

## — STEWARDSHIP DAY —

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”  
 -1 Peter 4:10

On October 23rd a group of students from Western Christian High School spent their Stewardship Day in the Wansink Center. The high school students volunteered in three different classrooms playing board games, doing art projects and interacting with VNU residents. It was a relaxing and fun day for not just the students and residents, but the VNU staff as well. The students ate lunch on campus alongside residents and staff. VNU looks forward to the next time they stop by. A couple students had some nice things to say about their day:

“I loved playing games with the residents and connecting on a personal level.”

“Their joy was super contagious! Definitely worth the trip.”



VILLAGE NORTHWEST UNLIMITED // WINTER 2019 - 2020

# VILLAGE VOICE



## — HALL OF FAME —

Village Northwest Unlimited in Sheldon, IA is pleased to announce that Bob Stewart is among the 2019 inductees into the Special Olympics of Iowa (SOIA) Hall of Fame. Bob was inducted at a ceremony in Des Moines on Monday, December 2.

Bob has participated in a variety of sports, including basketball, volleyball, softball, bowling and bocce ball for nearly 35 years. Bob was known for his quickness, and in his last 50 meter dash at the age of 67, Bob was able to achieve a third place ribbon. Bob also demonstrated exceptional knowledge of basketball and was known for his ability to shoot, especially from 3-point range. In addition, Bob excelled at volleyball and had a tremendous ability to serve to any location on the court.

Both on and off the court, Bob embodies what being a Special Olympic athlete is all about. His kind heart and ability to be a role model has made him an incredible athlete and teammate. One of Bob’s coaches, Sara Wolthuizen, noted “Bob has set an amazing example for the rest of our athletes to follow. He is everything you want in a Special Olympics athlete and teammate. We could not be more proud of Bob and all of his accomplishments”.

Bob is the first VNU resident to be inducted into the Special Olympics of Iowa Hall of Fame.

Congratulations Bob on this incredible achievement!



### INSIDE THIS EDITION

- Hall of Fame
- Black Hills Trip
- Village Values
- Halloween
- 40th Anniversary
- Staff of the Year
- Stewardship Day



Village Northwest Unlimited  
 330 Village Circle  
 Sheldon, IA 51201

\*ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED\*



Phone: 712-324-4873 Fax: 712-324-4877  
 willagenorthwest.org

Non-Profit Organization  
 US Postage Paid  
 Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
 Permit No. 7972



## — BLACK HILLS VACATION —

Everybody needs a break from the daily grind and our residents are no exception! Several individuals in the group had not been on a vacation for some time so this was quite the treat! They decided that the Black Hills would be the perfect destination. The drive out west looked like your typical drive to the Black Hills. A stop at Wall Drug was a must, where they got their nickel cup of coffee, free water and one of those outstanding Wall Drug donuts! The group also stopped at the Nature Conservation Center in Wall. It was only fitting that while in the Black Hills the crew stayed in a massive cabin in the woods. Everybody loved all the different activities and attractions they went to including Bear Country, Mount Rushmore, Fort Hayes (where they attended a Chuck Wagon Supper), and last but not least, the Buffalo Round Up. Mag Vander Wilt joined the group for the trip out west and said, "When we saw those buffalo coming over that hill, the ground started vibrating from all those pounding hooves...it was quite a sight!" As the trip came to an end, the group decided they couldn't head home without taking an old western picture. So they made a quick stop at Professor Sam's 1800 Photo Shop in Keystone. This trip was a once in a lifetime for sure!



## — VILLAGE VALUES —

VNU is founded on principles and values that guide us as we love and serve others. We as a Village family support our Mission, Vision and Motivation with these Values. These values guide our day-to-day actions. It is our desire that each person we come in contact with will see these values reflected in everything we do. Our eight guiding values are:

Christian Atmosphere, Purpose for Everyone, Respect, Accountability, Integrity, Unity, Excellence, Dedication.

## — HALLOWEEN —

The week of Halloween is a big one around VNU's campus. This year we kicked off the festivities with a dance in the Wansink Center Gym. We packed the gym full and danced the afternoon away! Along with a big dance floor and a great DJ, residents enjoyed crafts, games, snacks and a photo booth. On October 31st our 7th Annual Fall Festival was held outside of the Summit building. Staff and residents all put their heads together to decorate the best pumpkin or scarecrow and entered them into a contest in an effort to win a number of different categories. One thing is for sure, VNU is full of incredibly talented individuals! We can't wait for next year!



## — 40TH ANNIVERSARY —

VNU celebrated Bob Riemersma's 40th anniversary this fall. Bob began his career with Village Northwest Unlimited on November 6, 1979, after spending four years in the Air Force. During his many years at VNU, Bob has spent time supervising various production areas within different buildings on VNU's campus. As part of the transition to Village 2.0, Bob has become a Community Program Instructor / Job Coach. In 2018 Bob was named VNU Outstanding Staff of the Year and in 2019 he was the recipient of the Iowa APSE (Association of People Supporting Employment First) Professional Award. Congratulations on 40 truly outstanding years at VNU Bob!



## — OUTSTANDING STAFF OF THE YEAR —

During the annual VNU Staff Christmas Party on December 5, Sara Wolthuizen was honored as the Outstanding Staff of the Year. Sara began her career at VNU on September 11, 1999, while still attending high school. She started as a Support Counselor in one of the campus homes. She continued to work at VNU while she attended Dordt College. In May of 2005, she graduated from Dordt with a Bachelor's of Social Work degree. Sara joined the Exercise and Sports Department (ESD) and became a Special Olympics coach and works in waiver homes as well as homes on campus. Sara lives out the VNU's mission of providing purpose, privacy and dignity, through the love and compassion she shows to all the individuals she serves. Sara works incredibly hard and is a huge part of the Village family. Congratulations Sara! Read more about Sara at [www.villagenorthwest.org](http://www.villagenorthwest.org).

