



Ogle County Mental Health Board

AGENCY REPORTS FOR SECOND QUARTER 2022

VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

There's the saying, "It's better to give than to receive." I suspect that while many say it, not so many believe it. But here at the Village of Progress, we often see it from a different perspective.

This past winter about 15 men and women from the Village

went to the Oregon Park District's Nash Fitness Center to try their hand at different games and sports. Activities ranged from basketball skills to kickball and hockey to soccer. Each Thursday the staff at Nash would greet our people and coach them in their desired activities. Each session would end with a group dance.

When the winter fitness program ended, the Park District hosted an Olympic ceremony, of sorts, at the Nash



Center. The public was invited and Catherine Bohan Greene, a former Olympic swimmer representing Ireland, gave the opening remarks.



Awards were announced, trophies and flower bouquets were given to the bronze, silver and gold medalists. The audience was enthusiastic in their support. The athletes

were beaming. And after the ceremony ended, there was – again – much dancing.

For many of the participants, these Thursday mornings were the highlight of their winter. But, as I've been told by some of the staff at the Park District, it was the highlight of their winter, too. The joy which our men and women showed in competing each week was refreshing and uplifting to those who work there.

Starting last spring Crest Foods invited us to bring work crews to

help them package food. It started with just a couple days a week and eventually grew to us supplying about a dozen workers each day. Our men and women love going to Crest and challenging themselves to break their old production records. Crest loves having us.



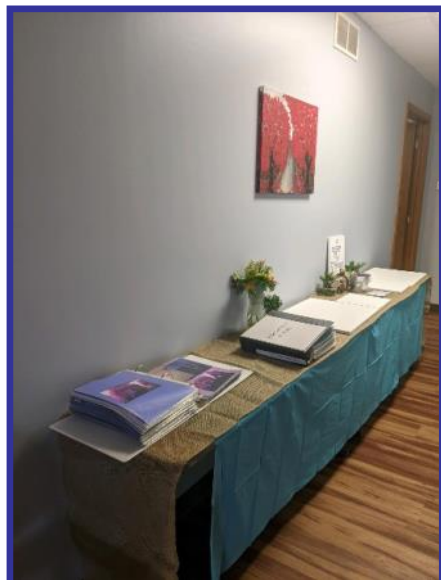
Again, what's often mentioned most is the enthusiasm our people bring to the work. In June, Crest Foods and the Village celebrated with a first anniversary party.

So, here's an interesting question – in each of these activities, who received more and who gave more? See, what we often find is that it's not a matter of which is better – giving or receiving. What we find is that, when done right, it's really impossible to tell the difference.



ROCKFORD SEXUAL ASSAULT COUNSELING, INC.

Ogle, Boone, and Winnebago counties. Our essential services for survivors of sexual assault/abuse and their significant others include crisis intervention on the 24-hour crisis hotline and in the hospitals, legal advocacy, and counseling. Professional training and prevention education on a variety of topics are also available for the community and agencies. All of these services are offered at no charge. If you are interested in services for yourself, an info table, or training for your agency, please reach out and we will get it arranged!



our Rockford office moved in April! It is a larger space, and we are getting settled in. Our new address is 5301 E. State St, Ste 301, Rockford, IL 61108.

In June, we held an open house and welcomed over 100 people through our doors to see the new space. We had canvases displayed so that guests could write positive messages to survivors that we will display at the new office. If you were unable to make the open house, please contact Erica at (815) 636-9811 so we can arrange a tour.

April was also Sexual Assault Awareness Month. We hosted many info tables including ones at Oregon High School, Byron Middle School, and Meridian Junior High.

We are also excited to be back at the Ogle County Fair this August! Please

look for our table to get information about our services and other valuable resources.



Michelle Pauley, Ogle County therapist, hosts an info table to share about RSAC and its services.

Please contact us for more information or check out our Facebook page or website: www.rockfordsexualassaultcounseling.org. Ogle County phone: (815) 732-0000 24-hour crisis hotline: (815) 636-9811

RSAC is also excited to announce that



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Village of Progress:

Contact: Brion Brooks 815.732.2126

Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling:

Contact: Erica Engler 815.636.9811

Easterseals-Family Support Services

Contact: Kathleen Kurtz 815.965.5069

After 22 years at Easterseals as our Family Support Specialist, Patti Mook retired on June 30, 2022. We want to thank her for her commitment to the Family Support Services Program. We will greatly miss her and the work she has accomplished on behalf of her families and their children as a Family Support Specialist.

As a parent of a child with special needs, Patti inherently knows what our families need to support their children to live healthy, happy lives within their family home. Patti has been an advocate extraordinaire and is familiar with the services within the Rockford region for our families.

For the last 12 years, Patti has been the key organizer of an amazing Mom's retreat weekend serving caregivers who come from throughout the State to seek fun, fellowship and nurturing. Patti is aware of the time and energy it takes to parent a child who may need extra time, care and attention and understands that mothers sometimes need time to rejuvenate and re-energize.

Patti provides advocacy, training, support, and networking opportunities to our families and they have come to rely on her ability to connect them to services and resources. One Mom wrote, "Thank you for all you have done for all of us special need Momma's. Your sunny presence always makes my heart happy! We agree, and we will all miss Patti's bright spirit!"

We are all so proud of the Patti's dedication to her families and to Easterseals and wish her a wonderful, well-deserved retirement! Thank you, Patti for 22 years! We will miss you!

LSSI:

Contact: Chris Mills 815.284.7796

With the end of the school year occurring this quarter, the Prevention programs focused on finishing curriculum lessons and educational presentations to youth in Ogle County. Project LEAD was involved in Aplington Middle School and David L Rahn and served 320 students in the last couple months of the school year with Too Good for Drugs lessons. Youth WORKS concentrated on engaging their youth committee at Oregon High School to discuss, plan and implement violence prevention strategies. Together, the prevention programs highlighted National Youth Prevention Week in May and had information tables with giveaways for the students at Forreton Jr/Sr High. Posters were displayed with the youth responses regarding what prevention means to them. Local businesses also got involved and provided Prevention week stickers on purchased products, while also offering flyers about our services.

Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services (CCBYS) was also busy due to an increase in crisis calls to assist with runaway or locked out youth. As emergency situations were addressed to either reunify families or identify safe places for these youth to stay, CCBYS staff continued to follow-up and offer services for counseling and/or conflict resolution.

HOPE of Ogle County:

Contact: Ruth Carter 815.562.4323

HOPE of Ogle County offers the following list of services to persons who are in or have been in abusive and or controlling relationships. These relationships include intimate relationships, caretaker relationships, familial relationships and for folks who share a household . 24/7 hotline for immediate safety planning, support and resources * In-person, telephone and secure video counseling for adults, teens and children * Order of Protection advocacy and support * 24/7 emergency shelter services and extended emergency shelter * bilingual advocates who provide services in Spanish * All services are accessible inclusive, confidential and free of charge.

Locations for services in Rochelle, Polo and Oregon.

Fiscal year FY22 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022) HOPE of Ogle County Served 361 adults, 96 children and teens, provided 6,682 hours of service and assisted with 73 Ogle County Emergency Orders of Protection.

Sinnissippi Centers:

Contact: Patrick Phelan 815.284.6611

Sinnissippi Centers' Peer Support and Mentoring program in Ogle County continues to be active: Over the past three months, we have provided 166 individual services to clients in the community from staff that have life experience. Sinnissippi Centers' Community Support Team (CST) has also been active this last quarter. CST currently has 56 active clients in Ogle County.

Individual stories really tell the success of this program. We have a client that has been seen two times a week for the past four months. They were referred by KSB for severe anxiety and panic disorder. The client was coming into the KSB Oregon clinic with frequent medical concerns (which ended up being somatic) due to anxiety. We were able to partner with KSB and offer CST. At the start, the client was not able to make phone calls, leave their home for long periods of time, and/or sit in appointments without sheer panic. They are now able to come into Sinnissippi's office, socialize with clerical staff, make appointments with the support of CST, and panic attacks and medical appointments have significantly reduced. (The client recently camped for the first time and was so proud to show CST pictures when they returned).

Staff like using success stories to highlight the coordinated care that CST can be a part of in the community by linking with medical providers, and it also shows that by referring a client to the right treatment level of care and program, they are able to achieve a level of functioning in their daily routine much quicker than a traditional outpatient.

Serenity Hospice & Home:

Contact: Lynn Knodle 815.732.2499

Serenity goes above and beyond to provide the highest quality, compassionate care to our patients and their families. Our aim is to give comfort and ease physical pain for our patients as well as to meet their psycho-social needs. We have our own state-of-the-art Serenity Home where people can come for respite care or when their symptoms become unmanageable.

We have begun to implement an innovative new program to help us with the staffing challenges caused by the unpredictable nature of the census in our Serenity Home called the Spirit Nurse Initiative. The goal is to employ retired nurses and call them in to work in the Serenity Home on an "as needed" basis. The Spirit Nurses will be an invaluable asset to our team, helping immensely to alleviate the constant pressure on our nurses and CNAs when things unexpectedly get hectic in the Serenity Home. When we have a full census in the Serenity Home, they will help to ensure that each and every patient gets the fully present, tender, loving and attentive care that is so greatly needed during such a challenging and vulnerable time. Every bit of extra attention that we are able to provide our patients and their families is very meaningful and comforting to them.

Spirit Nurses will be employees of Serenity Hospice, and, therefore, must meet all of our employment criteria. However, the program is really designed as a volunteer program, where the retired nurses will be paid a small stipend to help them meet their expenses, far less than what their years of experience and high level of expertise is worth. We already have a team of six wonderful and compassionate nurses who each have over thirty years of experience. Though they have retired, they are looking for an opportunity to continue to serve patients in a way that provides meaning and fulfillment to their lives without being overly cumbersome or time consuming. The Spirit Nurses and our staff are very enthusiastic about this program and the benefits that it will bring to our patients and their families.