

March 2020

## How II.A.A Sports Have Changed My Life



By Kemmerer child Alyssa

My stay here at Kemmerer Village (KV) has been an adventure. Since being a resident at KV I have been on several of the sports teams. As a result, this has helped change the way I see things. My first day at KV was not what I thought it would be. I remember crying. Shortly after this is when I met some of my coaches.

They talked to me about some of the sports and that they were about sportsmanship which has been an area where I have struggled in my life. My first sport at KV was soccer. When playing soccer in the community, outside of the IIAA, I trash talked my opponents. I wasn't a very good leader. My town's sports were very competitive and focused on winning. At this time, I did not care what other people thought of me. I did not care about the way I appeared or treated people.

Throughout all the sports I have played since that first soccer season, I have gained so much respect for others and myself, learned about sportsmanship and have worked on how to be a better leader.

If there are dreams, then there must be plans. If there are plans, then there must be action. I have been to KV twice which was not what I planned. If I would have never come here, I would still be trash talking my opponents. Now I have changed my whole attitude. It is not about winning. It is about going out on the court or field and having a smile on your face at the end of it all. I learned all of this because of my coaches. Thank you for helping change the way I see things.

# FUN DAY

The top priority of Kemmerer Village is providing the physical, mental and emotional needs of children in our care. Sometimes, those needs

are specialized treatment and sometimes those needs are for kids to be kids! Kemmerer Village hosted a Fun Day for the kids living at Kemmerer and in our various foster homes in the communities. The youth enjoyed a variety of activities including an obstacle course inflatable we were fortunate to borrow from First Baptist Church of Morrisonville and a carpetball tournament. Our kids had a



wonderful time participating, devouring snacks and a hot chocolate bar, while socializing and making new friends. We are already looking forward to next year!



## **Kemmerer Voices**

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

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## Kemmerer Village Alumni Giving Back

If you have found your calling working with young people who have endured extreme hardships and hurt in their childhood, seeing them overcome and return to share their story is beyond rewarding. This past December, we had the opportunity to hear from two former Kemmerer Village youth.

Two former residents returned to campus. Dorothea "Dee" Moss Busby spoke to a large group of Kemmerer Village staff and children. She shared with them her hardships as a child and

teenager before arriving at Kemmerer Village in the 1980's. She spoke about how the Kemmerer staff helped her find her self-worth and how to trust others. Today Dee has a bachelor's degree and is busy working as a substance abuse counselor, dedicated to her work and to the people she is working with. Our young people and staff listened intently as she talked encouraging them to use what they learn at Kemmerer Village. She reiterated "that the tools vou learn here today will guide you through the rest of your life."

Our second homecoming was another former resident from the 1980's,





Patricia (Patti) Liptay Cloe. Patti has stayed close through social media with a few of the staff at Kemmerer. She has just finished her bachelor's degree in nursing and plans to continue her education. Through her association with R & R Contracting at ADM, this group of employees has made a very generous donation to Kemmerer Village. During her visit Patti toured the campus and checked in with some of the staff still here. She also took the time to fill out the Village's volunteer application and plans to volunteer with the Equine Therapy Program and Horses and Hero's.

We would like to thank Dorthea and Patti for staying connected with Kemmerer Village and their desire to give back to a place that made a difference in their young lives.

## **Every Child's Needs are Unique**

Even after a century of caring for children, there are still new and unique situations requiring cooperation and problem solving in groundbreaking ways. The story of Beth is a true testament of people going above and beyond. Beth was progressing through her treatment at Kemmerer Village, when she had yet another hurdle thrown into her path. Beth had a serious medical condition that required more specialized treatment than our staff could handle. Sending Beth to a hospital would have hindered

her significant mental health and educational gains for which she had worked so hard. Sending Beth home was not an option. This difficult situation became a paramount blessing in Beth's life. A local foster family stepped up to the plate in a huge way.

Craig Reed, a Mt. Zion Police Officer and wife Becky who works for Central A&M School are wonderful foster parents for two children through Kemmerer Village Community Service. Craig and Becky are also trained EMT's and were able to offer the help that Beth needed. Beth stayed with the Reed family for almost 3 months, and they were able to care for her unique needs. This has become a great network of support for Beth. She continues to see the family twice a week when they take her to church with them at First Christian Church in Assumption. Beth even went to spend Christmas with the family this year. When people can put the needs of a child first everyone succeeds.



Thank you to everyone who helped make Christmas magical for our children!

We appreciate your generosity.

Thankyou



## The Need For Sleep

Did you know that 1 in 5 children live in poverty in the US, and many of these families cannot afford beds? Children are the highest age-based population in poverty in the US. <u>Twenty-two percent</u> of kids in America live below the poverty line—the highest percentage among developed countries. Child poverty affects children's nutrition, selfperception, behavior, and more. But, with sleep being one of the most important things that humans do, **bed poverty, perhaps, takes one of the biggest tolls on poor children.** (Statistics from the National Center for Children in Poverty)

Your donations to Kemmerer Village help us provide for close to 200 children on any given day. Some of these children live on our 70-acre campus, while others are working on making a home with a caring family. Some of those families are willing to accept a child in need into their homes but they require help. When we need to place a child quickly there is no time for the family to get all the supplies to welcome another person into their home. The biggest need in this situation is consistently twin-size beds. Please contact us if you have a bed you are willing to donate or if you are willing to contribute to the cost of a bed for a child in need.

# A life forever changed

Together we have helped countless children and improved an unimaginable number of lives. Kemmerer Village cannot thank you enough for this partnership that continues to help so many children. Today I want to brag on just one of these youth! Jason came to Kemmerer Village when he was 15 years old. He couldn't even tell you how many homes he had before that. If you could name something horrible that happened to a child, it happened to Jason. Jason persevered through human trafficking and numerous

hardships of a childhood full of trauma, abuse and neglect. Jason became an angry child prone to acting out, which led him to Kemmerer Village. When Jason arrived, he was quiet and bitter. His face screamed that he wanted to be anywhere but here. Nothing seemed to impress Jason, until he met



Raven. Raven isn't just any girl, she is a gorgeous, kind and incredible therapist... she's also a horse. From the first experience Jason had with Raven and our equine therapist he was hooked. Jason began showing improvements in all areas of life so that he could earn more time at our stables. Jason brought up all his grades and became like a different kid. His time learning to connect with Raven taught him how to connect with others. He began opening up to staff and having giant successes in therapy. Jason told me that these early steps were all to gain more time with the horses. This behavior took hold though, and Jason reached the coveted phase 5 (meaning he was doing his very best.) Jason got up early and worked at the horse barn every morning and still managed to exceed at school. Jason encouraged the other children and motivated them. Jason found an incredible amount of self-pride volunteering for our community therapeutic riding program. He was such a star on campus it was bittersweet to see him move on to the next chapter of his life. Time passes as it always does, and two years later, I'm so excited to tell you about this email we recently received. Jason graduated from high school and is working and living on his own. He remembered us telling him that some generous people have donated to help kids of Kemmerer continue their education. Jason was enrolled in college, and I'm so thrilled that Kemmerer is able to help him continue to better himself. This is all because people like you are willing to invest in children like Jason.

# Where There's a Will, There's a Way

Many of our friends would like to make a gift to Kemmerer Village but feel they cannot, for one reason or another. Perhaps you are reluctant to give away assets that you fear you may yet need, for your family or yourself. You may be afraid that a financial emergency could crop up, a disability, uninsured illness or a disastrous investment. These are all reasonable concerns for anyone exercising responsible stewardship.

However, there is one type of gift that almost anyone can make without jeopardizing financial security and that is a charitable bequest, in your will. In fact your bequest can provide a gift to Kemmerer Village that includes paying a life income to a loved one, thereby insuring that you can fulfill your commitments to both your faith and your family.

Certainly, there are many reasons during a lifetime that seem to prevent us from giving, but there is no reason not to commit resources that we leave behind after that lifetime. No reason not to make a bequest.

If you don't have a will, make one. If you do have one, update it and keep it current as your circumstances change. Without a will, the court, following the law of the state where you live, decides what happens to your estate, however large or small. The court, not you, will appoint an executor for your estate.



Please consider naming Kemmerer Village as one of the beneficiaries of your estate and explore the many ways your charitable bequest can be used to benefit the people and mission causes you care about most.

Until next time, May God continue to bless you and your family as you bless Kemmerer Village, through your prayers and financial support.

Sincerely,

Mike

Director of Financial Development



Pictured left to right representing the Optimist Terry Wright, Representing Kemmerer Village: Colette Merker, Kim Washburn L.C.S.W. and Mike Havera.

## Thanks to the Taylorville Optimist Club

On December 12th the Taylorville Optimist Club held a banquet for Kemmerer Village Foster families and relative care-givers.

The festivities took place at the Taylorville Moose Club. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal and sang Christmas carols anxiously awaiting the arrival of Santa Claus. Santa took center stage as he called out the name of each child present and they walked forward to receive a gift. The adults present received a Christmas food basket and a great time was had by all.

Kemmerer Village wants to thank the Taylorville Optimist Club for their kindness and generosity. Ms. Janet R. Andersen

Mrs. Jan Voogd Mrs. Shirley Beckhart

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Mrs. Bonnie Elam

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Christmas



## In Memory & Honor of Those We Love

October 16, 2019 - January 31, 2020

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.

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#### www.kemmerervillage.org

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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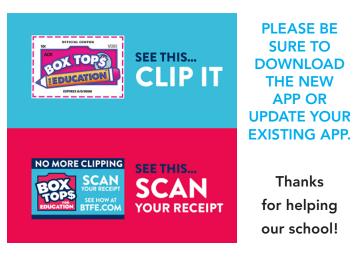
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## Mission with Meaning

From compassion to action, giving your time to Kemmerer can make all the difference! Cleaning, carpeting, organizing, or building, no matter what your skill, interest, or commitment level we have jobs to suit all groups. Contact us to discuss a day trip or the opportunity to stay in our retreat center. This is a great chance to bring your mission group, book club or even just your friends to build memories and give back.



March 2020

Our children love receiving mail! Please consider sending a birthday card & a prayer for the following kids:

## GIRLS

Emilee C - 2/3/2007 Taylor L — 4/17/2006 Lilia P — 5/13/2003 Sara G — 6/8/2002

Timothy S - 1/25/2005 **Demarius I—** 4/25/2006 Brian B — 5/22/2006 Christopher B - 6/10/2006 Jorden S — 7/5/2006

BOYS