

VILLAGE PANTHER BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

- December 6-Panther Scrimmage at Northwestern College
- January 12-Panther Scrimmage at Sheldon High School VS. MOC-halftime of the girls game
- January 17-Panther Scrimmage at Dordt University
- January 20-BBall Skills @ Dordt University
- January 23-Panther Scrimmage at Sheldon High School VS. Sioux Center-halftime of the girls game
- February 3-District Basketball Tournament

COME CHEER ON OUR PANTHERS!



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VILLAGE NORTHWEST UNLIMITED // Fall 2023

VILLAGE VOICE



VNU Gets Involved in Parades

Village Northwest Unlimited was able to participate in two parades. The Sheldon Celebration Days and Sheldon Homecoming Parade was another way to get our residents out in the community. We love being able to participate in community events and decorate our golf carts to support the Orabs. Not only do we have staff participate in the event, but many of our residents love attending these parades. We appreciate the staff and residents who take the time to participate in these events and represent VNU.



2022 Top Workplace Continues to Show Appreciation

In 2022, Village Northwest Unlimited was named a Top Workplace by the Des Moines Register. VNU received this award based on surveys completed by our staff. The results showed that VNU does an excellent job in enhancing workplace culture and showing staff members they are valued and appreciated. While receiving the award is an affirmation of the culture we have at VNU it challenges us to find new and creative ways to express our ongoing commitment to demonstrating to staff how much we value them. In 2023, VNU leadership organized various staff appreciation events. The first appreciation event held in early January involved a spaghetti “meal in a bag dinner.” The meal in a bag included a jar of traditional spaghetti sauce, a box of noodles, a loaf of Italian bread, fudge brownie mix, and a bottle of sparkling grape juice. In February, the leadership team invited Dad’s Belgian Waffles to make a free lunch for staff, along with this lunch staff received a \$100 Hy-Vee gift card. In May, Taco Torress was welcomed on campus for a day and staff could get a lunch voucher. In the summer, staff were treated to another free meal in a bag along with receiving a VNU Panther t-shirt. This meal in a bag included brats, a package of buns, a can of pork and beans, and a party size bag of Ruffles potato chips. In September for Direct Support Professionals Week, staff had the opportunity to pick up another meal in a bag. This included a box of pancake mix, a bottle of syrup, and two boxes of sausage patties or links. In addition to this meal in a bag, staff were presented with either \$20 in Sheldon Chamber dollars or a \$20 gift card to Breu Haus. The meal in a bags were a great opportunity for our leadership team to say thank you to the staff of VNU and provide a sit down meal opportunity for staff and their family.

The meal in a bags, gift cards, and t-shirts were not the only staff appreciation events the leadership team did for VNU staff. In June, VNU leadership announced they would reimburse up to \$150 for a pair of athletic shoes for staff. Staff could purchase a pair of shoes and bring the receipt in and be reimbursed on their next paycheck. Many of our staff spend a great amount of time on their feet during their workdays and in this way, VNU wanted to provide quality, supportive work shoes to make staff as comfortable as possible during their workday.

The final way in which our staff will be shown appreciation this year is in November. During this month, VNU made a distribution from the Legacy Endowment for Direct Support Professionals. This endowment was created in 2008 to enhance the compensation of Village staff since Medicaid reimbursement severely limits our ability to more fairly compensate staff. The earnings from this fund are distributed to our staff periodically and this year full-time staff received \$2,000 from the fund. A total of over \$380,000 was distributed to staff. Barry Whitsell, President and CEO said, “This distribution from our Legacy Endowment was a great way to wrap up 2023. By being able to distribute these funds from our Legacy Endowment and coupled with the other events we held in 2023 we can demonstrate to our VNU team our commitment and thankfulness for each of them and the incredible work they perform each day”.



HCBS Summer Day Program Activities

This summer has been a busy summer at the Summit! Each month we offer a wide variety of great curriculum that includes volunteer opportunities, health & wellness classes, craft classes, healthy food classes, spiritual classes as well as all kinds of day outings and activities. Each month the people we work with can choose what outings and activities they want to be involved with. They work with their Service Coordinator and monthly have over 80 different classes to choose from. Along with all the fun activities we have we also work on social skills and the importance of being involved in our community. All these curriculums have been written by our staff with input from the people we serve. If there is something we enjoy doing we want to be able to offer that same opportunity to the people we serve. Life is all about having new experiences, new opportunities and being actively involved in your community. We work hard at the Summit to make that happen every day!

