

Kemmerer Voices

MARCH 2019

A Presbyterian Child Care Agency since 1914



How You Can Make A Difference:

The number of children and families who turn to Kemmerer Village for care continues to grow. With your help Kemmerer Village continues to answer the call, helping these youth find their way by moving on to a better and healthier life style. Below are a few of the ways you can choose to help make this possible:

Ways to give:

- Gift from Donor Advised Fund
- Memorial or Honor Tribute Gift
- Gift of Securities, Stocks or Bonds
- Gift from Individual Retirement Account
- Matching Gift From Your Employer: Boeing, State Farm
- Remembering Kemmerer Village in Your Estate Planning

For your convenience credit card donations can be processed through our Kemmerer Village Web site, kemmerervillage.org. You may also call with your credit card information to the Kemmerer Village Financial Development Office at (217)226-2130. We will be happy to take your information.



SHOWCASING KEMMERER SUCCESS

The real works of art at Kemmerer Village are the children entrusted to our care. Nothing is greater than their success. One young lady was featured in an art gallery shortly after leaving Kemmerer. Angelina says, "Kemmerer helped me learn art and music were my major coping skills. All the staff encouraged me. I was always creative but Kemmerer helped me use it to better cope with my trauma and mental illness. I wish the staff could have been at the art show, because they really helped me get there." Angelina went to her first foster home at the age of 6. She was placed in 45 homes after that, before she came to Kemmerer Village.

Pablo Picasso said "the purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls." At Kemmerer Village art is nothing short of therapy. Teaching our children to express themselves is an important skill. Art helps the kids learn, communicate and focus. Art therapy helps build self-awareness and self-esteem necessary to tackle various social situations and life challenges. Art has been proven to help reduce pain, stress and many symptoms associated with physical and mental disorders.

Kemmerer Voices

Michael A. Havera Editor
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Kemmerer Village is a Mission Agency of the
 Synod of Lincoln Trails, Presbyterian Church (USA)

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 Fundraising

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 Fundraising
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Kemmerer Village Board of Directors are committed volunteers who travel from communities all over Illinois including Monticello, Leland, Springfield, Edwards, Petersburg, Naperville, Jacksonville, Champaign, Monmouth, Decatur, Assumption, Chillicothe, Normal, Shelbyville, Chatham and Taylorville. These individuals are what keep Kemmerer Village thriving.

From the Director's Desk

Volunteer

Volunteerism is one of the many ways Kemmerer Village is supported by those of you who share our mission of helping children and families. Volunteer work for Kemmerer Village comes in several forms and roles. As you will see in this issue, we have highlighted a volunteer in the Equine Program; easily the most popular program for volunteers. With a sixty acre campus and sixteen buildings there is always a list of projects for any level of skill sets that are needing to be done. Workgroups give of their time, sweat and abilities on projects ranging from trimming bushes and trees, to painting indoor and outdoor areas, to remodeling rooms and reroofing buildings. Volunteers on the Women's Auxiliary do many things to support Kemmerer Village's work: organizing prom dresses, raising funds to provide barn shoes for the Equine Program and serving as liaisons with their church for Kemmerer Village, to name a few. We are always seeking volunteers to serve as Mentors to our youth, in both the Residential and Foster Care programs. Our Board of Directors are all voluntary positions who spend many hours a year to lend their expertise to guiding the mission and operation of the agency.

As singer James Durst said, "Help one another. There's no time like the present, and no present like the time".

Ron Little
 Executive Director

Together We Can....

Another year has passed and I would like to thank everyone who made it a successful one.

Thank you to our staff and foster parents for their continued excellent work with the children. The task is great, but you always manage to meet and surpass the goals established.

Thank you for the tremendous support provided by our volunteers. Whether it's a local community church or civic group, a work group from a distant church or an individual who just lends a helping hand; thank you for your time, expertise and love shared. You are providing an important lesson in the sharing of human kindness that many of our residents and foster children may never have experienced before.

A special thank you to those who have provided financial support to the children, facilities and programs of Kemmerer Village. Each year the generosity of our financial donors allows us to care for our children with quality staff and foster parents through a variety of programs. Your continued support and love are the lifeblood of Kemmerer Village.

Philip and Sarah Kemmerer realized a need existed for helping orphaned children. They were willing to accept that challenge and as a result Kemmerer Village was born. Today we continue to recognize the need to help troubled children and families, and at Kemmerer Village we accept that tremendous challenge.

With your continued support and prayers we can sustain our mission to care for children, youth and families and help them seek a better life for themselves.

Thank you and God bless,
Michael A. Havera
 Director of Financial Development and Fundraising



FOSTERING THE FUTURE

Every 100 seconds a child in America leaves their family entering the foster care system. Foster care is simply defined as a temporary living situation for children whose parents are unable, unwilling or unfit to care for them.

The number of children in need of these temporary safe places continues to rise. On any given day in the United States, there are 437,465 children in foster care. This number has grown 3% in 2018. These shocking national statistics are why Kemmerer Village answered the call helping children and families to care for those in need. Our Foster Care program is growing everyday out of need. This year the number of foster care children Kemmerer Village has taken responsibility for has grown nearly 200 percent. These children are in need of a safe home due to neglect, abuse, and the growing drug problem plaguing our county. The needs of these children and the families involved are great. Many children in foster care are fortunate enough to go to homes of relatives. However, there is still a tremendous need for traditional foster homes.

If you would be interested in caring for a child in need and joining our mission as a foster parent please contact Chris Brizendine at (217)226-2150. Not everyone is capable of answering that call. If you would like to help the families that have welcomed those children into their homes, there are a number of ways you can help! Items required to rehome an infant are always in need. Kemmerer Village is in need of car seats, playpens and diapers. Items may be ordered and sent to Kemmerer Village or call Autumn Warren at 217-226-2131 for arrangements. We appreciate your assistance in helping get children in need to families who can care for them.



Bonnie Volunteering With Her Favorite Horse, Oreo.

Volunteering

AT KEMMERER VILLAGE

Bonnie is a volunteer at Kemmerer Village working with Equine Therapist Amber Miller. Bonnie has been volunteering with the program for two years. She became familiar with horses volunteering with her church mission team. After a short time working in the Equine Program, Bonnie has taken a leadership role. She shares her knowledge and experience of horses with the children at Kemmerer Village. The youth participate in an early morning work program caring for the horses. They also assist as side walkers in the community program Horses and Heroes which takes place in the spring and fall at the Kemmerer Village arena. Bonnie helps the Kemmerer Village youth build knowledge performing activities with the horses such as handling the horses: how to lead the horse, back the horse up and have the horse stand at the mounting block. These skills are necessary for Kemmerer youth to acquire while assisting as side walkers for the community service program Horses and Heroes. Bonnie coaches the residents and helps build their confidence on how to interact with the young riders with disabilities who benefit from this program. The side walkers are taught how to reassure and encourage the riders.

When asked what horse is her favorite Bonnie responded "that would be Oreo, who Kemmerer Village won in the second Facebook Gypsy voting contest. She is my favorite because she is so sweet, I mean after all she is an Oreo." Bonnie's time volunteering has improved her people skills, as well as leadership abilities and communication skills. Bonnie added to her working and volunteering schedule by taking a college course, hopefully to continue in an area related to the experience she has acquired at Kemmerer Village. For now Bonnie continues to volunteer with Kemmerer Village Equine Program.

Volunteering at Kemmerer Village -- *Horses and Heroes Sessions Begins in March 19, 2019*

If you are interested in volunteering with this program or visiting during a session feel free to contact Amber Miller at amber.miller@kv.christian.k12.il.us or call Casey Dance in the Development Office (217)226-2130. We look forward to hearing from you.

TEAMWORK CREATES WINNERS



Sports are a year round win for the children of Kemmerer Village. With an emphasis on work ethic and teamwork, these children are gaining life skills setting them up for success. Sportsmanship is a top priority for our children as they learn to work together, encourage and support each other during practices by building each other up. Volleyball season is September through November. The volleyball season was a great success for the Kemmerer Village Knights! This season, 11 volleyball games brought great joy to our youth.

The season culminates in the Illinois Interagency Athletic Association State Tournaments, held at the University of Illinois Activities and Recreation Center (ARC). Twelve agencies from all over Illinois were present at the tournament. The Kemmerer Village Knights played hard, pouring their hearts and souls into the game, and it was worth it. They walked away with a 1st place trophy and the coveted Sportsmanship award. Basketball season is another slam dunk for our kids. The season runs from December through March. This successful season had 20 games. The Knights travel far and wide to play children from other agencies, visiting places including Decatur, Champaign, and St. Louis. Many of our children have never been on a sports team; the camaraderie that is formed when travelling and playing together is a great experience. We are incredibly proud of our young people for their hard work and dedication and thankful for the important life skills taught to them by our Recreation staff. Go Knights!!



General Mills Box Tops Provide \$32,000 to Kemmerer Village!

Supporters of Kemmerer Village have been sending us box tops for years, and they really add up! Funds from Box Tops have purchased items including: Library books, school decorations, incentive trips such as movies and bowling, school store items such as candy, blankets, basketballs, and PE equipment.

Find Box Tops on items you are already using including: Ziploc, Paper Mate, Nature Valley, Hefty, Green Giant, Yoplait, Reynolds, Cheerios, Wheaties and many more listed at <https://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/participating-products>.

Please clip your box tops and mail them to:

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

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

September 21, 2018 to January 31, 2019

Mrs. Beth Bachtold

Mr. and Mrs. Gene A. Bork

Mrs. Betsy A. Hauser

Christmas
Mrs. Marilee Shore

Mrs. Betsy A. Hauser

Christmas
Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Huey, III

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Christmas
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Christmas

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Christmas
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Mrs. Diane Truckenbrod

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Jean & Earl Heck's Grandchildren

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Charnisky

Ms. Katie Svetlik-Christmas

Honors (cont.)

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KV Leadership and Staff
 Ms. Mary L. Cleverdon
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 Mrs. Diane Truckenbrod
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 70th Anniversary
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 Miss Melva F. Gage
The Children
 Mr. and Mrs. David Shelton
The Shively's
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September 21, 2018 to January 31, 2019

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 Mr. Charles R. Casey
Mr. Albert Kapik
 Mrs. Ruth W. Kapik
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 Ms. Cathy Cragoe
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 Mrs. Margaret A. Richardson
Mr. Henry W. Kaufman
 Mrs. Ola Kaufman
Ms. Ione McCandlish

Memorials (cont.)

September 21, 2018 to January 31, 2019

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Mrs. Marilyn Mayhall
- Mrs. Jean Grundy**
Mr. Daniel A. Grundy
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- Mr. Jerry Bates**
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Mrs. Helen M. McWard



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www.kemmerervillage.org

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from our website

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

A mission of the Presbyterian Church USA

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Happy Birthday!

Please consider sending a Birthday card and a prayer for our youth having Birthdays. All mail to students is monitored, but they love to receive cards!

GIRLS

Alyssa L
3/6/2004

Haley C
6/27/2003

Taylor L
4/17/2006

Abigayle R
6/28/2006

Alana S
4/19/2005

Jayla M
7/13/2001

BOYS

Demarius I
4/25/2006

Christopher B
6/10/2006

Nathan L
5/1/2002

Jackson S
6/26/2004

Ronnie R
5/10/2006

James P
7/23/2004

Trent P
5/20/2005



Thank you

to the
**Benevolent and Protective
Order of the Elks**
for helping fund Horses &
Heroes again this year!