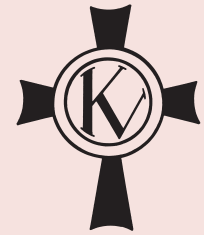


# Kemmerer Voices

Published by Kemmerer Village  
97th Year of Ministry — A Presbyterian Child Care Agency

941 N. 2500 East Road • Assumption, IL 62510  
Phone: 217-226-4451



August 2011

## Prom Was Enjoyed by All

The Kemmerer Village Prom was a big success again this year thanks to all the hard work of teachers, Village staff and students. The students voted on the Prom theme, "A Red Carpet Affair". The prom committee met several times and worked on decorations, flowers for the girls and boutonniere for the boys. Cottage staff helped make decorations.

Friday, April 29 and Saturday April 30 were spent hanging lights, blowing up balloons and getting decorations ready. The dining room was transformed into a Hollywood Premiere complete with a Hollywood Walk of Fame. All students had their name on a star and there was even a red carpet for the students to walk down as they arrived.

The girl's dresses were donated from various dress shops such as David's Bridal, Deb's, The Dress Barn, as well as many staff families donating their own prom dresses for the girls to choose from. Karen Sawyer, cottage staff, was our seamstress who hemmed or added straps as needed. The girls needed to do some shopping to buy shoes and accessories to go with their dresses. Contemporary Cuts in Taylorville provided hair styling for the girls. For many of these young ladies this was their first time for such an experience. Of course they all looked beautiful.

The boys went shopping to purchase dress pants, shirts and ties and they all looked very handsome. Money for the boy's clothes was donated by the Kemmerer Village Woman's Auxiliary. A "thank you very much" goes to these ladies for their support.

Sara Sharp, cottage staff, was our photographer. She took pictures of activities all night as well special prom pictures with a backdrop.

The kitchen staff prepared an evening meal for the kids. They could choose from smoked pork chop or chicken cordon bleu, baked potato, corn, green beans, salad, dinner roll and beverage. Students were seated in the "restaurant" and ordered from the menu.

After a wonderful meal everyone moved to the dance floor. Mr. Brett Beck, acting as DJ, provided music for the rest of the evening. A lively evening continued with dancing and snacking on refreshments provided by the Village kitchen.

Everyone received copies of prom pictures taken during the evening as well as their Walk of Fame Star as a souvenir.

The Kemmerer Village prom was a wonderful experience for our young students. This could possibly be a once in a life time experience for these young people. We are very happy to be able to provide this memorable event for them.



## Kemmerer Voices

Michael A. Havera ..... Editor  
Publication No 292-240

Kemmerer Village is a Mission Agency of the Synod of Lincoln Trails, Presbyterian Church (USA)

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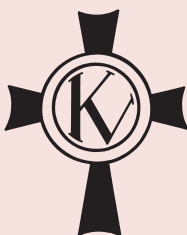
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## From the Director's Desk



In 1884, a dream was born! It was in that year an Assumption area farmer, Philip Kemmerer sat down and wrote out his own will – his gift to the children of the future! He wrote that his 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” and thus one man’s dream and vision was born.

We are still staying true to that dream. In today's society there are different reasons and circumstances as to why children need the programs and services that are provided by Kemmerer Village. In the early 1900's it was basically the responsibility of the churches to care for the needy, the poor and the orphaned. During that time, many of the children coming to Kemmerer Village were pre-school and grade school. The children, in that day, were cared for by couples who also served as nurses, cooks, launderers, teachers, gardeners, fixer-uppers and finders of cash to keep the home running.

Today, the youth entrusted to our care range from age 12 to 19. They come from across the state of Illinois. They are referred through various sources such as the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, School Districts, Private Placements (Parents) and Independent Care Grants from the department of Human Service.

Many of the children who come to our residential program have complicated personal histories. The children's experiences often include severe family conflict, educational problems, childhood mental illness (such as depression, anxiety, suicidal behaviors, aggressive outbursts, mood swings), substance abuse, sexual abuse, and parental mental illness or substance abuse. In order to work effectively with these young people, we require around the clock supervision with staff well trained to provide significant external structure along with nurturing guidance.

In order to provide consistently high quality services for our children, we need to maintain a professional staff which includes a consulting psychiatrist, clinical therapy staff, nursing staff, recreation therapists and direct care staff. We strive to provide ongoing training for all members of our treatment teams in an effort to keep everyone informed of up to date interventions for residential treatment programs.

It is a sad reality that the level of need for our services is so high today. Our experience has been that the number of children who can benefit from residential programming has remained constant or increased in recent years. The level of expertise needed to work with these children has increased. Teachers, pastors, doctors and parents come to us requesting help with their children. The rate of government budget cuts in many sectors has seemed to increase the pressures on many families and school systems trying to live with and help their children cope. Kemmerer Village is proud that we have been able to successfully return so many children to a home setting through participation in our programming.

Along with therapy and education, which is provided on grounds, we also help each child focus on living in a community, taking care of oneself, being respectful of others, being a good neighbor and learning to make appropriate decisions.

Relationship building is a very important factor when working with our young people. While a child is being cared for at the Village they will have opportunities to build relationships with therapist, teachers, child care counselors and their peers. We hear from many of the young people who have left Kemmerer Village that those relationships were some of the most meaningful and life changing times of their lives.

Kemmerer Village, since the early day of the 1900's, has been dependent on the generosity of individuals, congregations and businesses to help this mission. Hard times have fallen on Kemmerer Village over the years but with prayer and the kindness of others we are now in our 97<sup>th</sup> year of helping children and families. I would like to give my sincere appreciation to all of you who are making and have helped make this possible. I hope that you will continue to support this cause and help make a difference in the lives of so many children and families. We are providing an opportunity for a better life for these young people. Please join us!

Sincerely,  
Michael A. Havera, Executive Director

## Kemmerer Village Auxiliary Quilt Raffle

**Please share this article with your circles and Presbyterian Women's Groups. The Auxiliary does wonderful things for the children of Kemmerer Village.**

The Kemmerer Village Auxiliary is conducting a quilt raffle. The **Double Pinwheel Queen Size Quilt** was made by The Quilters Group from United in Faith Congregation from Pana, IL. After March 1st a color photo of the quilt may be viewed on the Kemmerer Village web site: [Kemmerervillage.org](http://Kemmerervillage.org). **Tickets are 6 for \$5 or \$1 each.** The quilt drawing will be held in the fall of 2011. You may purchase tickets by contacting an auxiliary member or contacting Jessica in the Development Office at **(217) 226-2130** or [jessica.webb@kv.christian.k12.il.us](mailto:jessica.webb@kv.christian.k12.il.us). Checks can be mailed to Attn: Auxiliary, Kemmerer Village, 941 N 2500 E Rd., Assumption, IL 62510.

Funds from this project will assist the Auxiliary as they provide funds for: graduation gifts, Christmas parties, reference books, linens, bibles and suitcases. The Auxiliary is quick to respond to the many requests they receive in their efforts to help the children at Kemmerer Village. Please help support their efforts. The next two meetings will be held September 7 and November 2. You are invited to attend the meetings and be a part of this mission to help children and families.

## Mary Lou Spengel Retires From Kemmerer Village



Mary Lou was always there to help out, wherever or whatever the need was. She began her time with Kemmerer as a Case-worker in the cottage where she worked one on one with the young people. Her caring and concern were always easy to see, whether it was with a resident or fellow staff. Her personal involvement with the Kemmerer Village youth continued into her final position Director of Quality Assurance and Intake Coordinator where she was usually the first person a child met as they came to the Village. Mary Lou also helped initiate Peer Congress with the young residents at the Village. Peer Congress provides youth with an opportunity to share concerns and offer suggestions concerning the programs in place. They also help plan and coordinate holiday parties such as Halloween and Valentine's Day. Mary Lou was presented with a piece of art with signatures from all Village residents at her retirement party. You are missed and were much appreciated!

## Ten 8th Grade Graduates Receive Certificates

Family, friends, teachers and Kemmerer Village joined together to celebrate the accomplishment of ten youth as they were presented their 8th grade certificates.



Mike Havera, Kemmerer Village Executive Director presented Certificates to the ten 8th grade graduates on Thursday, May 26th, 2011. Principal, Joanne Coady of the Fergusson Educational Center congratulated the graduates on their accomplishments.. She encouraged them to be true to them selves and to work hard the next four years.

Everyone joined the students after the ceremony in the Campus dining room for gift presentations, cookies and punch.

We congratulate these young people for all their efforts and look forward to their future achievements.

## Funding for SMART BOARDS donated by Robert and Lucy Smith of Decatur, IL

Mr. and Mrs. Smith made a very generous donation to purchase two SMART BOARDS for classrooms in the Fergusson Educational Center here on the Village Campus. We are very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Smith for this much needed new technology and innovation of our classrooms.

Our students have a complex range of emotional disabilities that makes their normal daily functioning and peer interactions difficult, especially in the school environment. Many of our students also have an individualized education plan (IEP) for specific learning disabilities. Technology resources for these students are vital in helping them reach their learning potential and prepare them to be productive members of society and the work force.

We are very excited and looking forward to starting school this fall with this wonderful new technology.

# Thank You to All the Fantastic Mission/Work Groups We had on Campus This Summer



First Presbyterian Church  
Taylorville, IL



First Presbyterian Church  
Decatur, IL



Highland Presbyterian Church  
Louisville, KY



First Presbyterian Church  
Harvard, IL



First Presbyterian Church  
Urbana, IL



First Presbyterian Church  
Mt. Vernon, IN



United Presbyterian Church  
Greenview, IL

# Two Lindenwood University Interns Spend Time at Kemmerer Village

Jennifer Burdick and David Blickensderfer are both students at Lindenwood University in St. Charles MO. Each arrived at Kemmerer Village not knowing each other and unaware that a second student from their school was here. But, we are very grateful to have both of them on our campus this summer.



Jennifer is in her senior year working on a degree in psychology, graduating in December, 2011. Jennifer grew up in a local community around Kemmerer Village. She stated that it was a learning experience to work in the classroom during summer school and see firsthand what Kemmerer Village is all about.

David Blickensderfer is a senior at Lindenwood University working on a degree in Recreational Therapy. David is using his internship to help out in the Kemmerer Village Therapeutic Recreational Program.



He is using his music skills to teach piano and Acappella Vocals to some of our students. David is also busy helping with girls and boys softball teams.

We appreciate the time and interest both of these young people have displayed in helping the students at Kemmerer Village and wish them the very best in their futures.

# Alison Russell Donates American Dolls to Kemmerer Village



Alison learned about Kemmerer Village through her grandfather, Bob Fischer, who is a long time volunteer for the Village. She made the decision to give several of her American Dolls, clothes and furniture in hopes that some young girl would enjoy them as much as she had. Thank you Alison. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Pictured are Mike Havera (Kemmerer Village Executive Director), Alison Russell, Bob Fischer (Kemmerer Village Volunteer) and Alice Christenberry (Kemmerer Village Director of Development)

## In Memoriam

*Susan Marie Burris*

7/12/1958 – 6/11/2011

Mrs. Burris taught school for 22 years. She followed her calling in life to make a difference, and do something meaningful. She chose to teach children who desperately needed a special person with patience and caring to help them through a tough time in their young lives. Sue Burris was that teacher, one of several who have made a commitment to teach the children at Kemmerer Village. The children, teachers and staff were blessed to have her be a part of this mission to help change young lives for the better.

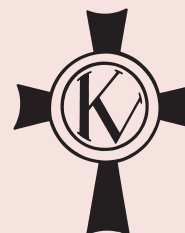
Our condolences go out to her family. May God bless them and comfort them.

*Phillip Mathew Harvey*

November 20, 1957 – May 29, 2011

Phil Harvey was a resident of Kemmerer Village for a time and attended the most recent reunion at Kemmerer Village. He attended Assumption Junior and Senior High Schools, and graduated in 1976. Mr. Harvey was retired from the United States Navy as a Nuclear Machinist Mate 1<sup>st</sup> Class.

Our condolences go out to Phillip's family and friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.



## Barn Retreat Gets Updated by Members of Freeport United Presbyterian Church and First Prebyterian Church of Gibson City

This summer they chose the Barn Retreat as a week long project early in the year. Both congregations gave financial support to help make this project possible. Kemmerer Village is extremely grateful to see the big improvements to the Retreat. Today a bright new refrigerator is added to the kitchen appliances. Fresh paint is on the wall in the kitchen area and new sewn curtains are hanging on the windows. A new air conditioner is in the bunk room down stairs; new carpet has been installed on the first floor with new tile for the kitchen area. Also added are shelves over the kitchen sink and some storage units.

Most summers we have 5 to 7 work groups stay in the Retreat while working on needed projects on our campus. We know they will enjoy these new changes also. The Barn Retreat has made it possible to build long and lasting friendships with many of these groups. We are sure that these new improvements will be noticed and appreciated by the groups who visit us each year.

Thank you very much to Freeport United Presbyterian Congregation and Gibson City First Presbyterian Congregations. Thank you Pastor Kathy, Cliff, LeAnn, Cliff and Sharon, Ellie and Dave. Thank you also to Mr. Ray Lantz and his carpet installers.

### DO YOU REMEMBER?

Is there some one out there who participated in the first renovation of the Kemmerer Village barn into a Retreat for Work Groups? We would love to hear from you and share some of your memories of that project. We think it was around 1975?



## Kemmerer Village 2nd Annual Walk-A-Thon

On September 17, 2011, the Therapeutic Recreation Department Community Outreach Group at Kemmerer Village will host its second annual Walk-A-Thon. Last year was a huge success as we raised nearly \$1,000.00 for St. John's Children's Hospital in Springfield, Illinois. Once again the residents at Kemmerer Village are teaming up to help fight for the cure for the children at St. Johns. St. John's Hospital has many sick children ranging from infants to 17 years of age who suffer from cancer, severe burns, and other diseases. The children of St. Johns are in need of help. The residents at Kemmerer Village will utilize the track on it's campus, which measures 175 meters, to help raise money for this cause.

Our young people are looking forward to participating in this very worthy project.

**Congratulations to the Kemmerer Village Knights (boys and girls) on a Great Softball Season.**

## How You Can Help the Young People at Kemmerer

**Charitable Gift:** We invite you to respond to one of our three annual appeals: **Mother's Day, Back-To-School, and Christmas.** The one thing all gifts have in common is that they are given by people who share the desire to nurture and care for God's children.

**Memorial Gifts:** This gift is a way to express love and respect for a loved one or someone special in your life. Your generosity is also an opportunity for you to make a difference in a young person's life through your memorial giving.

**Honor Gifts:** There are special occasions in the lives of family and friends that call for celebration. An honor gift is a way to recognize that special event and also to help others learn of your commitment to helping the young people at Kemmerer Village.

*Dollar amounts are not revealed in Memorial or Honor Gifts. Names of the deceased and honored are listed in the Kemmerer Voices unless anonymity is requested.*

**Matching Gifts:** (Employers may match your gift anywhere from 1 to 3 times). Check with your employer to see if they have gift matching programs.

# In Memory and Honor of Those We Love

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

January 29, 2011-June 15, 2011

**Mrs. Dorothy M. Andersen**

Ms. Janet R. Andersen

**Ms. Janet R. Anderson**

Mrs. Dorothy M. Anderson

**Rev. & Mrs. Kenneth R. Bryant**

Mrs. Mary A. Helmich

**Mrs. Cheryl Crays**

Ms. Becky Thompson

**Rod & Eleanor Farr**

Mr. Robert N. Farr

**Rev. C. Don Ferrill**

Mr. & Mrs. Don Swanstrom

**Ms. Erika Frelander**

Ms. Becky Thompson

**Mrs. Betsy A. Hauser**

Ms. Sue Ellen Fergusson

Mr. & Mrs. Donald C. McKahan

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Shore

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph S. Van

Bokkelen

**Ms. Irma Johnston**

Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Hebert

**Ms. Terry A. Peterson**

Ms. Anna M. Schlicht

**Mrs. Juanita Pflug**

Ms. Betty F. Hays

**Mrs. Carolyn Stone**

Ms. Anna M. Schlicht

**Dr. David & Mrs. Marty Sumner**

Rev. & Mrs. John S. Kay

**Mrs. Janice Swanson**

Mr. & Mrs. Timothy J. Swanson

## Memorials

January 29, 2011-June 15, 2011

**Ms. Jane Allen**

Dr. and Mrs. J. L. Miller

Ms. Colleen M. Reid

**Mary Lewis Beard**

Ms. Margaret C. B. Hatfield

**Mr. Charles E. Birnbaum**

Mrs. Leoda T. Birnbaum

**Mr. Floyd J. Bonyng**

Mrs. Marjorie Bonyng

**Arthur Bozue**

Mrs. Evelyn I. Bozue

**Mr. Ercel Brackenbush**

Mrs. Debra Blair

**Mr. Jeffrey Burlew**

Philo Presbyterian Church

**Mrs. Andrea Butler**

Rev. and Mrs. John S. Kay

**Ms. Juliann Montgomery Canady**

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond

Montgomery

**Mr. Carl Cantrell**

Mrs. Marianne Cantrell

**Wilmoth Carson**

Ms. Dorothy Breneman

**Mr. Ralph Casey**

Miss Patricia A. Casey

**Mrs. Helen A. Chambliss**

Mr. Gary Butler

**Mr. Merle Damery**

Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Zuber

**George and Beulah Damisch**

Mr. Donald G. Damisch

**Mr. Richard Dillon**

Mr. and Mrs. Charles A.

Goodwin

**Philip E. Eshleman**

Mrs. Dolores N. Eshleman

**Claude Fencken**

Ms. Judith I. Deaver

**Robert A. Fergusson**

Mrs. Betsy A. Hauser

**Gertrude Gamel**

Mrs. Iva L. Gamel

**Mrs. Dena Garrison**

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Zahrad

**Samuel O. Hancock**

Mrs. M. Garcia Hancock

**Robert L. Herrmann**

Ms. Sharon K. Maddox

**Mrs. Barbara Hoffman**

Mr. and Mrs. Robert L.

Stonecipher

**Mr. Garland Holloway**

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Degg

Mrs. Mary Marguerite Dietl

First Presbyterian Church

Mrs. Geraldine J. Holloway

Ms. Donna K. Lane

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Sanford

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Beasley

Mrs. Alan Janssen

Mrs. Raymond Korbar

Mrs. Beulah Keller

Mrs. Wilma Joyce and Family

Mrs. Robert Borton and Family

**Nancy Holloway**

Mrs. Geraldine J. Holloway

**Mr. William E. Jacke**

Mrs. Edith J. Jacke

**Blanche & Joseph Jasper**

Mrs. Edith J. Jacke

**Mr. Steve Joslyn**

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Joslyn

**J. Kennedy Kincaid**

Mrs. Margaret G. Kincaid

**Kathleen M. Kunzman**

Mr. David F. Kunzman

**Mrs. Helen L. Lamb**

Mrs. Marion R. Lamb

**Mrs. Martha Lamb**

Mrs. Betty B. Hendrix

**Mrs. Harriet Larson**

Mr. Howard Larson

**Mrs. Leona Lash**

Ms. Terry A. Peterson

**William F. Lash**

Ms. Terry A. Peterson

**Mr. Morton McWhorter, Sr.**

Mrs. Ganna M. McWhorter

**Mr. Dale Miracle**

Miss Donna J. Riley

**Mr. James A. Mumm**

Mrs. Sheila C. Pelichoff

**Barbara F. Pellman**

Mr. and Mrs. Jerrold Wagner

**Mary L. Roland**

Mr. E. Earl Roland

**Robert Sallee**

Mrs. Patricia Sallee

**Alfred A. Schweizer**

Mrs. Shirley A. Schweizer

**Mr. Al Snyder**

Ms. Melinda Snyder

**Mr. Richard Stalets**

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Zahrad

**Mrs. Carol Stehr**

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Steiner

**Ms. Shirley Stevens**

Ms. Sandra L. Stevens

**Rev. Dr. Robert Stewart**

Mrs. Virginia Stew

**Mrs. Joanne Swanson**

Mr. and Mrs. Timothy J.

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**Mr. Albert Theesfeld**

Mrs. Joyce Theesfeld

**Dorothy Theobald**

Mr. and Mrs. Roy W. Bass

**Ms. Tammy Tolliver**

Ms. Mary L. Cleverdon

**Mr. Harold Tucker**

Ms. Annabelle Tucker

**Cathy Montgomery Urish**

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond

Montgomery

**Mrs. Joyce Amling Walbridge**

Anonymous

**Mrs. Grace Wambaja**

Mrs. Henry W. Gruthoff

**Ms. Melba Webster**

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Charnisky

**Rachel and Francis Weinberg**

Ms. Mary W. Hohe

**Ms. Mae Jean Wettstein**

Mr and Mrs. Joe Zydlo

**Mr. & Mrs. Lester Wittnam**

Mrs. Geraldine J. Holloway

**Eva M. Wright**

Mrs. Marion R. Lamb

# Happy Birthday!

Our young people truly appreciate receiving cards from all of you on their birthday. Thank you for thinking of them. Please put the name of the church and/or organization in the return address area of the envelope. All mail to students is monitored. Thank you.

**JULY**

Nicholas M July 6, 1997

**AUGUST**

Robert F. M August 9, 1994

Deanna B. F August 12, 1994

Daniel C. M August 16, 1994

Julius P. M August 19, 1994

Kayci K. F August 23, 1994

Paula M. F August 29, 1995

**SEPTEMBER**

Brooke H. F September 21, 1993

**OCTOBER**

Blake T. M October 10, 1996

Shakelle M. M October 18, 1993

Benjamin D. M October 27, 1992

**NOVEMBER**

Don'Trez W. M November 18, 1998

Barbara C. F November 26, 1996

18<sup>th</sup> Annual Kemmerer Village

## Charity Golf Classic

Friday, September 9, 2011

**Four-Person Scramble**

Oak Terrace Golf Course – 8:00 a.m.

Rt. 51 South – Pana, IL

Early Bird Registration

Call (217) 226-4451 for more details and entry.

**10 HOLE PRIZES**

- Longest Putt -

- Closest to Pin -

- Longest Drive -

....and many more!

**PRIZES, CASH & TROPHIES**

**for Top 3 Teams in each flight will be awarded!!!**

Would you like to contribute to this event as a sponsor?

Major Sponsor - \$300.00

Feature Sponsor - \$150.00

*A mission of the Presbyterian Church*

*97 Years of Making a Difference  
in the Lives of Children and Families!*

*You can view and print the  
Kemmerer Voices from our website.*

[www.kemmerervillage.org](http://www.kemmerervillage.org)

Information for address changes or  
deletions to  
jessica.webb@kv.christian.12.il.us

Please include **all necessary**

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