

“In this time of uncertainty with the COVID-19 outbreak our thoughts are with those who are affected by this virus and those who are caring for them. We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our own Direct Support Professionals and all of our staff who are caring for our residents. Each and every day they show compassion and selflessness as they provide Purpose, Privacy and Dignity to those we serve.”

- Ryan Haack, Director of Development



VILLAGE NORTHWEST UNLIMITED // SPRING 2020

VILLAGE VOICE



— FLORIDA VACATION —

Recently a group of residents had the opportunity of a lifetime to go on vacation to Florida! Their five day trip was packed full of different activities and memories that will last a lifetime. They went to a Manatee Park where manatees could be seen swimming in the water, watched two spring training baseball games and took a boat cruise where the group saw a rookery (a place where birds nest) and spent time on Hickory Island swimming and collecting shells. A nature preserve called, Six Mile Cypress Slough, allowed the group to walk two miles on a boardwalk through the preserve and learn about Florida’s natural habitats. The beautiful sunset on the beach every night was a favorite part of the trip for a few people. Of course, the group had to try a bunch of different foods and restaurants. A favorite part of the food options were all of the fresh seafood options Florida had to offer which we don’t always get here in Iowa. Everyone had an amazing time and we can’t wait to see what fun trip our staff think of next!



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villagenorthwest.org



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Village Northwest Unlimited
330 Village Circle
Sheldon, IA 51201



— RUN, WALK & ROLL —

JUNE 6, 2020 - START: 9AM

To guarantee a shirt, participants must register by May 25!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Age (on race day) _____

Male Female

5k 10k 1 mile Donation Only

Shirt Size (circle one):

Youth: S M L

Adult: S M L XL 2XL 3LX 4XL

Payment Method:

Check (payable to Village NW Unlimited)

VNU staff I am participating on behalf of:

**Send checks and completed entry form to:
Village Northwest Unlimited
330 Village Circle
Sheldon, IA 51201**

Team Name

In consideration of your acceptance of this entry, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, waive any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against individuals associated with this event, its agents, representatives, successors, and assigns for all injuries suffered by me in said event. I attest and verify that I have full knowledge of the risks involved in this event. I also agree to permit the use of photos taken at the event for publicity purposes.

Signature: _____

— WACKY WEDNESDAY —

We held our annual Wacky Wednesday talent show on January 29. This event is put on by the VNU Advisory Council, which is made up of residents and a few staff members. There was singing, dancing, acting and even an ice cream break! The VNU Leadership Cabinet did a skit which garnered a lot of laughs from the crowd. Other amazing acts that afternoon were a house performing the Chicken Dance and a group performing the YMCA. The afternoon ended with a wacky outfit contest and honestly, it was a very tough competition this year. We are already looking forward to next year's event!



— PANTHER PRIDE —

The Village Panther basketball team had a shorter season this year due to the State Special Olympic Tournament being cancelled. The team was able to scrimmage during halftime of games at Northwestern College, Morningside College and Sheldon High School throughout the season. At a tournament in Mondamin, IA the team brought home an impressive second place finish. Five Panther athletes competing in the Basketball Skills competition took home first place ribbons, qualifying them for the state competition which was later cancelled. As always, we are proud of the hard work our athletes put in to the season.



— CAPITAL CAMPAIGN —

The campaign which began in the 4th quarter of 2018, set out to replace a twelve bedroom residential home on our campus with two new six person homes. The original home was built in the 1970's and was nearing the end of its useful life. The campaign was seeking to raise \$3 million, \$2.5 million for the homes at \$1.25 million each, and \$500k towards our Legacy Endowment for Direct Support Professionals. The Endowment is designed to more fairly compensate Direct Support Professionals beyond the rates at which wages are reimbursed through the Medicaid system. The campaign is officially closed and a total of \$3,728,822.63 was raised, or 124% of our goal! The balance of the campaign funds raised will be designated to the Legacy Endowment. "The support for the individuals with disabilities we serve from supporters in Northwest Iowa and beyond is something really special. We can't possibly thank them enough for their continued love and support for those we serve." said Ryan Haack, Director of Development. We plan to break ground on the building project this spring and have the residential homes occupied by the spring of 2021. For updates on the new homes visit www.villagenorthwest.org.



— 40TH ANNIVERSARIES —

We recently celebrated 40th anniversaries for Deb Doornenbal and Jim Kleinwolterink, who both started their careers at VNU in 1980. Deb started in high school in what was then known as "High Hopes", a cottage that housed 16 individuals. Deb is now the Community Skills Supervisor at one of the VNU waiver homes. Deb shared, "Working with all the staff and individuals we serve has made me who I am today."

Jim began his career with VNU as a house counselor while he was in college. He is now a Community Living Consultant/ Advocate based out of East Oak Apartments. Jim shared, "I love working at the Village and anything that I have given to the Village has been returned over and over."

"We want to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Deb and Jim on their milestone 40th anniversary. Reaching this anniversary is a testament to the dedication they have to serving the residents of VNU. They serve as examples and role models to our staff for what it means to bring Purpose and Dignity to our residents. Jim and Deb have touched so many lives and because of them the people served at VNU have had extraordinary care." said Barry Whitsell, President & CEO