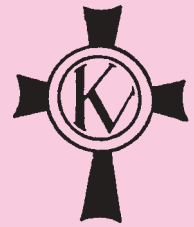


# *Kemmerer Voices*



**PUBLISHED BY KEMMERER VILLAGE**  
**95th Year of Ministry — A Presbyterian Child Care Agency**  
941 N. 2500 E. Rd. • Assumption, IL 62510 • Ph. 217-226-4451



## ***A Big “Thank You” for Christmas 2009***

The children and staff at Kemmerer Village would like to send out a big “Thank You” to everyone who helped make our 2009 Christmas a most memorable time for our young people. A wonderful Christmas was celebrated by all of the 124 children in our Residential and Foster Care Programs. Thank you to all the congregations, organizations and individuals who helped fulfill dreams, possibly for the first time for many of our youth.



*First Presbyterian Church of Effingham was one of the congregations who helped make Christmas 2009 a very special time for our youth.*



## From the Director's Desk

*We would like to thank everyone who helped make Christmas a memorable and meaningful time for our young people. Your generosity as individuals, a congregation or an organization helped make a difference in the*

*lives of the 124 children in our care this past holiday season and throughout the year.*

As a faith and community-based nonprofit organization, Kemmerer Village has a 95-year history of meeting the critical human needs of youth and families. Recently as I answered questions on a grant application for the coming year, I responded to the question of "What are our major constraints and challenges for 2010," I was quick to answer the question with "working with youth whose behaviors are increasing in aggressiveness and severity, also trying to maintain a balanced budget." The budget answer was on my mind as the FY11 budget was being developed at the time.

Maintaining our programs and budget throughout the year is always a challenge. We are grateful each year for the generosity of our friends and supporters who come to our rescue with their giving. We often hear from you during a visit or phone call "Keep up the good work." Those words of support are truly appreciated.

Additionally, as important is the fact that we are helping young people today who can have emotional, mental and behavioral problems that are real, painful and costly. These problems, often called "disorders," are sources of stress for children, their families, schools, and communities.

Providing programs and professional, experienced staff to meet the critical needs of these young people and their families is our goal. The numbers of young people affected by these problems are significant. Causes can be attributed to biology, environment, or a combination of the two. Biological factors can consist of genetics, chemical imbalances in the brain, and/or damage to the central nervous system such as a head injury. Many environmental factors also can affect mental health, including exposure to violence, extreme stress, and the loss of an important person in one's life.

The one factor all of these children have in common is that they have extreme difficulty functioning in the family, school and community environment. Help is being found

for these children and adolescents, but it takes a broad range of services and all of us working together.

We are looking forward to 2010 as we have the new Equine Therapy Program as another avenue to try and help the young people in our care. The effectiveness of this type of program has shown much success. We are hoping this will be an effective approach to helping children where success may have been more difficult in the past.

If you have questions, or would like more information regarding our efforts here at Kemmerer Village. I encourage you to visit our web site at [kemmerervillage.org](http://kemmerervillage.org), or we always welcome visitors to our campus.

Again, I want to thank all of you for your prayers and support, wishing you the very best in the New Year.

## Remembering Good Friends

**Mrs. Gladys Hewitt** of Hillsboro passed away February 4, 2010. Mrs. Hewitt was a **teacher** at the Kemmerer Village on-grounds school for several years. She was dedicated to her profession and helping the children at Kemmerer Village fulfill their learning capabilities. She helped make a difference in all the lives she touched. The Kemmerer Village Board of Directors, staff and teaching staff send their sincere condolences to her family and friends.

**Miss Helen Fairweather** of Decatur passed away December 8th, 2009, at age 96. Helen was a member of the **Kemmerer Village Auxiliary** from its early days. She served in several officer positions during her many years as a member of the Auxiliary. She had many stories to share from her early days as a young child visiting with her family at the Kemmerer Orphanage. Helen's sister Maythel also served on the Auxiliary. Helen was also a valued member of Decatur Westminster Presbyterian Congregation. Her dedication of caring and time were noticed and appreciated by all at Kemmerer Village. We send our condolences to her family and friends.

**Mrs. Lois M. Isome** formerly of Assumption, passed away Nov. 30th, 2009. Mrs. Isome served on the **Kemmerer Village Board of Directors** years during the 1970's and 80's. She was a member of the Assumption Memorial Presbyterian Church. Several of those years she performed the duties as Treasurer for the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors and Staff would like to acknowledge Lois's service and dedication to Kemmerer Village. We also send our condolences to her family and friends.

## Kemmerer Voices

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

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# A Season to Remember...

It was a chilly and damp morning as the Kemmerer Village Knights put on their socks and shin guards for the final time this season on 10/3/09 at the IIAA State Soccer Tournament in Springfield, IL. The IIAA, the Illinois Inter-Agency Athletic Association, organizes athletic matches and tournaments for agencies like Kemmerer Village.

Kemmerer Village had a boys and a girls team that competed at state. The boys went into the state tournament with a (5-1) record, where as the girls held a (4-0-1) record. Members of the boys team included: Charlie M., Charlie G., Parris S., Ron B., Chris D., Austin C., John C., and Craig O. The girls team included the following players: Anne N., Ravyn W., Kristina W., Valerie H., Callie R., Tamecka L., Ashton S., and Chelsea R.

Agencies, like Kemmerer Village, from across the state of Illinois competed at the tournament. The boys and girls competed in multiple games throughout the morning and afternoon. The fields were slick

and mud was kicked up in the air as all competitors took strikes at the ball.

The boy's team was led by leading scorer Parris S., who found the back of the net 3 times on this cold/wet day. Parris was assisted by John C. on one goal and by Austin C. on another. Unfortunately, that is all the goals the boys could muster for the day. Charlie G. and John C. rotated as goalkeepers. Both young men made some remarkable saves on the day. The defense was led by Chris D., with the help of an aggressive Charlie M., Ron B., and Craig O. All of the boys gave excellent effort in keeping the ball away from their goal.

The girl's team was led by leading scorer Chelsea R., who found the back of the net once. This would be the one and only goal the girls would score on that day. Chelsea's goal was assisted by teammate Callie R. Goalkeeper, Ravyn W., deflected many balls that came her way. Anne N. and Valerie H. came close to finding the net on multiple occasions, but were turned away by a tough goalkeeper. The defensive

charge was led by Ashton S., with the help of her teammates Kristina W., and Tamecka L., who had their work cut out for them in keeping an aggressive offense away from their goal. The ladies worked very hard in their matches.

The purpose of the IIAA Kemmerer Village athletics is to acknowledge and teach sportsmanship. The boys wound up with a third place title at state, and the girls earned a second place. Both teams however, were highly recognized by other agencies and the IIAA for their sportsmanship they demonstrated at state. Both teams were awarded sportsmanship awards. For the team's accomplishments this season a banquet was held at Kriegers Restaurant in Taylorville, IL on October 22, 2009. Both teams were coached by Brandon Smith and Stacy McLearn. A big thank you goes out to all of those who pitched in and helped make our 2009 soccer season a success.

Brandon Smith

## Boys Participate in Soccer Tournament

### Potential Benefits of Participation:

Participation in extracurricular activities such as team sports, which in-

volves physical activity, provide adolescents an opportunity to establish positive social skills, increase self-esteem and improve physical competence,

while reducing feelings of hopelessness and suicidal behaviors.

Taliaferro, L.A., Rienzo B.A., Miller, M.D., Pigg, R.M.Jr., & Dodd, V.J. (2008). High school suicide risk: Exploring protection afforded through physical activity and sport participation. *The Journal of School Health, 78(10), 545-553*

Organized sport participation has been linked to high rates of initiative experiences (i.e., goal setting, effort, problem solving, and time management) and more experiences related to regulation of emotion than youth involved in other structured activities

(Larson, Hansen, & Monteta, 2006. *Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology*)



## Kemmerer Village Christmas and Recognition Party



Kemmerer Village held their annual Christmas and Recognition Party for their staff on December 5th, 2009. During the evening, staff are recognized for one year and every five years thereafter. On this evening **Bonnie Elam** (pictured above with Executive Director Mike Havera), **was recognized for her forty years of service to the Village. As Supervisor of Food and Home Services** Bonnie is involved in the planning and carrying out of many activities at the Village. She oversees the kitchen, laundry, cleaning, purchasing of food and supplies for the campus as well as helping make purchases for the eight cottages. Bonnie is always there when someone needs help. Bonnie's husband Jim Elam was Supervisor of Maintenance, Water and Sewer for twenty-nine years at the Village before retiring and still helps out part-time. They have three children and six grandchildren. Bonnie says that she "enjoys her work and doesn't know what she would do otherwise." Bonnie and Jim enjoy traveling in their RV, having made a couple trips to Alaska and also enjoy spending time with their family.

The Kemmerer Village Board of Directors and staff congratulate Bonnie on her dedication and years of service and want her to know that she is very much appreciated.

## Former Residents of Kemmerer Village Planning Reunion

Saturday, August 14, 2010 has been selected as the date for the next Kemmerer Village Reunion. The reunion will be hosted on the Village campus. If you are a former resident or staff, we would like to invite you to save this date on your calendar. Pat Hill McLaughlin former resident is making an effort to contact as many people as possible. The first Kemmerer Village Reunion took place in 1986. Food and refreshments will be provided. If you would like more information please contact Pat McLaughlin at [jacsmom1@yahoo.com](mailto:jacsmom1@yahoo.com) or (217) 679-0804 after 6:00 pm.

## Kemmerer Village Wish List

At this time we are currently stocked up on quilts but thank you to all who have donated them to us. We will post an announcement when we are getting low and need more. Thank you again for your support of this program.

The Recreation Department is looking for a dress form for a fashion design class. The Recreation staff would appreciate your help with this project.

This is an example of a dress form.



The **Equine Therapy Program** is in need of some good, gently used saddles, either Nylon or Lightweight, mane and tail brushes, curry combs, lunge line, lead ropes, small halters (for minis), Push Brooms, Lightweight wheelbarrow, SEI approved gently used/new helmets, books/videos/educational materials about horses, plastic barrels/orange cones/caveletti poles, fly spray, DVD player, microwave, metal cabinet that locks, and file cabinet that locks.

- Gas Cards
- DVD Players
- Playstation Games

# In Memory & Honor of Those We Love

(Gifts received October 1st, 2009 to Jan. 31st, 2010)

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

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**Jennie M. Hymbaugh**

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**Mrs. Lois Isome**

Bob & Helen Bilyeu

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 **CAPITAL LETTERS**; the donors names are listed below in lower case. Please notify us of any errors.

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## How You Can Help The Young People at Kemmerer Village

**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.

## ADDRESS CHANGES

You can help with mailing costs by notifying us with address changes. We would appreciate your help with this. Thank you. Contact Jessica at (217) 226-2130 or [Jessica.webb@kv.christian.k12.il.us](mailto:Jessica.webb@kv.christian.k12.il.us).

# Christmas 2009



In preparing for the Christmas Season, cottages participated in a Cottage Decorating and Gingerbread House contest. Each cottage did a great job decorating the cottages and making the gingerbread houses. Two cottages were chosen as winners for each contest and received a pizza party to celebrate.



# Happy Birthday!

Our young people truly appreciate receiving cards from all of you on their birthday. Thank you for thinking of them!

**MARCH**

Gina D.	F	Mar. 7, 1994
Shavonda A.	F	Mar. 9, 1995
Breanna B.	F	Mar. 11, 1996
Alexis S.	F	Mar. 18, 1996
Rebecca M.	F	Mar. 23, 1996
Olivia J.	F	Mar. 19, 1993
Sharon C.	F	Mar. 23, 1993
Michael S.	M	Mar. 25, 1993

**APRIL**

Desiree H.	F	Apr. 12, 1993
Charlie M.	M	Apr. 17, 1995
Quantorious C.	M	Apr. 19, 1997
Charles G.	M	Apr. 29, 1992

**MAY**

Ronquel S.	M	May 24, 1995
Scott F.	M	May 29, 1992

**JUNE**

Brittany H.	F	June 7, 1994
Quatasce L.	M	June 23, 1994
Jason K.	M	June 25, 1992
Shakur C.	M	June 27, 1994
Alaster F.	M	June 30, 1992

## Kemmerer Village Youth Visit Nursing Home

During December the youth from Kemmerer Village visited the residents of the Moweaqua Nursing Home/Retirement Center. Therapeutic Recreation Staff, Brandon Smith and Chelsea Grubb, selected two of Kemmerer's young ladies to distribute Christmas cards to those who live at the center. Beginning on 12/14/09, the youth at Kemmerer began making Christmas cards and collages with the help of the Recreation staff to hand out to the residents. Recreation emphasized that this was a time of year to think of others and to bring them joy. Approximately 100 cards/collages were made by the young gentlemen and ladies at Kemmerer.

At the retirement center many of the residents were overjoyed when they received a Happy Holidays greeting and card. We momentarily visited with each resident and wished them a joyous holiday season. Our girls were thankful and grateful that they got a chance to take part in such a wonderful experience. Each one of the teens at the Village put a lot of effort and work into the cards that they made and were pleased to get to do something to make another's Christmas just a bit more special.

www.kemmerervillage.org

Please include all necessary information for address changes or deletions to office.christianberry@kv.christian.k12.il.us

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