



— SPIRIT OF CARING —

The Linda K. De Groot/Village Northwest Unlimited Spirit of Caring Scholarship is a \$1,000 scholarship given to a graduating senior from Sheldon High School who will be entering into a career field that focuses on working with individuals with disabilities. The 2019 recipient of the scholarship is McKenzie Wagner. McKenzie will be attending the University of South Dakota this fall and will be studying Communications Sciences and Disorders on her path to becoming a Speech Pathologist. McKenzie is the daughter of Jay and Laura Wagner of Sheldon.

— SHS STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM —

Since 2009, VNU has partnered with Soles4Souls, a non-profit organization that strives to distribute shoes to those in need around the world. Through this partnership, VNU clients are presented with an opportunity to volunteer in the processing center pairing, banding, and sorting donations by condition. The shoes are then sent to a Soles4Souls distribution center to be distributed to those in need. In April, VNU partnered with Sheldon High School's Student Leadership Team to sponsor a community-wide shoe drive. At the end of the month, the student's goal of 1,500 donations was shattered with a staggering grand total of 4,008 pairs of shoes!



villagenorthwest.org

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VILLAGE NORTHWEST UNLIMITED // SUMMER 2019

VILLAGE VOICE

— MARIGOLD PLANTING —

One of the highlights on campus each year is the annual planting of the marigolds. This year, on an absolutely gorgeous spring day in May, approximately 7,500 marigolds were planted in less than one hour by a pretty terrific crew of around 150 staff and residents. Everyone had a great time beautifying our campus!



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After planting marigolds, Nelva relaxes in the shade of a flowering tree. A pink blossom, perfectly matching her shirt, fell from a tree and a staff member placed it in her hat.

All hands were on deck to plant marigolds around campus. A group walked ahead digging holes and everyone else followed with the flowers.

Maleah smiles while taking in the sun as she waits for a staff member to dig the holes for her tray of marigolds.

— RUN, WALK & ROLL —

On June 6th, 600 registered participants made their way to VNU's campus for the annual Run, Walk & Roll. This year's event expanded its list of attractions to include a bounce house and sno-cones for kids to enjoy while parents cheered on friends and neighbors as they crossed the finish line. For our residents, however, the Run, Walk & Roll is so much more than a family-friendly event. Residents count down the days until VNU's campus is overflowing with family, friends, supporters and athletes. Thank you to all of our participants for making this event a great one, because it's not just a 5k or 10k, it's a race with a vision to remind us why we run, why we walk and why we roll.



— PANTHERS IN THE PARK —

VNU Panthers went head-to-head with the Dingers of Sheldon High School in a slow-pitch softball match up on June 20th. The event is a perfect opportunity for the Panthers to get in some real-time practice before they head off to Special Olympics competitions and games. This year marked the 5th annual Panthers in the Park event – a game that both teams look forward to each spring. After two innings of competitive play, athletes from the Panthers and the Dingers intermixed and played together – the coaches and umpires even got an at-bat or two! At the end of the game, VNU's Austin led everyone in the bleachers and on the field in the infamous "Panther Cheer".



— HAIL TO THE CHIEFS FAN —

Typically at VNU you hear a lot of SKOL chants echoing throughout campus. That is absolutely not what you will hear coming from Eric's room. In fact, quite the opposite for someone who just might be the biggest chief's fan at VNU (if not the greater Sheldon area). Recently, Eric was finishing a very creative arts project. (To nobody's surprise, it was Chiefs themed). We thought something like that should be shared with his favorite team. We sent a picture of it to the Chief's organization. To Eric's surprise, he received a return gift (sunglasses) along with a hand written note from the Chiefs. We are proud of you Eric (even those of us who are Vikings fans).



— UP, UP AND AWAY —

Three clients recently had the opportunity of a lifetime – fly in a Piperlance single-engine six-seat airplane. After a tour of the Sioux Center Regional Airport, the guys boarded and prepared for takeoff. The aircraft circled over VNU's campus and travelled over the Iowa Great Lakes. On the way back, Pilot Andrew Schreier gave Roger an offer he couldn't refuse: a chance to fly the plane! Given Schreier's history as a professional flight instructor, he had no qualms about letting him take the yoke: "Any time I'm taking people on a flight, I always offer. It doesn't bother me at all, and I know that many people will only have this opportunity once in their lives."



This issue of the Village Voice is dedicated to our good friend and former staff member Bernie Van't Hul.

"We are forever grateful for Bernie's 22 years of service to Village Northwest Unlimited as Director of Advancement. Bernie's legacy of service to others left a permanent stamp on the institution that he loved."

-Ryan Haack, Director of Development

