

PANTHERS IN THE PARK

The Village Panthers softball team played the Sheldon high school girls softball team on July 14th. This was a friendly game where both teams enjoyed being goofy while spending time playing a sport they love. For the first thirty minutes the teams played against each other but still cheered each other on. The second half, the teams were mixed up. Throughout the entire game the players laughed, gave high fives and fist bumps. The laughter started in the fields and spread throughout the stands. The Panthers in thePark event is something that players and staff at the Village look forward to every year. The Panthers gave each of the high school girls a personalized t-shirt to commemorate the night. To finish off the night, VNU purchased ice cream treats for all the players and spectators.



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VILLAGE NORTHWEST UNLIMITED // Summer 2022

VILLAGE VOICE



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

It was a beautiful night to host our annual Independence Day Celebration on July 1st. We welcomed the Hepperly Band to campus, they sang an array of crowd favorites all night long. Santa took a few hours off of his summer vacation to stop by and take pictures with kids, he was a big hit. Along with outdoor live music, there was inflatables, carnival games, horse drawn wagon rides, a petting zoo, fire truck rides and life sized games. Noodle House, Hy-Vee, Pizza Ranch, Sweet Treats by K&B and Brady's Pub Mobile served up delicious food all night. The highlight of the night is always the large fireworks display. The fireworks can be seen from miles away.

We are excited to announce that the outdoor musical entertainment for 2023 will be Big Time Grain Company of Kansas. The band consists of two brothers who will be playing all of your favorite country hits.

- Independence Day
- Run, Walk & Roll
- Golf Benefit
- Judy Dykstra
- Spirit of Caring
- Panthers in the Park



RUN, WALK & ROLL

On Saturday, June 4, 2022, Village Northwest Unlimited hosted the 17th Annual Run, Walk & Roll event on its campus. The event had 483 participants this year. In the one-mile walk or roll, there were 318 participants and 165 people participated in the 5K and 10K run.

The Run, Walk & Roll is one of the Village’s major fundraising events and is a wonderful opportunity for the community to come out and support individuals with disabilities. In total, this year’s event raised just under \$72,000. All proceeds raised from the Run, Walk & Roll provide services and program opportunities to the individuals served at the VNU.



BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

On July 18th, the 21st Annual Benefit Golf Tournament was held at Landsmeer Golf Club in Orange City, Iowa. With 144 golfers, it was another big tournament. We are continually amazed by the support of the community, over \$65,000 was raised by our incredible sponsors and participants. All contributions from this event go directly towards bettering the lives of the 180 adults with disabilities served at VNU.

All Men’s 1st Flight– Score of 59
Trevor Gottula, Zach Sawyer, Curt Strouth, Josh Osborn

All Men’s 2nd Flight– Score of 65
Dominic Seivert, Nathan Van Gorp, Randy Fonkert, Brad Kramer

Mixed Flight– Score of 60
Doug Post, Art Attema, Colin Attema, Chloe Attema

All Women’s Flight– Score of 72
Maycee Smith, Jaynee Rushton, Brenda Beenken, Alivia Grothaus



45 YEARS OF SERVICE

Judy Dykstra was first employed at the Village to complete an internship for her senior year of college. At 22 years-old, Judy did not think her senior year internship would turn into 45 years of employment at VNU. After graduating, Judy began working full-time for VNU. She has done direct care along with her Monday through Friday job of completing various reports from financial to staffing and also working with social security. Along with her “normal” job at the Village, Judy also helped with the Village Singers for 35 years. The Village Singers was a program the staff and residents participated in. She said, “Watching the residents sing was so special, it gave them such purpose and pride.” The Village Singers would travel around to various churches and nursing homes to perform. Over Judy’s 45 years of employment, Village Northwest Unlimited changed. Judy started when only two houses were on campus. She has been able to witness the expansion of not only houses, but program curriculum as well. “It has been amazing to see the Village be able to expand but still meet each residents’ individual needs.” Judy said. Judy also talked about the improvements to the new houses resulting in bigger rooms for residents and more individualized care. We can’t thank Judy enough for all that she has done in her 45 years at VNU!



2022 SPIRIT OF CARING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Village Northwest Unlimited is proud to announce the 2022 recipient of the Linda K. De Groot/Village Northwest Unlimited Spirit of Caring Scholarship is Alexis Full from Sheldon High School. Alexis will be attending Northwest Iowa Community College to study nursing. Alexis was chosen from applications received from Sheldon High School seniors. Alexis is the daughter of James and Jessica Justi.

The Linda K. De Groot/Village Northwest Unlimited Spirit of Caring Scholarship is a \$1,000 scholarship given to a qualifying senior graduating from Sheldon High School who will be entering into a career field that focuses on working with individuals who have disabilities. Linda was the Director of Public Relations and Business Development at Village Northwest Unlimited and was a valuable employee of the Village for over 20 years. She lost her battle with cancer on October 15, 2006. This scholarship provides an opportunity to honor and sustain the legacy of caring that Linda exemplified every day and encourage young people to pursue a career that makes a difference in the life of a person with a disability.

