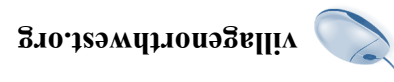
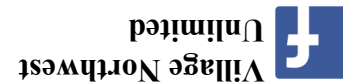




VILLAGE NORTHWEST UNLIMITED  
12TH ANNUAL BENEFIT  
**RUNWALKROLL**  
JUNE 3, 2017 - SHELDON, IA  
Start: 8am

Register for the  
Run, Walk & Roll  
Today!



Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Sheldon, IA 51201  
Permit No. 10  
Presorted

Village Northwest Unlimited  
330 Village Circle  
Sheldon, IA 51201



Phone: 712.324.4873 Fax: 712.324.4877  
villagenorthwest.org

\* ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED \*

Name  First  Middle Initial  Last

Address

Email

Phone

Age: (on race day)  ☐ Male ☐ Female

Event Entering: ☐ 5K ☐ 10K ☐ 1 mi. walk/roll

TO GUARANTEE A SHIRT YOU MUST REGISTER BY MAY 24!

Shirt Size: (circle one) S M L XL 2XL

Cost: \$25 by May 12, 2017 / \$30 between May 13-26 / \$35 after May 26

Amount enclosed: \$

In consideration of your acceptance of this entry, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against individuals associated with this event, its agents, representatives, successors, and assigns for all injuries suffered by me in said event. I attest and verify that I have full knowledge of the risks involved in this event, and I am physically fit and have trained to participate in this event. I also agree to permit the use of photos taken at the event for publicity purposes.

Date  Signature

Return payment and completed  
entry form to Samantha Waterstone  
at the VNU Wansink Center.

You can also register  
online at:  
AllSportCentral.com



THE  
**VILLAGEVOICE**  
Village Northwest Unlimited  
Sheldon, Iowa | 712.324.4873  
villagenorthwest.org  
Spring 2017

## Village Staff Achieve CESP Certification

Village Northwest Unlimited staff members, Emily Hoogland, Nic Wielenga, Sandy Buffington-Lloyd and Mag Vander Wilt have passed testing requirements to earn the Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP) designation. These individuals join a select group of people nationwide who have achieved this level of certification; as of January 2017 there were just 2,043 CESP's across the country as reported by the Association for People Supporting Employment First (APSE).

The CESP certification is for professionals who provide employment services to individuals with a variety of disabilities including intellectual, mental health, autism spectrum disorders and multiple physical and sensory disabilities. Job coaches, job developers, transition employment specialists, job placement personnel, and employment specialists/consultants can earn the designation of Certified Employment Support Professional by passing the national CESP examination. While some organizations will certify entire programs as being competent, the CESP goes deeper to certify the competency of staff members.



Pictured L to R: Nic Wielenga, Mag Vander Wilt, Sandy Buffington—Lloyd and Emily Hoogland.

As changes and new regulations are implemented nationwide regarding individuals with disabilities who are seeking competitive employment, Village Northwest Unlimited believes it necessary that our staff be certified at the highest level to ensure we are recognized as highly qualified to provide vocational services through Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation as well as being recognized as qualified by State funding sources.

"Emily, Nic, Sandy and Mag sat for and passed the national CESP exam, which is a reflection of their knowledge," says Justin Jonas, Village Northwest Unlimited Chief Financial Officer. "The care and direction they provide to our residents is the true testament to the type of employees we have providing services for our residents at the Village. By obtaining this certification, they will help us train and increase the number of individuals who achieve community employment, which provides a great sense of purpose and dignity to those we serve."

Through job development, Village representatives are able to work with area businesses to fill an existing job. Another alternative is a process referred to as job carving, where parts of a position are carved out to create a job that is specifically suited to an individual. The CESP certification is required in order for organizations like Village Northwest Unlimited to be reimbursed by state agencies for these services. After an individual is placed in a job, the Village provides job coaching to support individuals in learning their new position and help ensure a successful placement.

Village Northwest Unlimited is committed to assisting individuals who desire to work in the community to reach their employment goals. Our desire is to be a support for both employers and job seekers. The Village works to educate employers on the tax credits and other incentives available for hiring individuals through our services. The vocational team currently supports 43 individuals working competitively in Sheldon and surrounding communities and 55 individuals working in supported employment.



## ● ● ● MN Lions Clubs Drive Shoe Collection

In Minnesota Lions Club District 5M4, you'll be hard-pressed to find extra pairs of shoes in peoples' closets. That's because Lions Clubs across the district have been challenging each other to collect shoes for Village Northwest Unlimited and Soles4Souls. There's bragging rights and a home-made trophy on the line.

After hearing about Soles4Souls through a student-led project and presentation in the area, the Lions Club in Sauk Centre, MN decided to carry on the project. They have used their network of other Lions Club members in surrounding communities, some of which were already collecting shoes, to grow the project district-wide. There are 57 clubs in the 5M4 district and 27 are currently involved in collecting shoes. The Sauk Centre, MN club issued a challenge to the other clubs for shoe collection and the project grew from there.

"In our first year of collection, the Sauk Centre Lions Club won the competition collecting 1,600 pairs of shoes," said Rob Wiener, Sauk Centre Lions Club member. "That was in just a few months of collection because we got started later in the year."

Lions members in Sauk Centre meet twice each month and after their business meetings they hold a work time to sort and box the shoes they have collected. "It's not unusual to do hundreds of pairs of shoes at each meeting," member Dennis Zimmerman says. "We have collection boxes everywhere. They are in churches, grocery stores, schools and we even collect shoes from local thrift stores and garage sales during the summer months."

At the January 2017 Mid-Winter convention, Sauk Centre won the trophy a second time by collecting over 5,000 pairs of shoes. "As we were finishing up the year, we were going to be 30 pairs short of our goal of 5,000," said Rob Wiener. "Members started collecting shoes door to door and we were able to end the collection at 5,059 pairs." The group has set their goal for the January 2018 Mid-Winter convention at 7,000 pairs. "We want to keep that trophy," says Zimmerman.

After shoes are collected through drives like those held by the Lions Clubs, shoes are delivered to Village Northwest Unlimited in Sheldon, IA. The Village is a processing center partner with the national Soles4Souls organization. "Processing shoes for Soles4Souls provides work and training opportunity for residents of the Village, says Village President & CEO, Barry Whitsell. We are grateful for individuals and groups who hold shoe drives in support of Soles4Souls and the Village. Since we began the partnership, over 1,594,786 pairs of shoes have been processed by Village residents."

If you are interested in holding a shoe drive in your community, contact Dawn Alons at 712.324.5418 or [dawna@villagenorthwest.org](mailto:dawna@villagenorthwest.org) or visit [www.villagenorthwest.org](http://www.villagenorthwest.org) for more information.



**Members of the Sauk Centre Lions Club box shoes in support of Soles4Souls and Village Northwest Unlimited.**



**Tim, 2016 Chair Person, and Jamie, 2017 Chair Person, are leaders of the Sauk Centre Lions shoe drive efforts. They are pictured with the traveling trophy that Lions Clubs of Region 5M4 are competing to win with their shoe collection efforts.**



On January 13, 2017 the Motorheads Group traveled to Sioux City, IA to see the Monster Trucks at the Tyson Event Center. Over time, the Motorheads group has built a special relationship with the Monster Truck crew. They are invited to the Event Center prior to the weekend of shows. The group is able to access the floor where they can see the Monster Trucks up close and take pictures with the trucks. Motorheads group members are also able to meet the drivers and get autographs. This year, each group member received a t-shirt from their crew. The Motorheads are extremely thankful for the opportunity to see the trucks up close and get to know the drivers. We are already looking forward to 2018!

## ● ● ● Program Updates



**Leah Dykshorn (left) and Marla Lindley (right) attend the Anne Frank exhibit at Northwestern College.**

A group from the Village went to Northwestern College in Orange City, IA to see the Anne Frank exhibit on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. The international exhibition was developed by the Anne Frank House and is sponsored in North America by the Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect, the U.S. national organization in the family of Anne Frank organizations worldwide. The exhibit introduces visitors to the events leading up to World War II and depicts individuals who chose to join the Nazi party, those who were bystanders and those who resisted. (Resource: Northwestern College)

## ● ● ● Customer Service and Social Interactions are Focus of Autism Program



The Autism Program continues to grow in both numbers of individuals enrolled and in the programming and training opportunities available.

Participants may now enroll in an online customer service training program through Shepard Virtual Training. This customer service training provides training that is specific to professional social behavior. Its focus is on social skills that are needed for interacting with

customers and co-workers.

"As is the nature of adult services and autism, there is not a lot of research out there for organizations like ours to lean on," says Ryan Groeneweg. "The Shepard Virtual Training is an experimental program that we are testing at the Village to determine if it will be of benefit for individuals we serve."

The program consists of an online course paired with in-person instruction and discussion. The course includes practice and role-play of customer service interactions for participants to gain experience. There are currently 7 people enrolled.

Other expanded course offerings are implemented to help introduce and reinforce individual planning and organizational strategies. There are expectations within the program that individuals will learn to be responsible for their schedules. They are using daily planners as organizational tools to develop new habits.

"Generally speaking, individuals with autism do not have good time management skills," says Groeneweg. "Being able to practice this skill both in a vocational setting and a residential setting helps individuals change habits and improve these skills."

When the Village opened a 2<sup>nd</sup> community home in the Fall of 2016, enrollment in the program doubled. The second home is unique in that it includes a lower-level apartment. "This provides flexibility when a resident is ready to transition to increasingly more independent living," says Groeneweg. "This setting allows an individual to trial independent living while still having assistance nearby. Most of the individuals we work with in the Autism program desire to live on their own. Independent apartment living is a motivating factor for people."

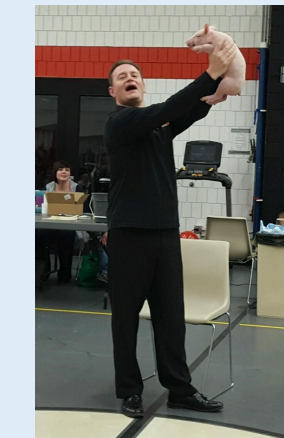
With two residential homes, we have different opportunities to work with individuals to increase their community awareness skills. "Generally, social planning and interaction is difficult for individuals with autism, which often leads to isolation," says Groeneweg. "Our program encourages residents to take turns planning joint social outings twice each month. They have coordinated movie nights, bowling outings, and attended a community meal together."

The Autism program continues to grow and develop. The Village is excited for this opportunity to provide purpose, privacy and dignity to a unique group of individuals. If you would like more information, contact us for more information.

## ● ● ● Pig Kissed as Part of Wacky Wednesday Event

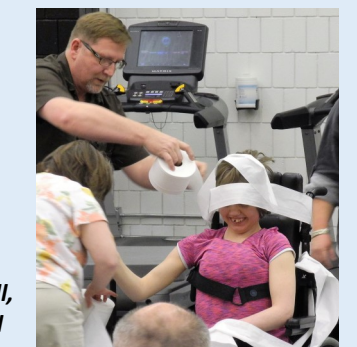
The VNU Advisory Council hosted a fun afternoon of entertainment during the annual Wacky Wednesday event. The program is held as a fundraiser for the Political Action Committee (PAC) of the Iowa Association of Community Providers which works to advocate for individuals with disabilities. This year's event was wacky from the start as it had to be moved to Thursday, January 26 because of our unpredictable Iowa winters.

Attendees saw some great singing and dancing, an electric wheelchair race, a shirt freeze contest, and even a human mummy. The event culminated with some pies in the face and with Village CEO Barry Whitsell, kissing a pig. What a fun day to help the Advisory Council raise funds for the Political Action Committee.



**Village CEO, Barry Whitsell, gets up close and personal with a pig (above).**

**Teammates help Leah Swanson (below) dress up as a human mummy.**



**Austin Buurman, Keith Krumm & Harvey Spettel volunteered to take a pie in the face to raise money for the Iowa Association of Community Providers Political Action Committee (IACP-PAC). Harvey Spettel is pictured here receiving his pie in the face (right).**



Important  
Dates

### **Save the Date - 2017**

June 3, 2017 - Run, Walk & Roll  
July 3, 2017 - Independence Day Celebration  
July 17, 2017 - Benefit Golf Outing