



THE VILLAGE VOICE

VILLAGE NORTHWEST UNLIMITED • SHELDON, IA • PHONE (712) 324-4873 • WWW.VILLAGENORTHWEST.ORG • VOLUME 103 • SUMMER 2012

A Place Where Hopes & Dreams Come True

Deb Doornenbal, Community Skills Manager at Village Northwest, was invited to present at the International Seminar on Special Education, March 26-29th, 2012 in Kursk, Russia. The entire experience was made possible during a vacation in Mexico. God was working through Deb as she met Tatyana in Mexico and began discussing her work and her passion for individuals with disabilities. Tatyana was in charge of the committee pulling this seminar together. Deb shared the following . . .

May All Your Dreams Come True

It is a great testament to Village Northwest and what we do. There's nothing quite as precious as looking at a newborn. We look and wonder- "What will they be doing in a month, a year, or even as an adult?" When a baby is born, the parents have hopes and dreams for that child. Hopes and dreams might change as the child grows and shows areas of strengths as well as preferences. And what about the mom and dad who have a child who is born with a disability? Yes!!! They have hopes and dreams as well. They want their child to be happy, to live an independent life, and for that life to have purpose.

Village Northwest Unlimited is home to approximately 180 people with a variety of disabilities. The main purpose is "To assist people with disabilities in pursuing their hopes and dreams and providing purpose, privacy and dignity for all people." The Village is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ as found in Matthew 25:40. "In as much as you have done it unto the least of these brothers, you have done it unto me." The vision of the Village today is to build successful lives through opportunities and choices. People can choose where they live depending on their skill level. They can choose from a variety of jobs as well as activities. In the residential as well as work situations, skills are taught that will help them reach their potential. It is our desire that each individual there is the very best that they can be. During the day many different health and therapy services are offered including occupational, physical, speech and language therapy, education, psychological and counseling services. The work place also offers a large variety of jobs to meet the different skills each individual. Imagine someone being employed for the first time in their life and bringing home a paycheck. This adds to the purpose and dignity of their lives. The people we serve are encouraged to participate in activities in their communities. They attend the circus, go out to eat, to movies, vacation etc. and most anything you and I would like to do, they might like to do as well. Our job is to try to make those things possible. Although everything mentioned above is true, our job is much more important. It is our job to try to teach all people that it doesn't matter what your skill level is, how beautiful or intelligent you are or even how successful. People are valuable just because they are people. When we place judgments on who is valuable and who deserves our time and effort, we might be missing out on some amazing opportunities. I began working at the Village 36 years ago. I am a little ashamed to say that when I first started my thought was how much I could help and teach "Those people." I was only 16 years old and little did I know, "Those people" would teach me far more than I could ever teach them. I learned compassion and appreciation for the little things. I learned a lot about humor and how to look at situations with grace and dignity. I learned that it is important to value life and look into the heart. Once I learned to look inside the person and past the disability I was blessed beyond words. Many times I have wondered who I would be had I not started working at Village Northwest Unlimited at such a young age. The answer I come up with is- I will never know and I don't want to. I only know I am better because of it.

Deb felt God work through her in so many ways, but one message that stuck with her was made by one of the translators. "It would seem after seeing you for 3 days that Americans live and Russians survive." Deb challenged her generation to make that change and live with joy. A great challenge for all of us!



Pictured: Deb Doornenbal (far right) with leaders of the International Seminar on Special Education in Kursk, Russia

Independence Day Celebration Receives Facelift

Village Northwest Unlimited hosts an Independence Day Celebration each year in order to thank the residents of Sheldon and other local communities for their support. This year, the celebration has received a facelift in a few areas which will bring even more fun for all! Each year, the Village provides great food, fun entertainment, fire truck rides, carnival booths, a petting zoo, kiddie train rides, ice cream sundaes, water wars and a ferris wheel. Don't forget a HUGE fireworks display at dark!

This year, some key changes have taken place. The food booth will transform into a food court offering a great variety of food to satisfy the taste buds of all ages! Food will be provided by the following: Pizza Ranch – Offering a variety of Jumbo Pizza Slices as well as Cactus Bread; HyVee – Burger Barn (list offerings?), Taco in a Bag, Watermelon Slices, variety of Cookies; Kelly's Catering/Kelly's Drive Inn/Chit Chat Café – BBQ Pork Sandwiches, Chicken Strips, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw & Chips; Village Northwest Hydration Stations – Bottled Water, Regular and Diet Sodas, Lemonade & Village Northwest Koozies. Given the new set up, the tent area from previous years, will now offer a shaded seating area for guests.

Entertainment takes on a new face as well. Starting at 6pm, the Village will be hosting a qualifying event for Bill Riley Talent Search Contest. People from various age groups will be competing to qualify and the winners from each category will advance to the Bill Riley Talent Search Contest at the Iowa State Fair. Following our local entertainment, student teams will compete in a Fear Factor competition. The Carnival and Games areas will be rearranged and will include some new activities. There will be a Bungee Run (where two people race – best 2 out of 3 wins), Velcro Wall (3 chances) and Dunk Tank.

Join in on the family fun! Bring your family, friends and lawn chairs to the Village campus for a great evening!



YOUR Generosity IS GREATLY Appreciated

The board, staff and families of the Village are so thankful for your gifts. Please remember us in your contributions. Please send donations to: Village Northwest Unlimited / 330 Village Circle / Sheldon, IA 51201. If you prefer to donate electronically, click the "Donate Now" button on our website (www.villagenorthwest.org) for further instructions.

Thank You!

Village Treasure Chest — New & Improved!

In March, Village Northwest Unlimited announced that a new Village Treasure Chest will be built in the lot west of Hy-Vee on Highway 18. On April 9, the groundbreaking took place and construction has begun on the new store which will open this fall. The current store has been crowded and the many volunteers and staff have voiced their concerns for quite some time...their voices have been heard. The new store will increase the size of the store from 6,822 square feet (with 6,000 square feet of sales floor space) to 10,400 square feet (with 7,400 square feet of sales floor space).

April 9, 2012



May 31, 2012

Rendering of New Treasure Chest Building



7th Annual Run, Walk & Roll - Success!

On Saturday, June 2, 2012, a record 341 individuals participated in the Village's 7th annual benefit Run, Walk & Roll. The event offered participants a chance to participate in a 5K or 10K race or a 1 mile walk/roll. With perfect weather, the record number of people saw 112 individuals run in the 5K race, 24 people in the 10K race, and 205 people in the 1 mile walk/roll. This year's event raised over \$40,000 from registrations, sponsorships and donations, all of which will be used to provide the quality services Village Northwest unlimited provides to the people it serves. The corporate sponsors for this year's event were Sanford Health, Sheldon HyVee, Ag Partners LLC, and the family of Maureen Freed, a past chairperson of the Village board. Individuals walking and running were also encouraged to raise funds in support of their participating in the event. Runners posted some impressive times: overall winners in the women's division were, 5K-Cindra Kamphoff of Mankato, MN, with a time of 19:59; and in the 10K-Shannon Schreurs, Sheldon, with a time of 44:09. Overall winners in the men's division were, 5K – Brian Gesink of Sioux Center, with a time of 16:47; and in the 10K – Caleb Bakker of Sanborn, with at time of 38:56. Following the awards ceremony, Sheldon native and renowned running expert, Cindra Kamphoff, shared her insights on how to be a stronger runner, focusing on the mental aspect of running. Cindra is a graduate of Sheldon High School with strong ties to the Village through her own experiences while working here during high school and college. She is a member of the US Olympic Committee Sport Psychology Registry and is working with several runners trying out for the Olympics.



VILLAGE PANTHER SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

June 9 Village Panthers (home) vs. Emmetsburg:
9am @ North diamond west of High School

June 23 Village Panthers vs. Emmetsburg (away)
TOURNAMENT GAME
(Rain date July 14): 9am @ Emmetsburg Field of Dreams

July 21 Village Panthers (home) vs. Emmetsburg:
9am @ Sheldon City Park diamonds

August 3-4
STATE TOURNAMENT:
TBD @ Des Moines, IA

September 21-23
NATIONAL TOURNAMENT:
TBD @ Oklahoma City, OK

Yum!

DELICIOUS, JUICY VINE-RIPENED TOMATOES!

For the best tasting tomatoes around, look for the Northwest Produce label! These superb vine-ripened tomatoes are exceptionally delicious. Northwest Produce tomatoes — available at a grocery store near you.



Upcoming EVENTS

July 3, 2012

Public Independence Day Celebration

On Village grounds, including food, entertainment for all ages, and fireworks! Bring your friends and your lawn chair.

July 16, 2012

VNU Benefit Golf Tournament

At Landsmeer Golf Club in Orange City. Register by calling Judy at 324-5416.

BUSINESS NEWS...where every purchase helps people with disabilities!



Fantasia was recently named the **BEST GIFT SHOP** in Northwest Iowa by the N'West Iowa Review! Their commitment and passion for truly "creating an experience worth remembering" at Fantasia is evident in the customers nominating them for this award.

What A Stitch is now offering its customers a new option for personalizing their wardrobe: heat transfer! With this addition, customers will now have multiple options to meet their needs and price points.



Non-Profit Organization
Permit No. 10
Presorted

Individuals meeting admission criteria will not be discriminated against based on race, national origin, gender, age, disability, creed, religion or Political affiliation.

◆ ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED ◆

Village Northwest Unlimited
330 Village Circle - Sheldon, IA 51201
Phone: (712) 324.4873
Fax: (712) 324.4877
www.villagenorthwest.org

