



# THE VILLAGE VOICE

Village Northwest Unlimited  
 Sheldon, Iowa | 712.324.4873  
 villagenorthwest.org

Fall 2016

## VNU Celebrates Opening of Campus Homes

On Monday, June 20, 2016, a second group of 12 residents moved into two new campus homes after Phase II of plans to construct six new Intermediate Care Facility (ICF/ID) homes was complete. Members of the Sheldon community joined the Village for a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house on Friday, June 17, in a public celebration of the completion of the new homes.

The Village strives to provide quality residential, vocational and therapeutic services and to work as a team to develop plans and goals specific to each individual to allow them to be independent in their everyday lives. The new homes are specially designed with each person's unique challenges in mind. "For the most part, the homes are exactly the same as those built in Phase 1," says Barry Whitsell, Village CEO. "Only minor changes were made after our experience with the first phase." The homes feature a spacious living room and kitchen to foster a family-type setting. Each resident bedroom has a private bathroom and is equipped with track lifts to aid staff while lifting and transferring residents.

The new homes meet not only the needs of individuals served, but also the state codes for the ICF/ID level of care. The smaller 6-person home size follows an industry trend of having care settings that are smaller and more home like. "When we started this project, we believed that moving to a 6-person home environment would be advantageous for those we serve," says Whitsell. "This has proven to be true with a more intimate setting and a warm home environment."

When visiting with a resident's mother about her thoughts on the new homes, her excitement was evident. "The new homes are so nice. The kitchen is laid out so there is more space for people to cook meals. We also appreciate that each resident has the privacy of their own bathroom."

Eric was a little more concise with his feedback when asked what he thinks of his new home. He says simply, "I like it."

When plans were originally announced in 2014, the board of directors approved a capital investment to launch a three-phase project to build six campus homes. Plans called for starting construction on phase 2 in 2017. Instead, we are ahead of schedule having completed phase 2 in June 2016.

## Summer Outings



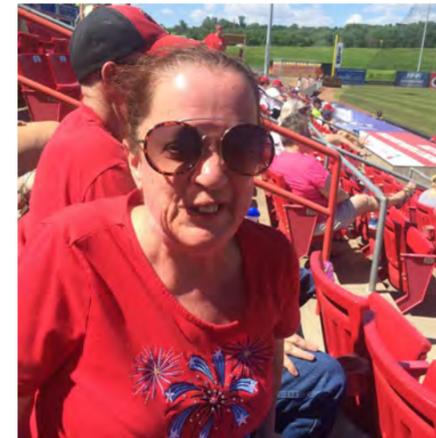
Omaha Zoo



9/11 Memorial — Battery Park, Sioux City



MN Vikings Training Camp



Sioux City Explorers Baseball Game



Northwest IA History Trip— Sheldon to Spirit Lake



Fishing at Mill Creek Park



Sioux County Fair



Plymouth County Fair

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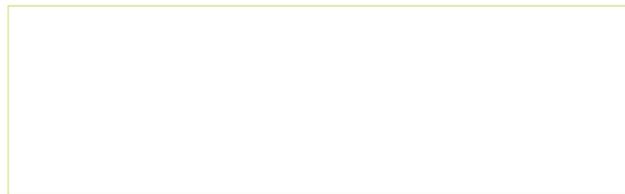
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Have you considered naming the Village in your will?



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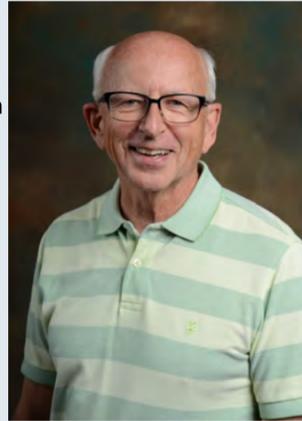
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## ●●● Phil Grove Retiring After 37 Years

After 37 years of service to Village Northwest Unlimited, we are saying goodbye to Phil Grove, Director of Admissions. Phil has been a cornerstone of the organization for many years and will be missed by staff and residents alike. Barry Whitsell, CEO, commenting on Phil's retirement stated, "No one individual at the Village epitomizes the Village mission of providing Purpose, Privacy and Dignity to all people more than Phil Grove. Phil exhibits everyday what it means to live the Village mission. He represents all the Village stands for. I am so grateful to have had the experience to work with and for Phil as he has taught all of us what it means to be a servant leader by his unselfish example and mentoring."



In preparation for his retirement, we asked Phil a few questions:

*Tell about a great memory of your time at VNU.*

"Although they were a lot of work, I really loved the 'Pick up and Go Days'. Each spring, groups of staff from the Center (Cabinet, Administrative Assistants and Program Staff) would each be assigned to plan an all-day outing for an ICF/ID home so the staff in that home could come in and spend the day spring housecleaning. It was a great opportunity to get better acquainted with staff and residents. On the assigned day, we'd pick up the residents of that home and go somewhere fun (thus, Pick Up & Go). Often those trips would be to Okoboji, but I also remember fun trips to Clear Lake, Worthington, and Spencer. We all gained an appreciation for the work that the house staff does on a daily basis and the work of the Rec Staff whenever they planned and carried out a Rec activity."

*What do you think was the greatest influence on the Village during your time here (technology, a person, etc.)?*

"We've been blessed with three great CEO's - Bob Hoogeveen, Jackie Kibbie-Williams and Barry Whitsell. Our founding CEO, Bob Hoogeveen, was the person who had the initial vision for the Village and the commitment, the energy, the faith, and the leadership ability to turn that vision into a reality. To this day, Bob remains committed to the Village and is a great ambassador for the work being done here to serve some of God's special people."

*What will you miss most about coming to work each day?*

"I will miss the daily contact with Village family members...the hugs; the laughs; the cheering when someone clears a hurdle in life's journey; the sharing of tears of sadness when a Village family member has completed their life on Earth, but also the sharing of tears of happiness knowing that the Good Lord has called the person to His Heavenly Home. I have been so blessed by having worked in this great Christian environment for the past (almost) 38 years."

*What is the thing you are most looking forward to about retirement?*

"My wife Pam and I spending more time with family, especially our five grandkids and their parents."

Thank you, Phil, for your dedication and service to Village Northwest Unlimited.

## ●●● Employment Spotlight: Shawn Todd

Shawn Todd is rarely seen without a smile on his face. A time you are sure to see a smile is when you ask him about his job at the Sheldon, IA Bomgaars store.

Shawn grew up in Correctionville, IA and went to school at River Valley High School. In June 2015, he moved to Sheldon and Village Northwest Unlimited. A few of the things that Shawn enjoys are watching movies, spending time with family and going out to eat.

In July 2015, Shawn began working at Bomgaars. Shawn's time at the store includes stocking and facing shelves, stocking pop machines, as well as custodial duties. He started at 12 hours/week and will be moving to 18 hours/week because of his performance and work ethic. When asked about his favorite part of his job he said, "I enjoy spending time with my co-workers and meeting new customers."



Katie Henderson, Shawn's program manager states that one of Shawn's strengths is that he is so friendly and easy to talk to. Katie says, "Shawn has become more confident in his job. Since he started, he has improved greatly in providing customer service at Bomgaars."

Shawn is an example of how Village Northwest Unlimited is able to help individuals grow and reach their employment goals in conjunction with local businesses. Support from our community by employers like Bomgaars is key to each individual's success.

## ●●● Benefit Golf Tournament

The 16th Annual Village Northwest Unlimited Benefit Golf Tournament was held on Monday, July 18, at Landsmeer Golf Club in Orange City, IA. There was a full slate of 144 golfers for the 4-person best-ball tournament.

Taking first place in the men's flight with a score of 56: Jim Poppema, Ryan Anema, Chris Yaw and Earl Woudstra.

Winning the men's second flight with a score of 66: Mark Waterstone, Chad Lyman, Ray Schnurr and Duey Van Veldhuizen.

Women's flight winners with a score of 70: Brooke Wittrock, Ashley Sandersfeld, Rylee Goosen and Heather Storey.

Winning the mixed flight with a score of 68: Dr. Scott Lichty, Susan Lichty, Karl Lichty and Benjamin Lichty.

The event would not be possible without our incredible group of sponsors. Key Sponsors of this year's tournament were: Perspective Insurance, The David Scott Foundation, Van Wyk, Inc., and Vetter Health Services. Premier Sponsors included: American Investment & Trust, Citizens State Bank, Darrell Burns – Edward Jones, DeKoter, Thole & Dawson, PLC, Den Hartog Industries, HTC Communications, Northwest Décor & Furniture, Northwestern Bank, Peoples Bank, Sanford Health – Sheldon, and Siouxland Fabricating, Inc. The Village would also like to thank all who provided the evening meal, registration gift, prizes for - flag events, lucky holes, refreshments, and tee sponsorships for the event.

Over the lifetime of the Village Northwest Unlimited golf benefit, more than \$376,000 has been raised in support of individuals with disabilities.



## ●●● Forget Rio...VNU Summer Olympics Set Records

Instead of having complete focus on the Rio 2016 Summer Olympic games, the Village diverted attention to the 1st VNU Summer Olympics. OK....so maybe it didn't overshadow Rio, but it certainly created some fun and great laughs on Monday, August 8, for both residents and staff. Competitions included shotput, javelin throw, discus throw, interpretive dance, wheelchair slalom race, 3-legged race and water relay.



## ●●● Independence Day Celebration a Success

Thousands joined Village Northwest Unlimited on Friday, July 1, for the annual Independence Day Celebration. Kelsey K provided outdoor stage entertainment with her country music and kicked off the fireworks display by singing the National Anthem. Families enjoyed inflatables, firetruck rides, carnival games, horse drawn wagon rides, a petting zoo, 9-square in the air and so much more. Of course, the fireworks display to close the evening was the major highlight of the celebration. It takes hundreds of volunteers and staff to make the celebration event possible. Thank you to all who participated including the volunteer fire departments of Sheldon, Matlock and Archer; the Sheldon EMA, and the Sheldon SCAT team.

