Summer Fun

It has been a busy summer for many Village Northwest Unlimited residents with trips and activities throughout the community and surrounding areas.

Motorheads Tour of Ziegler Caterpillar
The Motorheads group got an up close and personal view of Ziegler Caterpillar facilities. They were able to experience many aspects of Ziegler and CAT, and were able to be hands-on with huge equipment including loaders, combines, lifts, and chains. They also had an opportunity to observe mechanics at work in the shop. The group was impressed with how extremely clean and neat the shop areas were.

1st Annual “Panthers in the Park” Softball Scrimmage
The Panthers scrimmaged against The Dingers, a team of local high school softball players. The stands were filled with people cheering for both teams. After the game, Les Van Engen led the crowd in the “Panther Cheer.”

MN Vikings Training Camp
Staff and 11 residents took a road trip to Mankato, MN for a day at the Minnesota Vikings Training Camp. They watched the Vikings practice and were able to meet and get autographs from linebacker Audi Cole, tackle Matt Kalil, and tight end Kyle Rudolph. It was awesome that the players stopped and took time to sign autographs and visit with our residents about football.

Van Ess Dairy
It is interesting to see where your food comes from. Van Ess Dairy was a gracious host, allowing a group to tour the dairy to see first-hand where milk and cheese get their start.

Sioux County & O’Brien County Fairs
Nothing says summer like a county fair. VNU residents attended both the O’Brien County Fair and the Sioux County Fair, taking in the displays and enjoying the livestock entries.

Commodity Giving Opportunity for Farmers
Fall means a number of things including cooler weather, football, fall colors and harvest. With harvest, we would like to share a special opportunity for farmers to give to Village Northwest Unlimited through a Commodity Gift Program.

If you are an operating, materially participating farmer (this would not apply for a crop-share landlord), a farm commodity presented to Village Northwest Unlimited as a gift may represent a special opportunity to both make a donation and reduce your taxes. The most common commodity gifts include grain and livestock.

The process is simple. When you sell the commodity, ask that the check be made payable directly to Village Northwest Unlimited. Then mail the check, along with your name as the donor, to Village Northwest Unlimited, 330 Village Circle, Sheldon, IA 51201. Upon receipt of the check, we will inform you that the transaction is complete. Please note that a charitable deduction is not to be claimed for this donation because the reduction in income fully accounts for the gift.

Your commodity gift will be used to enhance the programs and services provided at Village Northwest Unlimited, helping 180 individuals with a variety of disabilities to live fulfilling lives. This type of gift may also benefit you by reducing income tax obligation, reducing self-employment tax obligation, and offering a business deduction for production costs.

Thank you for considering a gift to VNU. If you have questions, contact your financial tax advisor or Lisa Johnson at 712.324.5405.
**Employment Spotlight**

Cheese, one of America’s favorite foods, is produced just nine miles east of Sheldon at Associated Milk Producers (AMPI) in Sanborn. To meet the demands of consumers, AMPI employs a reliable workforce. Jonathan Onnen is an important part of AMPI’s success.

Jonathan graduated from Florin High School in Sacramento, CA in 2012. In June 2013 he moved to Sheldon and in February 2014 began receiving services from the Village. Early on, Jonathan shared his desire to find community employment. His goal was to find work where he could be independent and earn money.

Jonathan began working at AMPI in April 2015. During his first two months, he tried two different positions - table salting and packaging. After 60 days, Jonathan’s progress and attendance were reviewed and AMPI extended an offer for full-time employment on their team.

Katie Schwebach, Jonathan’s Program Manager at the Village, said “He has come so far. He started at the workshop, was hired at Hy-Vee and has since been hired on full-time at AMPI where he is doing very well and is very successful!” She shared that Jonathan has a great sense of humor and can talk to just about anyone!

Jonathan certainly is proof that you can reach your goals if you work for them.

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**Construction Update….........Making Way for New Homes**

A cloud of smoke over the Village campus the morning of July 18, 2015 marked the beginning of Phase II of VNU’s plan to build six new ICF/ID homes on campus. The first two homes were occupied in June 2015.

The Sheldon Fire Company used the opportunity to burn House #350 as a training mission for their team in a joint effort with Village Northwest Unlimited. Crews were on site for approximately 4 hours.

Construction crews began work the next week to remove debris and perform dirt work in preparation for building the new homes.

These two homes will be constructed with the same design as the first two homes, accommodating six individuals per home. Construction is expected to be completed in June 2016.

Top Photo: Sheldon fire fighters protect trees while removing home #350 in a training exercise.

Bottom photo: You can see the footprint for one of the two homes under construction.

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**Egg Splatter Art**

The Music and Movement class and Imagine Room collaborated to make a masterpiece. Eggs were carefully opened on one end and rinsed clean in order to be filled with bright colored paint. Individuals enjoyed the freedom of tossing the paint-filled eggs at a large canvas and were fascinated with the explosive results as the paint splattered. There was laughter and many “ooh’s” and “aah’s” as the colors blended together and ran on the canvas.

Below is a sample of the finished art.

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**2015 Independence Day Celebration**

**FAMILY TIME  MUSIC  FOOD  COTTON CANDY  FUNNEL CAKES  MEMORIES  ICE CREAM  COMMUNITY  PETTING ZOO  FIREWORKS**
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