern for Kemmerer Village. I am from Decatur, but I live in Springfield. I am earning my Master's at the University of Illinois, Springfield. I am studying Human Development Counseling with a concentration in School Counseling; I aspire to be an Elementary School Counselor. I have an Honors Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Indiana State University.

#### As the Therapist Intern, I work in the boy's

cottage, helping them to come up with effective coping skills and help in implementing them appropriately. So far, I have enjoyed my time getting to know the boys and working with the staff. In addition to helping with coping skills, I will also help to facilitate group sessions, and eventually one-on-one sessions as well. I've also had the chance to observe the Equine Therapist, Amber Miller, and even ride two of the horses!

For future interns, interning at Kemmerer Village is great for counseling and caseworker experiences. Being able to earn certain certificates and credentials, sit in on trainings, and getting hands-on experience, has been rewarding. Although this is not a school setting, I am able to explore skills that will help me prepare as a future school counselor.





appreciate the opportunities for all children to get outside and connect with God in nature.

Camp Carew is a mission of Kemmerer providing Christian Camping - www.campcarew.org

2023 Camp Schedule

March 24-26 **Confirmation Camp** Horseback Camp, MAD Camp, LIT & CIT Camp June 11-17 **General Camp 1** June 18-24 Photography Camp June 18-30 Mini Camp 1 June 25-28 Day Camp 1 June 26-30 July 9-15 **General Camp 2** July 16-22 **Discovery** Camp July 16-19 Mini Camp 2 July 17-21 Day Camp 2 July 23-29 High Adventure Camp

--August thru May Camp & Facilities Rental Available--

## In Honor 🕬 Memory of Those We Love

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 the children we serve. The name of the one being honored or remembered is in bold type; the donor is in regular type.

September 16th, 2022 thru February 1, 2023





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

Proudly a mission Agency of the Synod of Lincoln Trails, Presbyterian Church (USA) since 1914. Please send mailing updates to amie.sparks@kv.christian.k12.il.us 217-226-2130

## Find us online! www.kemmerervillage.org

Five Kemmerer kids were chosen to attend the IIAA All-Star Basketball Game February 4.

Players are chosen for their character, leadership and sportsmanship.

One of our boys won the free throw contest and one of our girls won their 3-point contest!

The children joined other athletes and coaches from all over the state and played great games.

