



2017 BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Wednesday, January 11, 2017
Panthers vs. Sioux City Knights
at Morningside College Sioux City, IA
Halftime of the women's game - 6:00 pm
Halftime of the men's game - 8:00 pm

Friday, January 27, 2017
At Sheldon High School
Halftime of girl's game - 6:15 pm

Saturday, January 28, 2017
Away vs. Sioux City Knights at 9 am at
North Middle School (2101 Outer Drive, Sioux City)

Saturday, February 4, 2017
West Region Basketball Tournament
(State Qualifying Tournament) at West
Harrison High School

Wednesday, February 8, 2017
At Northwestern College
Halftime of the women's game - 6:00 pm
Halftime of men's game - 8:00 pm

Volunteer at the Village

Your talents, energy and time can make a valuable contribution to our community by becoming a volunteer at The Village. There are many different opportunities available for everyone including:

- The Village Treasure Chest
- Literacy Tutoring/Reading to Individuals
- Imagine Art Room
- Greenhouse
- Leisure (playing games)
- Maintenance/Grounds Keeping
- Soles 4 Souls
- Residential Living

We invite you to become a volunteer at the Village to discover meaningful ways to make a difference in the lives of those we serve. Individuals that are interested in volunteering should contact Samantha Waterstone, Volunteer Coordinator, at 712-324-5416 or samanthaw@villagenorthwest.org



Save the Date - 2017

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



THE VILLAGE VOICE

Village Northwest Unlimited
Sheldon, Iowa | 712.324.4873
villagenorthwest.org

Winter 2016-2017

ANCHOR Employment Services Launched

In July 2016, Village Northwest Unlimited named the employment services portion of the Village to better represent the services offered to both job seekers and area employers. Anchor Employment Services is a division of Village Northwest Unlimited that is focused on community based, integrated employment options for individuals who receive services from Village Northwest Unlimited. Anchor seeks to find competitive jobs in the community and offer on-going support for those desiring to work. Anchor Employment Services will evaluate skills and interests of the job seeker that match the needs of community employers.



Services offered include: discovery of skills and interests; worksite assessments and job shadowing; job placement; job coaching; customized employment; and job follow up. Employers who are interested in more information should contact Emily Hoogland, Employment Specialist, at 712.324.2521 x4110 or emilyh@villagenorthwest.org.

Disability Employment Awareness Month Observed

For the 2nd consecutive year, the City of Sheldon, IA proclaimed October to be Disability Employment Awareness Month in Sheldon. The City Council unanimously approved the proclamation at their October Council meeting. The purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. VNU participated as part of a national campaign to create awareness and educate people and businesses about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. The national theme for the 2016 awareness campaign was 'Inclusion Works'.

Northwest Enterprises and Futures, vocational divisions of Village Northwest Unlimited, provide a supportive environment in which to teach vocational skills for adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. The Village provides a variety of work options and functional training opportunities to assist individuals in achieving maximum employment. The Village has partnerships with over 50 employers for either supported community employment, competitive employment, or work center contracts. With 42 individuals working in competitive employment placements and 53 individuals working in supported employment, the Village is meeting its goal of providing the dignity of meaningful work for those who desire it.

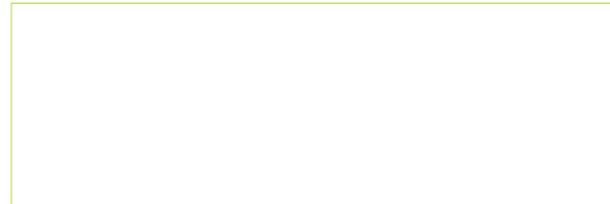
"The Village is proud to have been part of this year's National Disability Employment Awareness Month," said Barry Whitsell, CEO, Village Northwest Unlimited. "We want to spread the important message that we value the diverse perspectives, including those of individuals with disabilities. We work with local employers to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are given every opportunity for success through competitive, integrated employment opportunities."

Here's how [#InclusionWorks](https://twitter.com/InclusionWorks) at Village Northwest Unlimited:
42 Individuals are competitively employed in the community.
53 Individuals work in supported employment.
50 Businesses team with VNU to provide employment opportunities.



[@VNU_Iowa](https://twitter.com/VNU_Iowa) [Village Northwest](https://www.facebook.com/VillageNorthwest) villagenorthwest.org

Have you considered naming the Village in your will?



* ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED *
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Sheldon, IA 51201



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● ● ● “Outstanding Employees of the Year” Recognized

The 20th Annual Outstanding Employee of the Year Awards were presented November 30 and December 1 at Village Northwest Unlimited. This year’s recipients are Kim Bousema and Linda Van Meeteren. Staff members are nominated by their peers, and nominations are reviewed by a committee of former award recipients. Kim and Linda were each presented with a plaque and monetary gift by Barry Whitsell, President & CEO, and Brian Robyn, Director of Human Resources.

Kim Bousema's career with VNU began in 1987 after she graduated from Northwestern College in Orange City, IA. She was hired as a Senior Counselor at the original House 342. She continued in this role until 1992. Kim left her Senior Counselor position to work for Bethany Christian Services as a Pregnancy Counselor, which she had once considered her dream job. However, she returned to the Village in 1995 as a Program Manager at Northwest Enterprises. She has also recently began to serve as a Job Coach. In 2016, Kim was recognized for 25 years of service.

Kim demonstrates the Village’s mission of purpose, privacy and dignity by her commitment to improving the lives of the individuals served by helping them reach their goal of having a job in the community. She is an outstanding vocational advocate for the people she serves. Kim works with them to develop the skills they will need to be successful in their community jobs. She strives to offer choices which initiate the development of new skills for the residents, leading towards greater independence. Kim advocates with compassion and concern for the individuals she serves.

Linda Van Meeteren joined VNU in 1985 as a Cottage Counselor at House 366. She worked as a member of the overnight team for nearly a year until she became a day time counselor. At H366, she also served as Senior Counselor and Residential Advocate. In August 1990, Linda became a Program Manager at Futures. Today, Linda serves as the Director of Employment Services where she directs the vocational training staff to ensure an efficient, effective, and professional program. In 2016, Linda celebrated 31 years of service at VNU.

Linda demonstrates the Village’s mission of purpose, privacy and dignity by her constant commitment to seeking to do what is right for everyone at VNU. She is a strong advocate for both residents and staff. Linda believes in everyone’s purpose and exhibits interest in everyone. She provides the staff freedom to run with ideas to enhance the experience of the individuals served. She supports the residents in their pursuit of community employment and assists them to maintain their employment.

Congratulations Kim and Linda!



L to R: Barry Whitsell, CEO; Kim Bousema; Brian Robyn, Director of Human Resources



L to R: Barry Whitsell, CEO; Linda Van Meeteren; Brian Robyn, Director of Human Resources

● ● ● Getting and GIVING the Most From Your Assets

Do you own highly appreciated stock or other investments that, if sold, would result in a high tax bill? Are your CDs or other investments producing a lower return or less income than desired? If you are looking for ways to manage your investments, maximize their worth and minimize taxes, there are a number of charitable strategies that can help you achieve your goals. Here are three options to consider.

Outright gift - One of the easiest ways to lower taxes on an investment is to make a tax deductible gift of the asset to our organization.

Charitable Gift Annuity - CDs or other investments that produce little or no income can be exchanged for a charitable gift annuity that makes fixed payments for life.

Commodity Gift - If you are an operating, materially participating farmer (this would not apply for a crop-share landlord), a farm commodity such as grain or livestock, may represent an opportunity to both make a donation and reduce your taxes. When you sell the commodity ask that the check be made payable directly to Village Northwest Unlimited. A charitable deduction is not to be claimed for this donation because the reduction in income fully accounts for the gift.

For more information about how you could make a gift to Village Northwest Unlimited, contact Lisa Johnson, Director of Development, at 712.324.5405 or by email at ljohnson@villagenorthwest.org

● ● ● Special Olympics

Bowling - District Competition

On October 15, 2016, the Panthers bowling team took part in the Special Olympics District Bowling Tournament. Results are as follows:

First Place: Nicole A, Janet G, Keith K, Chris S, Scott W.

Their first place finish allows them to compete at the State competition on Saturday November 19, 2016 in Sioux City, Iowa.

Second Place: Aaron A, Randy B, Kevin C, John C, Brad F, Bob S, Mary S

Third Place: Brittany B, Leah D, Jennifer F, Justin G, Marla L, Jordan M, Tim S, Les VE

Fourth Place: LaDel H, Matt P, Matt S, Teri VH, Mike M

Fifth Place: Charles W, John L

Sixth Place: Peggy S, Jerry D

Bowling - State Competition

On Saturday November 19, 2016 the Village Panthers bowling team state qualifiers competed in the Special Olympics State Bowling Tournament in Sioux City, IA. Nicole A and Keith K each took 1st place in their division. Scott W placed 2nd in his division. Chris S and Janet G each placed 4th.

Congratulations Panthers on a successful fall sports season!

Volleyball - State Tournament

The Panthers competed in the 2016 Special Olympics State Volleyball Tournament on Saturday, October 8, 2016 at Iowa State University in Ames, IA. Teams were classified across 10 divisions for state tournament competition. Assignment to specific divisions is based on individual and team assessments as provided by each team’s coaching staff at the start of the season. Coach’s assessments include individual volleyball skills such as serving and passing, as well as general game understanding. The Village Panthers had teams competing in Division 2 and Division 4B. In Division 2, the VNU Panthers finished in 1st place. In Division 4B, the Panthers brought home 3rd place.

“We played in Division 2 this year, which was a higher placement than we have played in the past,” said Deb Middle, Panthers coach. “Our serving was strong, which is always important. Everyone on the team contributed individually and they definitely had to work together as a team to find success.”

“The rules for Division 4B are a bit different,” says Middle. “There is a five point rule that we follow, as well as a modified serving area. After five unanswered points, the serve changes sides. That makes it very important that our team is able to return the serve and put the ball in play. The team worked well together and each athlete performed to the best of their ability.” Coach Deb Middle shared that the teams in the different divisions were competitively matched at this year’s state tournament which made for a more exciting experience for the teams. “I am very proud of the performance by the athletes of both teams,” says Middle.

Congratulations to the Panthers for a great Volleyball season!



Janet holds the Special Olympic flag during opening ceremonies of the State Bowling Competition.



Division 2 Team - First Place

Members of the VNU Panthers Division 2 Team: Scott Wheeler, Bob Stewart, Mike Kramer, Matt Kramer, Matt Peterson, John List, Jeff Engelkes and Charles White.



Division 4B Team - Third Place

Members of the VNU Panthers Division 4B Team: Keith Krumm, Shawn Todd, Austin Buurman, Les Van Engen, Justin Groen, Nicole Arens, Jessica Webb and Tim Steffens.