

Kemmerer Voices

October 2020

A Presbyterian Child Care Agency since 1914



Kemmerer Village Expanding Services

Kemmerer Village is continuing to innovate and finding new ways to help serve children and families in need. Starting October 1st, 2020, Kemmerer Village is excited to offer Intact Family Services for residents of Christian and Montgomery Counties. This addition is complementary to our existing Foster Care and Adoption Services. These services are designed to support families in maintaining their children in their own home, with minimal assistance from the Department of Children and Family Services. Building on families' strengths and internal resources and linking families with community resources, Kemmerer Village will ensure safe and caring family environments for children in our community. Services which families participating in the Intact program access include counseling, parenting classes, assistance with linkage to early childhood programming and specialized assessments. We will begin this programming with two Caseworkers serving 10 families each. The Case Workers will assist families in assessing their own strengths and needs and then mapping out a plan for service engagement. The Caseworkers in addition to Case Aides will also provide transportation to some services and follow up on any barriers to service acquisition. Kemmerer Village is confident, given our decades of excellent work with families through our Foster Care and Adoption services, our new Intact programming will extend our service provision in successful and rewarding ways.

I'd like to introduce you to one of the lives you have helped create. Saristen is a bright, joyful, bubbly girl doing big things-- **because people like you invest in Kemmerer Village.**

Saristen and four siblings were adopted through Kemmerer Village in 2014. She graduated from Lincoln High School.

Saristen is receiving a scholarship to attend the University of Illinois in Champaign this year. Amid a pandemic, she is pursuing her lifelong dream of becoming a doctor. Thank you for everyone supporting Kemmerer and allowing us to provide for the education and future of children like Saristen!

In America there are currently reported to be 107,918 foster children eligible for adoption and 30,000 children expected to age out of the system this year. Saristen has already defied those odds, and no doubt will continue to excel in life. **Please remember her in your prayers as she embarks on this journey.**



The Success of Saristen!

Christmas is Coming!

Preparing to make Christmas wishes realities, we need all the help we can get! If you are able to buy a present for a child in need contact Autumn at (217)226-2131, check our Amazon Wishlist, or our general needs list at kemmerervillage.org

Art Kits • Balls • Gift Cards • Hoodies • Rugs • Games

Kemmerer Voices

Autumn Warren Editor

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Kemmerer Village is a Mission Agency of the Synod of Lincoln Trails, Presbyterian Church (USA)

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From the Director's Desk

This will be my last "From the Director's Desk" article as I will be retiring on January 1, 2021. When I arrived at Kemmerer Village on June 6, 1983 as a Volunteer In Mission it was with the intent to spend one year and then move on to graduate school. But I stuck around, like gum on the bottom of a shoe. Thirty-seven years later I find myself winding down the final weeks of my Kemmerer Village career. What is it about Kemmerer Village that caused me to stay here all that time? There are many things, but first and foremost is feeling called to help children, adolescents, and families to improve their relationships and circumstances. I found in the Kemmerer Village community of staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, and supporters like-minded people with a clear and strong sense of the same purpose. This dedication resonates through all levels of our staff, from those serving meals in the cafeteria, our clerical staff, our Financial Development staff, our direct care staff and the senior management staff.

Over the years I had many different jobs and levels of responsibility, from Residential Counselor to Cottage Supervisor to Therapist (yes, I did go back and get my graduate degree) to Director of Clinical Services, then Assistant Executive Director and finally Executive Director. I had an excellent supervisor and mentor during much of that time, Mike Havera.

I have been blessed to work with many talented and dedicated staff on all levels and programs; many of whom, like me, have been here for years. These are people, along with our foster parents, who strive to improve and labor to provide the best quality of care they can for our children; without them Kemmerer Village would not be the same, if at all.

As I took on administrative duties I began to work more with Kemmerer's Board of Directors. Throughout those many years I experienced a high level of care, dedication, wisdom and support of the Kemmerer Village program and staff. That leadership is responsible for shaping the path and creating the conditions that allow Kemmerer Village to provide effective, high quality services.

In conclusion, the commitment and generosity of our many supporters has played and continues to play an integral part in Kemmerer Village's successful carrying out of its mission. As with the staff and Board of Directors our supporters play an equal share in ensuring Kemmerer is, and will be, always able to carry out its mission successfully.

It has been my privilege to be part of such a high-quality team of people. And for that I thank you all.

Ron Little
Executive Director



Executive Director Ron Little & Board of Director President Brian Miller. From Volunteers to leaders, continuing to serve the children of Kemmerer.

Should you consider Kemmerer Village as your Mission Field?

Meet Brian Miller, our current Board of Director's president.



Growing up on a farm in Northern Illinois, Brian received a degree in Materials Engineering at the University of Illinois Champaign. After working 15 years in the electronics industry, he felt a "tug" to "do more" in Kingdom work. Brian considered several ministry possibilities, but one visit to Kemmerer Village was all it took! Seeing first-hand the caring staff interacting with troubled youth compelled Brian to apply for a volunteer position at the Village.

Upon acceptance, Brian resigned his engineering position and moved to the Village, joining two other volunteer staff, and began his training in childcare. Brian helped in the Therapeutic Recreation Department, and tutored the children after-school. He also assisted occasional weekend shifts in childcare and managed the "Saturday School" for those students with academic or behavior problems.

"Working with troubled teens was a faith-stretching experience, especially given my Engineering/science/math technical background. I learned a lot in serving. It was an important step in my personal Faith Journey."

After 15 months living at Kemmerer, Brian ended his volunteer stint and returned to manage the family farming operation. He continued consulting engineering work at his former electronics employer not far from the farm. After leaving his volunteer position at the Village, Brian was invited to serve on the Board of Directors where he has served on various Board Committees, and now serves a term as Board president.

"Kemmerer Village does important Kingdom Work. I am pleased and have been blessed to have invested a piece of my life in this challenging Mission Field, watching small miracles unfold in changed lives. I invite others to consider a calling to serve in this special place."

If you are feeling the tug to do kingdom work, or have a hand on impact for the kingdom of heaven, consider the mission field of Kemmerer Village. Prayerfully consider joining the staff and volunteers making a difference for these special children.

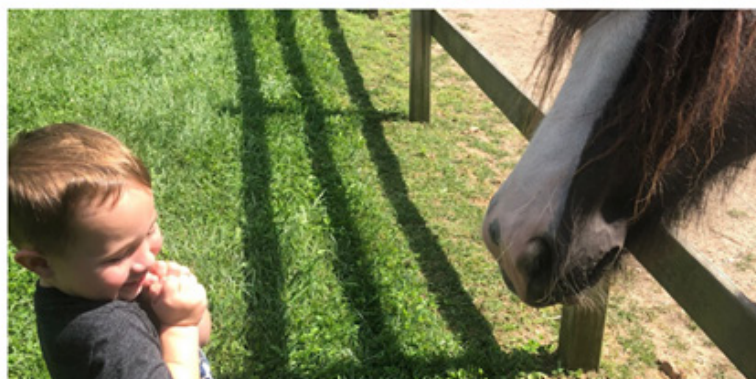
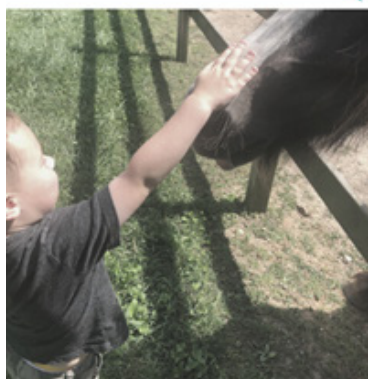


Kemmerer Village was reaccredited by the Council of Accreditation for another four years. Maintaining our accreditation status is important for a number of reasons, but most importantly it indicates our programs are doing best practice and is required for an organization to have contracts with all state agencies. Kemmerer was one of the first agencies to be accredited back in 1978, shortly after the Council on Accreditation began. More than 1600 organizations are currently in-process of meeting these standards of excellence.

The fact that we did extremely well is a tribute to all of our staff and Board members. It reflects what the reviewer said to us when he was on campus, "Your staff are caring, dedicated and professional and it really shows on all levels of your programs".

Over the past 7 months, the Franchois Arena has been a place of steadiness and peace in uncertain times. During school closures, residents participated in additional equine activities. One cottage had a weekly group activity in which teams communicated with one another to complete the task of saddling a horse. The activity was sort of like the game "telephone". The children learned about communication, teamwork and problem solving; plus, they learned to saddle a horse! There was great discussion of what it was like to be in the administrative, supervisory or "hands on" teams and the children explored what role they might best like in a future career. Staff and residents have both found that while indoor spaces were building stress and too much focus on the

troubling news, the pastures and animals provide a reminder of the steadfastness of nature and the peace and joy in God's creation. During the first part of the Pandemic staff members from other departments stopped by from time to time to exhale stress and breathe in the fresh air. It has been said time and again that coming to the arena "feels like a weight being lifted off". While foster care staff worried about not being able to conduct home visits for a time, and children living at Kemmerer missed face to face contact with their families, the horses dogs, green grass and fresh breeze helped everyone to find peace in the moment.



We were sad to miss the Horses and Heroes groups this Spring and Fall but find great joy in the individual Horses and Heroes sessions that we can offer while adhering to safe social distancing guidelines and health screenings. Recently, three generations of one of our foster families came to the arena for horse therapy and a wonderful picnic provided by the Kemmerer Village Dining Room staff. Again, the sense of peace and happiness was a true gift shared between the family, staff, and animals. We are hoping to continue this every week and know that the happiness that the family finds in special times like this is part of the glue that holds them together.



Kemmerer Village has such a long history of providing for those in need; I look forward to continuing to help this worthwhile mission. Kemmerer Village has been a substantial part of my life for the past 5 years. Kemmerer is not just my job, **it is my mission**. Once you connect with Kemmerer Village it becomes a part of you.

Ephesians 4:7 reminds me, we all receive grace and gifts to use for the glory of God. We are called to connect with a community of faith to change the world we are placed in. The Kemmerer community, comprised of all our children, staff, church friends and supporters has been changing the world of the most desperately hurting children for over a century. Built on rock solid foundation, Kemmerer is built on the word and this biblical call to action. It is built to last. We are fortunate enough to be a part of this larger story. To ensure the future protection and education of children in need, please consider your part of the Kemmerer story. I would love to talk with you about opportunities to make real change. We would love to send you information about leaving your legacy at Kemmerer by including us in your estate plans. Your continued support is making it possible to reach children in need in new ways every year.

Thank you for your part of the story of what God is doing in this world by supporting Kemmerer Village. Your prayers and support mean the world to us.

Autumn Warren
Director of Financial Development



Live Forever: Leave A Legacy

One sentence in your will can make a lifetime of difference. To leave Kemmerer Village a gift in your will helping children for generations to come, simply share this sentence with your attorney or financial planner: "I bequeath \$_____ or _____% of my estate to Kemmerer Village, 941 N. 2500 East Road, Assumption, Illinois 62510"

Interested in donating stock? It's simple and easy. When you donate stock to Kemmerer, you'll generally receive a tax deduction for the full value. When you are donating stock, your contribution and tax deduction may instantly increase over 20% Would you prefer to donate bonds or mutual funds? The same benefits apply.



KEMMERER VILLAGE 27TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC SPONSORS

Thank you for another successful year!
We appreciate your continued support!

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Timberlake Golf Course, Sullivan
Tailwinds Steakhouse, Findlay
The Oaks Golf Course, Springfield
St Elmo Golf Club, St Elmo
Red Tail Run Golf Course, Decatur
Barbara Ryan



In Memory & Honor of Those We Love

June 15th, September 23rd, 2020

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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www.kemmerervillage.org

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 from our website

**106 Years of Making a Difference in the
 Lives of Children & Families!**

A mission of the Presbyterian Church USA

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*Our children love receiving
 mail! Please consider sending
 a birthday card & a prayer for
 the following kids:*

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- Lanayah I**—11/02/03
- Joanna R**—11/21/03
- Aaliyah S**—12/15/01
- Kristen D**—12/21/01
- Emmilee C**—02/03/07

BOYS

- Joshua T**—11/29/05
- Michael S**—2/16/03
- Trace T**—12/23/04
- Timothy S**—01/25/05
- Shawn V**—2/14/05
- Oliver F**—11/15/07
- Jeremy M**—12/03/08
- Josh S**—02/21/04