

The Grove bids a fond farewell to Kris Van Voorhis

The Grove's long-time Program Supervisor, Kris Van Voorhis, announced her retirement in December. Kris has been a mainstay at The Grove for over thirty years. She began her tenure as a volunteer with school programs and in the Kennicott House retail store in 1983. Kris was hired by the Glenview Park District in 1986 as a part-time program instructor and camp director. Her outstanding service led to a promotion to the part-time role of Grove Program Coordinator in 1995 and the full-time position of Program Supervisor in 1996.

Kris's duties over her long career have included managing countless programs, events and The Grove's museum store. She was instrumental in furthering the joint curriculum with Glenview School District 34 for historical and environmental education. School field trips have grown exponentially under Kris's direction from just a handful of classes to over 800 groups annually! Kris developed many recreation program opportunities at The Grove such as birthday parties, sleepovers, hayrides, preschool enrichment, adult arts and home school week. She established numerous special events over the years including Civil War Days, Earth Day, Upscale Resale, Pumpkin Trail, Dessert with Santa, Ladies Night, Redfield Designer Show House and Pioneer Day.

Of course, Kris's true passion has always been the Holiday Craft Faire. Kris is an avid crafter and sold her creations in a small bazaar out of a friend's home. In 1985, Kris and two partners approached the Glenview Park District and Grove Heritage Association with the idea of hosting a craft fair at The Grove. The event was very popular, with long lines of people wrapping around the houses. Some 33 years later, the Holiday Craft Faire has generated hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue and grown into a holiday tradition for so many shoppers. The success of the show can largely be attributed to Kris's dedication, creativity and attention to detail. Kris has also worked closely with the Grove Heritage Association as Staff Liaison to their Board. She collaborated with GHA on dozens of other programs, events, and fundraisers resulting in substantial income for land acquisition and other projects at The Grove.

I have had the pleasure of working with Kris for the past 22 years and she's been a wonderful role model, coworker and friend every step of the way. Kris was always there for me and many other staff members with kind words of encouragement and sage motherly advice. Kris's contributions, commitment, and integrity did not go unnoticed. On December 21, 2017, she was recognized by the Glenview Park Board of Commissioners with an official proclamation. Please join us in congratulating Kris on her retirement and wishing her nothing but the best in the next exciting chapter of her life!