

# Camphill Village Minnesota Newsletter Spring 2006

## SECOND ANNIVERSARY

In the spring of 2003 we celebrated the opening of St. Martin's hall. With friends, family and benefactors gathered together, we spoke of the dreams the place held for us. Bill Briggs said, "In this building, we're trying in a small way to say 'Please enter our world.'" In our community poem we said, "We'll launch dreams from within, expanding our circle of friendship...."

Now, two years later, we can tally up a list of ways some of those dreams have materialized:

First of all St. Martin's is a social center for us and many other friends and neighbors. The ping-pong table, the pool table and the foos ball often attract groups of friends for friendly competition. The hall often echoes with sounds of fiddle and piano – it's time for folk dancing. In the hall we can do more spectacular gatherings, we can do eurythmy. The stage and hall make it possible to do more drama and to invite more people to attend. For example, our traditional Christmas play had outgrown the space in the Kate Meinke Building and in 2004 we were able to present it for the first time in St. Martin's with space for all those who wished to attend.



With the large dining room and kitchen we are able to have meals for the whole Village on a weekly schedule as well as on other special holidays. The kitchen and dining room are also available for other organizations (for example the recent 4-H annual meal-making project) or for workshops (like the Inner Development Workshops, a series of meetings held during the past year.) The processing kitchen has streamlined our food processing. Our work is more pleasant and efficient and the work can be extended into the winter, providing a popular work place for more people.

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# CAMP HILL ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund of Camphill Village has been established through gifts from individuals and at least one foundation. The fund is known as the principal, and investment of the principal creates earnings, which can be incorporated into the operating budget of the Village. The principal remains intact in perpetuity.

Several years ago, the Board established a goal of \$300,000 as a minimum base for the Endowment Fund. At that time, starting from scratch, it seemed to be an unattainable goal because in the past no attempt had been made to gather funds other than those needed for current operating expenses and larger capital needs. After a number of smaller grants came in dedicated to the Endowment Fund, Mr. and Mrs. Torrey gave the fund a substantial boost with a wonderful gift of \$50,000. This was followed last year by a grant of \$200,000 by E.M.Pearson Foundation. The total fund now stands at \$317,267.

A conservative philosophy would dictate no use of the earnings this year and possibly through 2006 as well, in order to continue to build a base most usable in the future. However, this decision will be based on whether or not funds will become available through the normal annual appeals and special capital requests and a bit will depend on the funding climate in the next year or two.

Continuing to build the endowment will benefit the long term health of CVM, especially in light of the ever-increasing cost of living that our present funding sources have not been able to sustain. There are a number of ways in which this can be done and we will briefly describe some methods which can be elaborated on by contacting Central Minnesota Community Foundation at 320-253-4380 or Mary Gruber at 651-222-3112 for more information.

## Ways to contribute to the Endowment Fund

- Make a **cash gift** to the endowment in honor of a friend's birthday, a graduation, anniversary or any other special occasion.
- Make a **cash gift as a memorial** on a recent death or the anniversary of the loss of a loved one.
- As part of your retirement plan, establish a **gift annuity** which will give you an immediate tax deduction plus annual income based on your age and amount of the gift.
- For the rest of you, not yet at the retirement stage, a **deferred gift annuity** which will result in an immediate deduction against taxes and then annual income at a predetermined age.
- You might want to consider a **charitable remainder trust** by which cash or property is transferred to a trust, which pays the beneficiary either a fixed percentage of the market value each year or a fixed annual amount. Upon the death of the beneficiary, the Camphill Endowment Fund receives the remaining assets.
- (In the above instances, or in regard to any gift to the Village, your tax advisor could describe for you the advantages of using appreciated assets as a source of your gift.)
- Make a **bequest** in your will to the endowment as a benefit to the Camphill Community.

All of these are means by which the Endowment Fund can grow and supporters can be pleased knowing that they have helped CVM in the long term. While it is important to establish means for the long life of Camphill through the endowment, it is also important that we realize that these contributions should be supplemental to continued annual support of current operations and capital needs, and not necessarily in place of them.

Don Steinkraus

Endowment contributors Mr. & Mrs. Torrey

## THE HAHN FAMILY \$35,000 CHALLENGE GIFT

The Village is excited by the Hahn Family challenge: if we raise \$70,000 by December 2005, the challenge grant will donate an additional \$35,000.

We are half way to our goal of raising the \$311,000 needed to complete funding for our 2003-2005 fiscal renovations. With \$152,000 in, we need \$149,000 to reach our goal. With the Hahn challenge in place, now is a good time to make a contribution, since the grant will multiply your donation. If, for example, one were to give \$500, the Village would receive an additional \$250 match from the Hahn challenge. Thus the \$500 gift in effect becomes \$750.

If you would like more details on the challenge grant please feel free to call Mary Gruber at 651-222-3112 or Bill Briggs at 320-732-6365.

### We thank the following individuals and foundations for their generous contributions to the Camphill Endowment Fund

#### Individuals

Brace and Susan Bennitt

David Capps

Dick Donovan

Skip Fitterer

Mary Ann Gilbertson

Stephen and Anne Goddard

Lisa Gray

Robyn Hansen and John Clarey

Jan Kaul

Phillip Levin

William Manning and Ruth Mickelsen

Daniel and Tammy McKanan

Darryl and Ina Jo Meyer

Mark and Marcia Munson

Robert Nemcik

Dwight and Chris Porter

Carol Robson

Steve Russell

Warren Smerud

Clifford and Margaret Steinkraus

Don Steinkraus

George and Shirley Torrey

Rose Yurek

#### Foundations, Businesses

American Express Foundation

First National Bank of Sauk Centre

Kopp Investment Advisors

Kopp Family Foundation

E.M. Pearson Foundation

Rathmann Family Foundation

Dennis and Karol Ringsmuth Fund of the

Central MN Community Foundation

Ziegler, Inc.

### We wish to thank the following individuals and organisations who contributed to Camphill Village Minnesota 01/01/05 to 04/30/05.

#### Individuals

Anonymous

Brace and Susan Bennitt

John Clarey and Robyn Hansen

Dennis and Marianne Dietzel

Roselyn Eckel

George and Ingrid Engdahl

Mike Flan and Susan Lawlor

James Garrett

Philip and Joan Goan

Robert Hall

Harold Hanson

Robert Kovell

Phillip Levin

David and Kathleen Mample

Michael and Sheryl March

Daniel and Tammy McKanan

Kristan and Michael Potter

Bob and Betty Schenk

Wayne Smith and Carol Nichol

Vern Tschida

James and Kathy Wiant

#### Foundations, Corporation and Organizations

American Express Foundation

Clour-Fund of Central MN Community Foundation

First National Bank of Sauk Centre

Sauk Centre Area Common Fund

## CULTURAL GROUP

When I came to CVM almost three years ago, I came with a desire to do work that would enhance the artistic ambiance of the village. I wanted to develop the ability of individuals to express themselves, to increase their articulation, to stimulate their interest in the larger world and form opinions on issues. To this end I gathered together a group which included Ben Cotter, Christine Kowalenko, Chipeta Difani, Chrissy Klotz, David Tack, John Weingartz, Jeff Krafty, Mike Jennissen, Sara Munson, and Alice Wilson

When someone asked me, “What shall we call this activity?” I said, “Let’s call it the cultural group”, and so we did.

What have we been doing these last two years?

A scripture reading I like says, “by their fruits ye shall know them.” Our “fruits” have been a number of dramatic performances on stage and we have advanced our acting skills of memorizing, movement, speech and projection, and social support. We’ve also had lots of fun.

How do we do it? We usually begin our afternoon session with exercise: laying out the gym mats and spending 15 minutes stretching, bending legs and arms, crawling, etc. Next comes Eurythmy, where we extend our movements to enliven our connection with speech, poetry and “the word”. Then we practice speaking while throwing beanbags across the room to a partner. This exercise helps the participants to project their voice, to “throw it out” along with the beanbag.



The cultural groups rehearses for the play “Jack and his Comrades”

At this point we are usually ready to begin on some aspect of our play: practicing characterizations or working on a scene. Eventually throughout the two hours, we do it all several times. We are all involved in the consideration of color, lighting and costumes. Finally, in the last half-hour, we sit in the lounge and listen to a significant story, or have a conversation of mutual interest. Sometimes we have a speaker to enlighten our minds on various subjects such as nature, politics or art.

Perhaps some would quibble if “cultural” is the proper name for the group. I’m not hung up on a term. It’s pretty obvious that the participants benefit from our activities -- one can observe real progress in self-expression, self-confidence and in acting skills – and that’s what counts.

Alicia Santacroce

## VOLUNTEER BECKY KAPSNER

Early last summer, I answered the phone in the CVM office and at the other end was a young woman asking about volunteer opportunities. She had heard about us at a meeting of people interested in intentional communities at nearby Saint John's University, and was interested in how she and her family might be able to contribute to our work. She lived nearby, did not work outside the home, and was flexible about when she could come and what she could do. The catch: She wanted to bring three-year-old Daniel and one-year-old Genevieve. She commented, "Most places won't let me bring my children, but I feel it is important that they learn at a young age what it means to help others."



Becky Kapsner with children Daniel and Genevieve and  
Karen Davis Brown

I was ecstatic. The lack of young children in our community left many of us yearning for a "kid fix," and I assured her that her children would not only be accepted but welcomed. We agreed that she would come on Thursday mornings to help me prepare a main meal for ten folks in Nicholas Coleman House. Because we worked together, in between she would be free to tend the children, go for walks or visit the farm animals, and leave whenever seemed best for their day's schedule.

The first thing I learned about Becky was that she can cook, an invaluable skill in Camphill! It was not long before I felt comfortable saying, "make some rice" or "please wash and cut up these carrots," and she and Daniel would do the rest (with Genevieve's help, of course). The second thing I learned is that she is a thoughtful and attentive mother. After years of working as a parent educator, I could appreciate the work that stands behind a three-year-old saying, "You did that very nicely, mom."

The third thing I learned about Becky was that she could sing. She graduated from Saint Benedict's College in Saint Joseph, Minnesota, with a Bachelors degree in Vocal Performance. After a group of us attended a performance of The Sound of Music in which she played Maria Von Trapp, we enlisted her to assist us with the singing for the Oberufer Shepherd's Play, which we performed last Christmas. She took this task on with heart and soul, in spite of her family and church commitments. She figured out the songs, made tapes for the actors, and conducted several singing practices prior to the performance. We truly could not have done this play without her energy, positivity and professional talent. And thanks to her, among others, the play was a great success.

Since Becky, Daniel, and Genevieve started coming last summer, I have moved to Oakwood House, Daniel has become a confident four year old, Genevieve is starting to talk, and another young Kapsner is on the way. They are still helping me cook Thursday lunch – our current joke is how "great" they are at grating cheese, which is their most frequent assignment – and we look forward to years of fun and friendship together, not to mention many delicious meals and delightful visits. Daniel and Genevieve's father Brad, a high school teacher in Saint Cloud, is also a regular visitor, particularly for special events and Open Day. Thanks, Becky, for that fateful phone call!

Karen Davis Brown

## ALUMNI CORNER

*Kristin Wilson, one of the founding members of Camphill Village Minnesota, is featured in this issue. Her daughter Alice is currently a coworker in our community.*

*When did you live and work in Camphill Village Minnesota (CVM)?*

I moved to Minnesota, November 1980 and lived in the community until October 1995.

*Where did you live and work while you were here?*

I lived in what is now called the Farmhouse when the community was first started and then in Nicholas Coleman House for many years.

During the time I was in the community I served as a “housemother,” as well as working in the garden and helping out in the barn. I started the weavery in the Nicholas Coleman house basement. After I left the community, I was a board member for quite a few years.

*What experiences were you looking for when you decided to come to CVM?*

Having grown up in Camphill Village Copake, I was interested in supporting a new Camphill Village initiative.

*Why did you choose CVM as the place to find these experiences?*

In the summer of 1985, Hartmut and Gerda von Jeetze came to Minnesota to explore the possibility of starting a community here. I came to visit friends in Minnesota and I loved it. It became clear to me that it was the next step for me.

*What did you appreciate most about your time at CVM?*

In retrospect, all of it.

*What were your biggest challenges during that time?*

I was only 21 years old when I arrived. It was a lot of responsibility at a young age. And, because there were so few of us, all of us had to be present all the time. It was really 24/7.

I think the hardest was trying to train in “young co-workers”, who were about the same age as me.

*How did the community help you address or minimize these challenges?*

We were all in it together, and supported each other.

*What is your fondest memory of CVM?*

In 15 years? You’re asking for ONE?

- ❖ The swamp coming alive in the spring, with the grasses billowing like ocean waves;
- ❖ Splitting firewood with the whole community (there were about eight of us at that time);
- ❖ Our wedding and the births of Alice (age 20), Timothy (age 19), and Becky (age 13);
- ❖ So many people coming through my life.

*What did you learn here that you have been able to take into your life since that time?*

It gave me a unique perspective on how to work with others which I still find valuable.

*What would you say to others thinking about volunteering at CVM?*


Go for it! You will learn a lot of things, but not necessarily what you expect.

Founding members of Camphill Village Minnesota (Kristin in doorway to the left.)



Kristin Wilson

## BOARD MEMBER LEILA OLIVER



Leila Oliver has been a member of the Camphill Village Minnesota Board of Directors since 1999, and was a loyal Camphill administrator for 14 ½ years before that. Not to mention becoming a well-loved friend to many in the Village.

Prior to coming to CVM, Leila worked in Social Services. She came to know of Camphill through her social work and after an interview with Harmut and Gerda von Jetze, the founders of Camphill Village Minnesota, she began her job in 1984.

After 14 ½ years of service with the much needed office and administrative help, Leila left the job, but still kept her connection to Camphill by becoming a member of the Board. Leila believes an important part of being a board member is to be a representative of the Camphill way of life, and as this representative, to educate people in the broader community about what the mission of CVM is all about.

Leila also helps with fund-raising for the Village, works for the development of Camphill throughout the North American Region, and volunteers at CVM's annual Open Day.

Leila is certainly an advocate for those with special needs. She and her husband have recently opened the Woodland View Care Center, an adult foster care home for the elderly.

In between her many commitments, Leila finds time for some of her hobbies – playing the flute, needle work, knitting, crocheting and her favorite hobby of all, spending time with her friends and family, especially her five grandchildren. It has been a blessing having Leila as such a loyal and caring part of the Camphill family. Twenty odd years and counting!

Sarah Foster

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St. Martin's also makes it possible for us to host the Camphill Association Meetings which include representatives from all the North American Camphills and other guests. Last fall, it was also the site of our Arts Extravaganza which was reported on in our last issue, and hopefully will see many similar projects in the future.

The Center is also used by the larger community. An organization of homeschoolers uses it on a regular basis and some local music teachers present their recitals in the hall. The hall has also hosted meetings of the Sustainable Farming Association, the Inner Development Workshops, a local book club and other neighborhood organizations as well as a graduation and a memorial.

The commercial grade kitchen is available for people to use and since it is licensed, it can also be used by anyone who would like to develop products for market. This summer, for example, organic gardener Gary Brever will use the kitchen to process his vegetables which will allow him to develop his winter CSA (Community Supported Agriculture).

These are just some of the ways that St. Martin's Hall is serving our needs and the needs of the larger community. We are blessed to have such a wonderful space and thank all those who made it possible through their donations and energy.

## COMINGS AND GOINGS.....

The local band Corridor performed for the costume Carnival dance and the hall was full of CVMers and many friends..... Sara Munson, Jeff Krafty, Jerry Yurek, Tony Hanson, Sarah Derkey, Chipeta Difani and Chrissy Klotz were faithful participants in Project Together which now ends with the school year.....We had a week visit from two students from Beaver Hill (the transition program of Beaver Run Special School) along with the director Norbert Schultes and two other co-workers.....Co-workers Johannes Knopfle and Gabrielle Bonsel were performers in the local production of *The Match Maker*.....Recent departures include Barbara and Michael Hoet, Grant Ault, Kerry Grant.....New arrivals are Stephanie Agnew of Minneapolis, Kelsey Grant (Kerry's daughter) from Portland, Oregon and Anna Gammeter from Switzerland (daughter of Hans and Mariana who were co-workers at CVM 15 years ago.).....Christine Kowalenko, John Weingartz, Mike Jennissen Sara Munson, Sarah Derkey, David Tack and Tony Hanson continue to participate in Special Olympics which includes basketball and track and field.....We have had several visits from local college students (St. John's, St. Benedict's, St. Cloud State) who participate in special projects and pair up with Village penpals....



Carnival 2005

