

Camphill Village Minnesota

Newsletter Summer/Fall 2009



A community where people with and without disabilities live, work and care for each other to foster social, cultural and agricultural renewal.

Supporting the Vision of Camphill:

A critical time for each of us to help Camphill build on its success

Mary Gruber

Last year, for the second year in a row, we have seen our operating costs increase significantly without a parallel rise in donations and government cost of living increases.

Even as we cut back in other ways, our final expenses still exceeded our general budget by \$29,000. That included increased medical bills and increased utilities.

In consideration of last year's challenges, our fundraising goal for operations is \$99,500. Due to significant losses to our endowment, we may need to raise an additional \$20,000, toward our operating expenses.

The Good News

We are hopeful that our endowment will rebound, as our national economy recovers. Additionally, Camphill continues to develop new relationships and new connections in the greater community, which will help us to build new support for our operations in the years ahead.

In this time of economic challenge, our current donors' gifts become crucial to bridge the funding gap and to build relationships for new support. We hope those of you who can make a gift at this time will help ensure Camphill's viability into the coming year. Thank you, our greater Camphill community, for all that you do.

If you would like more information or would like to help Camphill Village Minnesota connect to other resources that can make a difference, please call Mary Gruber at 651-334-4684.

Contributions can be sent to Camphill Village Minnesota, Inc., 15136 Celtic Drive, Sauk Centre, MN 56378



Kiley



Derek Kiley Miller-Power, known as “Kiley”, is an energetic 23-year-old who has been a member of the Camphill Village Minnesota community since September 2008. Though he works at many jobs in the community, Kiley says his favorite thing to do is, vacuum. Kiley is also interested in food and its preparation. He loves to ask people what they had for their meals. Kiley likes cooking lunch, so that he “can eat stuff like pasta, that’s ok.” His favorite foods are “oatmeal and pizza, too”, but he admits that “he is not so picky.”

Kiley is a very positive person, is incredibly generous, and is always ready with a huge grin that can brighten any room.

Kiley says that it is important for people to know that he “likes shopping, Monday morning meetings, and root beer.”

Audrey Gradzewicz

Monte



Montgomery “Monte” Mullan is one of the newest members of Camphill Village Minnesota. He joined the community in July 2009. Monte says that his favorite thing to do here is to “shoot baskets” and “push balls”, and indeed, his enthusiasm for basketball and bowling is well-known throughout the village. Monte is equally known for his jovial, easy-going nature and mischievous laugh; Monte likes Laurel and Hardy. He is adept at puzzles, takes pleasure in coloring (particularly with the color blue), and enjoys looking at pictures and his calendar. Monte also likes the village’s pets, and they all like Monte.

Audrey Gradzewicz

Tim



Timothy O Connor! Yes, he is here! He arrived September 12, 2008. Something was stirring inside of Tim. He had graduated from school and had worked for various places, but he did not like cities. He was looking for something new.

The webs of destiny are mysteriously woven. Tim’s work coordinator had been on our Board years and years ago. He remembered CVM and realized that Tim and Camphill would be a good match. Tim’s work coordinator, his social worker and Tim visited our community and had a meal here.

When Tim was asked what he likes best in Camphill, he responded that he “can breathe easy here” and that he “likes it better here than going to town.”

He says that he “has never had this type of food at all;” and that “the company is really nice here. He has never seen so many kind people doing what he asks of them. There are easy friendships to be made and plenty of music.” Tim has now been here a year. He shares his many talents with us. Tim is an artist, loves to fish, goes to Special Olympics, plays games, socializes and listens to stories and audio tapes. He is always willing to help out with a spontaneous errand. You should see him run with eagerness!



Tim also loves to work on the farm and is an excellent help in the bakery and weavery. He enjoys working in the harvest kitchen when the vegetables are pouring in and the pressure is on!

We are grateful for his sunshine ways and effervescent enthusiasm. Welcome Tim, in this part of your life's journey.

Jan Zuzalek

Dede



Demeitra "Dede" Jordeth, a member of the Camphill Village Minnesota community since July 2009, is a lively, talkative woman who enjoys "reading, coloring, singing and music". She has an excellent sense of humor, takes delight in the simplest of things. Dede is also very helpful on her work crews, and is especially skilled at cleaning. She says that she "likes everybody here." Dede says that "Camphill is a gorgeous place" and what she likes most is when "Jeff tells jokes," and when other people "do funny things that make her laugh."

Audrey Gradzewicz

Natalie



Ask anyone at CVM what they think of Natalie Troia, and you will realize that everyone finds her lovely and a joy to be around. She is a woman with contagious laughter; and an innate sense of fun and mischief.

Natalie moved into Brome House some months ago, made quick friends with housemates David, Anna and Chipeta, and developed special bonds with each of the co-workers in the house.

Nat loves magazines, music, drawing and socializing with friends and family. And believe me if she starts to giggle and you are anywhere in the vicinity, you will start giggling, too. Thus, the many Brome giggle fests!

She is a bright spot in all our days and we are glad having her in the village as well as sharing a home with her joyous being.

A huge thank you to her parents Robert and Carol as well as to the rest of the family for their continuous generosity. We have been lucky to form a friendship and look forward to more visits. Welcome Natalie and all of the Troia family to CVM.

Sarah Foster



Open Day, Open House, Open Hearts

Barbara Hoet

Every year the first Sunday after Labor Day is Open House in CVM. Everybody lends a hand to set up the tents and the stands. The houses get an extra dusting, sweeping and mopping. The flower gardens receive special attention with weeding and watering. Lawn mowers are buzzing throughout the village. All the workshops are busier than ever to get ready for the big event.

This day is a wonderful opportunity for CVM to reach out beyond the village, reach out to all our families and supporters, old and new friends, neighbors and simply interested folks.

And it is also a moment for us, as a community, to reflect on the past year's experiences and fruits.

We all work together, be it in the garden or on the farm; in the bakery or in the weavery; in the art and card shop; or in the harvest kitchen and village meal. With love and understanding for other people we rise above sympathy and antipathy. With a good sense of humor and warmth of heart, we enrich, renew and nourish our community continually.





Camphill Village Minnesota Donors and Volunteers Going the Extra Mile

Mary Gruber

We are excited to have so many people give so much, extending their arms further out to the village and into the greater community on behalf of Camphill Village Minnesota. As always, what each of you give of your time, your unique skills and your financial support, has truly made the difference. Things always seem to come together to meet Camphill Village needs, supporting what is essential to sustain this community every year. Last year was a perfect example. Who would be able to forecast the necessity to support a number of individuals' health concerns, increasing one aspect of what had been budgeted? And yet, in the end there was enough funding to cover these vital needs.

So many services are also given to us with the generosity of volunteer organizations.

Once again there was the Long Prairie Lions Club that rebuilt a handicapped accessible ramp for St. Christopher House. We are so grateful to all the service clubs and other volunteers, who over the years have donated their time and their skills to make key renovations happen. Also many thanks to groups like the Lutheran youth group, the Waldorf School and the Mennonite Fellowship, who have come to help with a variety of tasks around the village. The Friends group of Camphill is another vital group of volunteers, which continues to make the difference in organizing the Fall Festival Open Day every year.

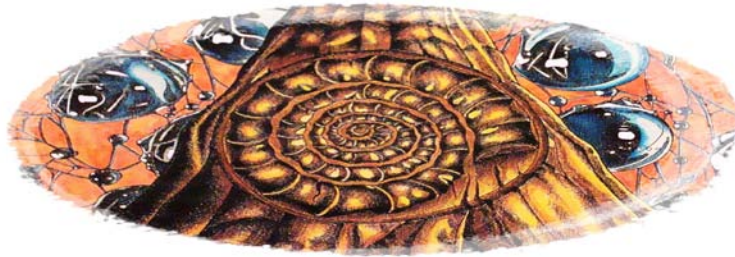
And so many individuals share their time and talents.

What would we do without Jack's computer savvy? Or friends like Merl Felling and Tony Jennissen locally, and Billy Berghold nationally, who connect the greater community to the vision of Camphill or the members of the board, who contribute their skills and their time in so many ways.

And the gifts of youth, like Karli Rodahl, who worked collaboratively to create the lasting beauty and tribute of a Mosaic, which has the mark of many individuals living in and around the community.

Thanks to all who participate for keeping the Camphill Spirit alive.





How Potatoes Returned to Camphill Village Minnesota

Tal Simchoni

It was a cool, crisp day in mid-May. Tal Simchoni and Gabriel Bonsels (Gabe) stared at an implement with a small plow on it. Only a couple of weeks earlier Steve and Nancy Potter had come out to CVM to describe the intricacies of potato planting using this particular implement. Around the same time as that visit, seed potatoes were spread out in wooden flats in a warm room near a window in one of our residential houses, so they would eventually start turning green. This technique, called “green sprouting,” will prepare them for planting. Once instructed, Gabe and Tal fitted the plow attachment to the implement and set the tractor in front of one of nine beds that had been prepared for planting. The plow was lowered and the tractor moved forward. The plow created a nice, deep furrow. The next day the farm crew helped the garden crew and together they all placed potatoes into the furrows and covered them up. This healthy and robust human crew planted all nine rows in two hours. Then we waited for the predicted rain to fall.

Back when the Potter's coordinated the garden, most of our vegetables were grown here at CVM. When they left, the garden downsized. Potatoes and corn had not been grown on site for a few years. In 2007 an effort began to bring back the spuds and the ears. We started with a small stand of sweet corn which then this past year expanded to a much larger stand. This year we also added potatoes. Whether they are mashed, fried, baked or herbed, they will be our own.

With careful eye we watched them grow. We watered diligently. Then came the first spotting ... of a potato beetle. Every morning we went through and picked bugs. But as gardeners well know and the rest can imagine, picking tiny bugs off of ever growing potato plants can be very monotonous. To remedy the complaints about picking, the gardeners decided to turn the task into a contest. The winner would receive the morning off and an all expense paid trip to Jitters, the local coffee shop. We tallied bug pickings by category. One point each was awarded to any of the following: one adult, one egg ‘cluster’, or one group of ‘babies’ on one plant. Coworkers and garden crew alike picked pests with their unique style. Tim O’Conner picked slowly and thoroughly. He checked under each leaf. Mike Jennissen flew up and down the rows faster than a potato beetle can fly. Kelsey Grant-Jenkins discovered where the ‘hot’ spots were and started there. The contest heated up. Tal got a head start because Kelsey missed some days. To catch up, Kelsey searched more than once a day, as no restrictions existed on the frequency and time of “hunting”. Other gardeners complained that they were not in the garden enough to make a dent in their potato bug stats. Soon, Tal and Kelsey tried to distract each other with stories or tricks while they were picking. “You have a phone call” was a common one. Then one day the contest stopped. The gardeners realized that the contest was not really fair. Tal and Kelsey had equal opportunity to pick and everyone else had fewer chances. Everyone who worked in the garden was declared a winner, and the garden crew got to go to Jitters. But by then the bugs had been kept in check. And wasn’t that the point to begin with?



As we watched, picked and weeded, we were tempted to ‘rob’ some potatoes before maturity. But we have waited patiently for the vines to dry out. In mid-August, we had our first reward. Kelsey, Stephanie Pothén, Tyler Carlson and Tal dug some of our early potatoes. And they found tender, handsome, red ones. We look forward to discover what hidden treasures remain waiting un dug in our new potato field.



Us – The Piggies

Gabriel Bonsels

We were born on a small organic farm outside of Staples, Minnesota. There were twelve of us, six brothers and six sisters.



One day all our six sisters were gone, so it was only mom and the six of us left. A few weeks later a big machine came by with a huge trailer in the back; and we knew it was our turn to go. These huge two-leggers hauled us into the trailer. We were scared, but we knew it was going to be a fun and bumpy road trip.

Then all of a sudden we stopped. The big door of the trailer swung open and, we found ourselves in a yard with plenty of

grass, a big house, and dirt to dig in.

Around all this was a fence that had holes, just big enough for us to fit through. And of course we were quite curious to explore the world outside the fence, but before long those two-leggers came chasing after us and we played “catch me if you can.” It wasn’t really much fun though, because they caught us pretty fast. Eventually we gave up on this game, considering that we get fed twice a day with lots of goodies from the compost and those two-legged ones actually seem to be quite nice.



We are happy here and are raised to become some mighty and yummy pigs!

Camphill Benefit Concert 2009

“Individual Expression, Collective Symphony”

Mary Gruber

The Camphill Benefit Concert was held this year on October in New York City at the Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center. This year’s concert was once again a wonderful testimonial to the power of the Camphill experience, including the great music created by the Camphill Village bell choirs. It featured the Camphill Triform Bell Choir and the Camphill Village Ensemble. They were joined by Stephen Colbert and musicians Paula Robison, Frederic Hand, the Eroica Trio, Cecile Licad, Mark O’Connor’s Hot Swing and the Matt Herskowitz Trio.

The Benefit Concerts are held on the East Coast with the majority of Camphill Villages in North America being located there. Historically, Camphill Village Minnesota has had limited attendance at the concerts, given that a majority of our friends and donors live in the mid west.

In recent years we have been blessed with the support of Billy and Joanne Berghold, who come from New York, and now live in Montana. Billy and Joanne, with their friends and family have adopted Camphill Village Minnesota in their commitment to supporting the Camphill Movement.



This year the Bergholds' support included rallying a group of family and friends to sponsor and attend the triennial benefit concert on our behalf.

Thank you to Billy and Joanne Berghold, Terence Meehan, Connie Murray, Maureen O'Leary, Mike and Mimi Rafferty, Richard and Doris Seidlitz, Bob Cahill, Alex and Sue Chapro, Allan and Martha Sexter, Sharon B. Casdin, Henry and Nancy Elghanayan, Mr and Mrs Ralph M. Evans, Anita and Bob Jacobson, Tad Sennott and Jennifer Kellogg, James and Julie Sykes, Janet and George Felleman, Ed Herbst, Axel and Sarah Schupf, Barry and Jill Lafer. Thanks to all who supported this celebration of the Camphill Spirit

Capital Renovation Plan, March 2009 – March 2011

Initial fundraising goal 2009/2010: \$51,000

Every year it is vital that we keep ahead of the maintenance in the village to ensure safety and efficiency of operations, as well as to reduce costly repairs.

The total amount to be raised to cover the next two years of capital renovation projects is \$137,000. Below is an outline of the initial \$51,000 Renovation Plan.

We are grateful for the generous help we receive from our larger community of donors. You have been our anchor for so many years. We also truly appreciate how individuals and groups continue to support us, through service projects and in-kind donations.

Initial Renovation Projects: March 2009 – March 2010

Replacement of Roofs/Flooring/Painting	Projected cost
Brome Roof	\$ 7,000
Wood shop Roof	\$ 5,000
Oakwood Roof	\$ 7,000
Paint exterior of St. Martin's	\$ 5,500
Flooring in Apartment (replace carpeted area, 4 rooms)	\$ 5,000
TOTAL	\$29,500
Vehicles, Equipment and Furniture Replacement	
Additional beds, other bedroom furniture	\$ 5,000
Car Replacement	\$15,000
Office Printer and Computer Equipment	\$ 1,500
TOTAL	\$21,500
TOTAL PHASE	\$51,000



The Seasons of Special Olympics

Eric Selle

For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven. – Ecclesiastes 3:1

Everyone experiences seasons in life. Certainly the importance of seasons is well known here at Camphill Village Minnesota. We have the privilege of fully experiencing four distinct seasons with our outdoor work on the land, seasonal holidays, festivals, and traditions. With this increased attentiveness to seasonal change, I have come to appreciate the seasons of Special Olympics.

It was September when I first volunteered to accompany our people with special needs here at Camphill to participate in bowling practice last fall. Just as the Minnesota outdoors were filled with the colors of Fall, our small, local bowling alley was filled with the colors of excitement. The room was packed full of people and bustling with activity. The head coach, Bob, announced the beginning of practice and cheers erupted from the athletes. After each ball rolled down the alley, high fives and congratulations were exchanged. Pins were falling as fast as the leaves off the trees, and celebration dances broke out after each successful spare or strike. Conversation and laughter abounded. When we left that night I knew that this was something special that I wanted to continue to be a part of.



Special Olympics is a very meaningful program for athletes and volunteers alike, one that allows for an individual to participate in organized athletics while building meaningful relationships and increasing one's self-esteem. The program is made possible by all the volunteers from the community serving as coaches, organizers and caregivers. All their invested time and energy pays off. Our residents at Camphill are constantly talking about upcoming practices and events – it's a highlight of the week. Every Thursday when we arrive at practice it is time for greetings to be exchanged with friends and coaches. Lasting relationships are formed. For me personally it has been a joy to get to know other volunteers like myself, giving of themselves for a program that they know has a powerful impact on the lives of people with special needs. Also it is wonderful to see athletes gain

self-confidence as they set goals and rise to the challenge to achieve them. I got to witness firsthand these positive results of hard work and success during our team's basketball season.

As January arrived with its snowdrifts and frosty winds we began to work up a sweat in the high school gym. Everyone practiced basketball skills of passing, dribbling and shooting. Athletes that were able and interested formed a five-on-five full court team that would compete against other Special Olympics teams in the area. As the season progressed athletes began to improve and the stage was set for the final basketball event. Everyone would be competing to top their best scores. In addition, the full court team would be playing their final game: against the coaches! There was a lot of anticipation leading up to that Saturday morning, including some friendly banter, such as: "you're going down, coach!" It was fun to see the athletes so pumped up about the event. The turnout was great. Volunteers were stationed on the sidelines to run the scoreboard. Parents and friends, and fellow athletes were in the stands to cheer on the team. We even had a referee to officiate the game. Everyone had a great time! The ref even got into the spirit of the match, calling a few "creative" fouls against the coaches, such as "too much bling" against a female wearing some earrings. In the end it was a blowout, with the athletes beating the coaches by more than 20 points. We all exchanged high fives and "good games," then continued on with an award ceremony where each athlete proudly received a trophy. The basketball season was over, but relationships that were formed would continue past that day.





Track and field season begins in the spring as soon as the snow is off the ground. In Minnesota, that usually means sometime in April. Just because the days are getting longer doesn't mean the chill has left the air. In fact, at our first area competition in May hats and jackets, even scarves and mittens were among the necessities. It was hard to imagine that we would be competing in 90-degree temperatures a month later at the state competition. I had heard plenty of stories from our athletes about the much anticipated three-day event but they were still not enough to prepare me for the occasion. We traveled to Minneapolis to join with thousands of other athletes and volunteers from across the state of Minnesota and compete for awards, gather in the grandstand to cheer on fellow athletes and explore all the games and activities in the Olympic Village. The entire atmosphere contributed to the ideal that all the athletes were important, and that competing in Special Olympics was a big deal!

Highlights for our team included, swimming at the hotel during our two-night stay, a pizza party and barbeque, winning medals and ribbons for our successful events. The whole experience was memorable and quite exhausting, and we were all ready for a break.



Our Special Olympics season of rest comes in the summer, when our team does not participate in any sport. At Camphill we appreciate this extra time to enjoy working and playing outdoors. Memories of glory and achievement are recalled and the stories are embellished a bit. Tall tales contribute to the gradual building of excitement until that first week of September when once again the arrival of fall brings the colors of warm welcomes and greetings, high fives and celebrations in a crowded bowling alley. The seasons of Special

Olympics continue. It's going to be a great year!

The Moon

I see the Moon

The Moon sees me

So God bless the Moon I want to be.

If I were on the Moon

I'll take my girlfriend and

Romance on the Moon

Ben Cotter





All Souls Day Festival Preparation in the Art and Card Shop



WE HAVE ORGANIC/BIODYNAMIC GRASS FED BEEF FOR SALE!

WE SELL BY THE QUARTER ANIMAL

OUR MEAT AVERAGES \$4.34/LB OF PACKAGED MEAT. AN AVERAGE QUARTER IS ABOUT 100-120 POUNDS OF PACKAGED MEAT.

ANY QUESTIONS, OR MORE INFO, PLEASE CALL ANGELA AT 732-6365 OR EMAIL AT amichieli@hotmail.com

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*He to whom Nature begins to reveal her open secret
will feel an irresistible yearning for her most worthy interpreter, art.*

Goethe

