



Seeds of Love, Faith & Generosity



We are all about planting seeds at Kemmerer Village. We plant seeds of love, faith and generosity but also of carrots, radishes and peppers just to name a few. Even the most skeptical of teens can't hide the excitement when they see the seeds sprouting. One girl took great care in growing a zinnia in a pot in her cottage. She was ecstatic about the "gargantuan flower that came from such a small seed." The lessons last much longer than the fruits of their labor. Growing is all about learning good things come to those who work for it. Zig Ziglar said "You were designed for accomplishment, engineered for success, and endowed with seeds of greatness." With each bloom these kids are learning no matter what mud life throws at them, greatness can grow.

History with Kemmerer Village

By RL McNabb

My first connection with Kemmerer Orphanage was Christmas of 1945. My family lived in Tuscola and was active in the Presbyterian Church there. We always collected Christmas gifts for the children, and my father volunteered to deliver the food donated to Kemmerer. Being only the age of nine, I was quite impressed with the old main house, and especially the fire escape tubes which still stand today. Of course, the purpose of the place, being a home for so many kids also impressed me. Knowing someone named Mr. Kemmerer had the foresight and big heart to donate his house and farmland for such a worthy purpose was inspiring. Little did I know then Kemmerer would become one of the most important missions for my wife Marie and our family!

A few years later after moving and joining First Presbyterian Church Decatur, we considered Kemmerer as one of our "local" mission projects. However, it was not until after being married and moving to Monticello in 1959 that our family got better acquainted with their mission. Through our church family, Marie became active in the Kemmerer Auxiliary. When one of the "new" cottages was being dedicated in the late 1960's, the two of us and our three children went to see what has now become Kemmerer Village. We were all very impressed. It was no longer just an orphanage; it expanded to take care of even more children including more than those who lack parents able to care for them, but also children in need of assistance for mental and behavioral problems. Our daughter Kathy was even more impressed falling in love with the horses, and the fact the kids had their own school on campus. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)



Kemmerer Voices

Michael A. Havera Editor
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Kemmerer Village is a Mission Agency of the
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History with Kemmerer Village (cont.)

Our church also listed Kemmerer as one of our “local” mission projects, but it was many years before Marie and I became deeply dedicated to the cause. Marie was the Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois for 15 years starting in 1991. When in that position, she was first elected to the Kemmerer Village Board of Directors serving until 2016, the rest of her life. During that time, she served at least one term as President of the Board, and participated in the planning, fundraising, and the dedication of the new administrative building. I stood by her side for the dedication service visiting the campus mainly as it is today. Occasionally, I would take a day off from work before I retired to drive with Marie and read a book in the lobby during her meetings. It was during those times that I became acquainted with many of the Board Members and some of the staff, including Mike Havera and Ron Little.

I served as Chair of the Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry and worked with Ron filling the position of Kemmerer Chaplin. After several years of being there in the lobby, someone suggested that maybe I should also become a member of the Board of Directors – after some thought and prayer, I applied and was elected about 10 years ago. After serving on the Finance Committee and as Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, I was elected Treasurer, member of the Executive Committee, Vice President, and then President for the last two years.

I must say that serving as President for the Kemmerer Village Board of Directors and Chair of the Executive Committee has been an experience that I will never forget. I have become better acquainted with more staff and Board Members and can truthfully state that they are a very dedicated group of Christian individuals serving the best organization of its kind anywhere! Marie and I were so moved by what we witnessed that we set up a scholarship fund for the children to provide for their educational needs after high school. Currently, we have a full board of 19 active members. They are serving with much dedication, experience, and effort assisting with the direction and supporting the wonderful staff making Kemmerer what it is for those unfortunately in need of assistance. In September, we will lose two or three of these dedicated Board Members, and I sincerely hope and trust that we will find others to step forward and become new Board Members. Due to the State agencies not providing any increase in their funding for the last 17 years, we have been using some of our financial reserves in order to continue the services we provide to our clients. Kemmerer is very fortunate to have a lot of supporters, both churches and individual donors that graciously continue to support this fine organization. I am confident with prayer and discernment they will keep Kemmerer Village going long after we celebrate 105 years with an open house in October. I thank the Lord for physically making it possible and all the great people associated with Kemmerer for the opportunity the last two years to serve as President of the Board of Directors and will continue to be a member of the Board of Directors as long as I am able and elected to serve.

In Retrospect.... Looking Back

It was in 1884 that an Assumption area farmer and his wife sat down and wrote out their own will—their gift to the children of the future!

Their dream was that their 400-acre farm and assets were to be given to the Presbyterian Churches of Central Illinois to create a home “for the orphans and friendless poor of all denominations.”

Philip and Sarah Kemmerer were Assumption area farmers, also members of the Presbyterian Church. Philip was a native of Fairfield County, OH and Sarah grew up in Allentown, PA. They were married on January 13, 1876 in Allentown, PA. In 1914, nine years after the death of Philip Kemmerer, Kemmerer Orphans Home opened its doors to serve as a safe haven for the orphaned children of Illinois.

On October 6, 2019 we will be celebrating the 105th birthday of the dream of Philip and Sarah becoming a reality. How proud they must be with the success of Kemmerer Village and our mission. Their dream has changed the landscape of Central Illinois and beyond as well as the lives of the countless children that have called the Village home.

Our donors, volunteers and staff have all devoted so much to make our mission so successful. As we gear up for our 105th birthday celebration with an Open House on October 6, 2019 it is a good time to look back and say, “Thank you.”

May God Bless you all,
Michael A. Havera
Director of Financial Development
and Fundraising



From the Director's Desk

In this issue of the Kemmerer Voices we have articles highlighting some of the staff at Kemmerer Village, especially those with long years of experience with us. Persons who start and stay in this field do so because they have an affinity for, and commitment to improving the lives of the youth with whom they work. I am proud of the number of staff we have, across every program and department, whose service at Kemmerer Village exceeds several years. I am also encouraged by the good work and dedication that many of our newer staff show daily. The quality of services in the Residential and Foster Care programs that we provide to our youth and their families depends on the skill and caring of our staff. And while those staff who work directly with our youth and families are critical to helping change lives, it takes a great team of support staff to allow that work to take place. That is why Kemmerer Village is more than just our name.

Ron Little
Executive Director



Trained to Love

Dogs have been a popular pet and companion at Kemmerer Village for over 100 years. Since the early days of Kemmerer Orphan's Home in 1914, you could see dogs lounging on the front porch or frolicking with the children during playtime. However, during the last 10 years, dogs have taken on a more important role at Kemmerer Village... therapy!

Therapy dogs are trained to provide love, affection and comfort to people and children who need it. Many therapy dogs travel to hospitals, nursing homes and schools to help ease anxiety and depression. Thankfully, Kemmerer Village has had their own therapy dogs on staff for years, and we have two more in the making.

Joey, a lab mix that belonged to one of our therapists, was our first official therapy dog, snuggling with children during their sessions and helping them to express their emotions and troubles in a comfortable setting. Geri, a 5-year-old Rhodesian Ridgeback, has been working with our children for 4 years now. She is often seen cuddling in a chair with the children, performing tricks for them, going for a walk around campus or just romping and playing bringing smiles to their faces. We also receive visits from Collies Fibber and Molly, who visit the children and give them the opportunity to practice reading out loud. Fibber was recently named the 2019 Shining Star Ambassador by the Collie Club of America and is the first rescue dog to receive the title.

Currently, Kemmerer Village has two new "therapy puppies-in-training" who are learning the ropes and eagerly looking forward to playing with our children. Blue Boy is a 6-month-old Rhodesian Ridgeback who is working at the barn learning from his mentor Geri, and more formally from our equine therapist Amber Miller. Agnus, a 6-month-old English Bulldog, is training to work at the school, ready to provide a listening ear or a head to pat whenever she is needed. Kemmerer Village is blessed to have these wonderful animals on staff, bringing love, comfort and joy as they help us to treat the whole child.

Summer Enrichment



Every summer has a story, and the summer story of Kemmerer is one of action and adventure. The learning at Kemmerer never stops, but the special time of year between classes is called Summer Enrichment on campus. This time is filled with activities, field trips, games and life lessons. The plans are always geared around the interest of the youth at the time, and the goals that staff help to identify. This year the children of Kemmerer will be fishing and bike riding. They are going to a St. Louis Cardinal game, cooking, swimming and so much more! Thank you to everyone who donates making these memories happen for these children!



BONNIE ELAM

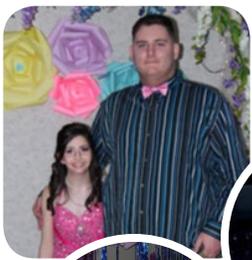
Home Services Supervisor celebrates
50 Year Anniversary
 at Kemmerer Village

If you have visited Kemmerer Village over the years, you have most likely had an opportunity to meet Bonnie Elam. She greets every new youth, staff and guest in her own gracious, kind way usually in the campus dining room. Bonnie and Jim Elam came to Kemmerer Village fifty years ago, 1969. Jim came to Kemmerer to oversee the Maintenance Department. Jim retired a few years ago and Bonnie has continued to work in her position as Home Services Supervisor. They lived on campus for several years due to Jim's position as Maintenance Supervisor along with their three children.

As Home Services Supervisor Bonnie's responsibilities include making sure the basics of running a home where on the average forty five children between the ages of 12 to 18 were being cared for. Making sure that the children and care takers received nourishing meals three times a day and seven days a week is a big job. With the help of a dedicated staff to help with the cooking, cleaning and laundry each child began the day with a good breakfast, clean clothes for school and a nice clean bed at night. Bonnie has managed to oversee these tasks and at times personally carry them out when needed.

Bonnie and Jim have many memories of interacting with Kemmerer Village youth throughout the years. Many of those times are shared during an annual reunion of former residents of Kemmerer Village. **This group will be meeting during the 105th Anniversary Open House on October 6, 2019.** Each individual connected to Kemmerer Village has helped make a difference in a child's life. Whether it is a staff, donor, board member, teacher or volunteer, each person has contributed something to the wellbeing of a child at Kemmerer Village.

Bonnie's dedication through the years has not gone unnoticed. The Kemmerer Village Board of Directors, staff; past and current residents congratulate her on her fifty years and sincerely thank her for her past and continuing service.



If Cinderella taught us anything, it's that a night getting all dressed up can change your life. Prom at Kemmerer Village is a rare opportunity for our kids to get dressed up, dance and live it up. This night was filled with magic that will live in the hearts of our youth forever. Thank you to all the staff and donors and churches who make this night possible.

Remembering a Good Friend & Ladies Auxiliary Founder

Pauline Hessemann

11/07/1915 - 01/22/2019

Pauline was a longtime friend of Kemmerer Village. She was one of the founding members of the Kemmerer Village Auxiliary and served as the Treasure for 20 years. Her husband Gilbert also was involved with Kemmerer Village serving on the Kemmerer Village Board of Directors. Gilbert passed in 2006. Pauline and Gil moved to Columbia, MO in their retirement. They had previously lived in Decatur, IL and were members of the First Presbyterian Church where Pauline served as President and Treasurer of the Presbyterian Women's Association, receiving a life membership. Pauline stayed in touch with the Kemmerer Auxiliary sending notes from time to time stating that she missed the meetings and please say hello to all. Pauline and Gil were wonderful friends to Kemmerer Village and we send our sincere condolences to their family and friends.

Pauline's influence at Kemmerer lives on in our Women's Auxiliary. It's a small group who are dedicated to helping the children of Kemmerer Village. The Auxiliary is involved in raising funds helping support our youth's activities. Funds are used to help purchase: barn shoes, duffel bags for travel, Christmas parties and summer activities just to name a few. The Auxiliary purchased the candlesticks and the beautiful communion set that is housed in the Campus Chapel where our young people attend church on Sunday afternoons. They fund these projects with the sale of their cookbooks, quilt raffles and generous donations from Presbyterian Women.

During each meeting students are invited to come and share their Village experiences and they often tell of their plans for the future. These students give us faces, not just facts, about the work of Kemmerer Village. We invite you to join us, meetings are held the first Wednesday of March, May, September and November. If you would like to receive information on the Auxiliary activities, please contact us. We would be happy to send you an update – (217)226-2132.



BUILDING *Families*

All paths at Kemmerer Village are on the journey to happy homes. Adoption is an amazing way to build these families offering another path fulfilling our mission. These happy boys are evidence of the good work taking place at Kemmerer Village as we continue building families.

In Memory & Honor of Those We Love

February 19, 2019 to June 7, 2019

There are occasions of joy and sorrow in the lives of our family and friends that call for a response from us. A Memorial Gift or an Honor Gift to Kemmerer Village is a way to express love and respect at appropriate times.

Your gift, large or small, is an investment in the lives of troubled children. These gifts help to provide for their day to day care: food, clothing, medical care, educational needs, and Christian ministry.

The name of the deceased or honored is in bold type; the donor names are listed below in regular type. Please notify us of any errors.

Honors

2019 KV Graduates

Mr. Robert McCracken

Mrs. Betsy A. Hauser - Birthday

Ms. Caroline J. Hotchkiss

Mrs. Betsy A. Hauser - Birthday

Mrs. Marilee Shore

Mrs. Betsy A. Hauser - Birthday

Judge and Mrs. Joseph S. Van Bokkelen

Mrs. Betsy A. Hauser - Birthday

Mr. and Mrs. James L. Huey

Mrs. Dorothy M. Andersen

Ms. Janet R. Andersen

Ms. Erika Frelander - Birthday

Mrs. Cheryl Crays

Mrs. Kat Bengtson

Mr. Donald C. Hudson

Mr. Kevin Green - College Graduation

Mr. Robert C. Green

Rev. Mary E. Jessup - Retirement

Mrs. Carolyn Stone

Mrs. Becky Thompson - Birthday

Mrs. Cheryl Crays

Ms. Susan Wells - Birthday

Mrs. Mary Gary

Memorials

All of our pets

Mr. and Mrs. James Rustemeyer, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Alva & Mary Stephens

Mrs. Mary Sue Divine

Ms. Anne Tanner

Mr. and Mrs. George Tanner

Mr. and Mrs. Art and Marge Wilcox

Mr. and Mrs. John B. Wilcox

Ms. Blanche Zettel

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel E. Bell

Mr. Brett McKim

Mrs. Rita Middagh

Mr. J. Leeds "Bud" Bower

Mrs. Gail Bower

Mr. Budd Wormley

Mr. and Mrs. David Duncan

Mr. Carlan Best

Mrs. Marilyn Best

Mrs. Cathy Montgomery Urish

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Montgomery

Mrs. Charlotte Tarter

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Charnisky

Mrs. Denise Gleason

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Gleason

Ms. Donna L. Bricker

Pastor Sandra Woodard

Mrs. Dorothy Cheesman

Mr. Roy Cheesman

Mrs. Dorothy Gniffke

Mr. Wayne L. Nelson

Mrs. Eleanor Bennett Crego

Mr. and Mrs. David F. Fathauer

Ms. Eleanor Donaldson

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Mrs. Grace D. Wojtowicz

Mr. and Mrs. Jerrold Wagner

Mrs. Haroldine Musch

Mr. Warren Musch

Mr. Henry M. Richardson

Mrs. Margaret A. Richardson

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Mrs. Marie Holladay

The Children of Marie Holladay

Mrs. Marjorie Ronketto

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Mrs. Marty Grohne

Mrs. Dolores Simon

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Mr. and Mrs. Bob Mitchell

Mrs. Pat Nohl

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Mr. Timothy Campbell

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Mrs. Vera M. Salisbury

Mr. and Mrs. Michael S. Smith

Mr. Wallace Brown

Mr. Douglas Brown

Mr. William E. Thomas

Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Thomas



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You can view & print the Kemmerer Voices from our website

105 Years of Making a Difference in the Lives of Children & Families!

A mission of the Presbyterian Church USA

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Please consider sending a Birthday card and a prayer for our youth having Birthdays. All mail to students is monitored, but they love to receive cards!

GIRLS

Sara G
6/8/2002

Abigaqle R
6/28/2006

Jaqla M
7/13/2001

Elise R
8/10/2001

Alexis W
8/10/2004

Tessa S
9/7/2005

Alexandria P
9/12/2003

Cassidy C
9/25/2002

BOYS

Christopher B
6/10/2006

Jackson S
6/26/2004

James B
8/7/2004

Connor H
9/27/2005

Joseph G
10/18/2003

Jaydon R
10/18/2003