

Innisfree

VILLAGE VOICE
SUMMER 2016

*Maggie and Sarah
celebrate the start
of summer on the
opening day of the pool!*



A Changing Landscape

Farm Building Thank You

Thanks to the support of our Innisfree friends and family, we met the goal for our challenge grant from the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation within a month of the publication of our last newsletter! Construction of the farm workstation building is now underway. We look forward to seeing it take shape in the coming months.



New Furniture

We are diving into the summer in comfort thanks to Barbara Fried's generous donation of new pool furniture and Better Living Furniture's gracious donation of beautiful new patio furniture for Meadow.



*Corinne, Tim,
and Ellie
enjoy the
sunshine of
Meadow's
screened
porch during
our May
birthday
celebration.*



*Stephen, Mark, and several other villagers
lounges poolside on a beautiful afternoon.*

"A Changing Landscape" continued

Paving

Innisfree Lane and several of our parking areas recently got a face lift, stretching all the way from Trillium down to our mailbox. Walkers, wheelchairs, and bare feet are all enjoying the new smooth surface!



Coming Home

When you have made a home for yourself, it stays in your heart. Always. Being able to physically return to this home place is like falling off the proverbial horse. You just pick up conversations with folks as if you never left. As someone said, 'Life is a circle.' I'll keep coming back, just like that bad penny. I hope there will be room in the circle for me." —Laura Neff



Laura at home in the garden

out the special beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains, something I had forgotten. I'll always cherish my time there and going back made me

realize how lucky I was to have spent an interesting and perhaps one of the best years of my life there."

—Stefanie Bossart

"Yesterday I cleaned leeks that were to be sold at the farmers market. I used a method to cut the roots off that I learned by watching Katie K.

in the garden. I build lego towers, just like the structures Angelica created while watching game shows, for my niece to take apart. I 'visit' Innisfree several times a day. A moment, a task, or a phrase whisks me back."

—Connie Welsh



Connie bonds with one of our younger villagers.

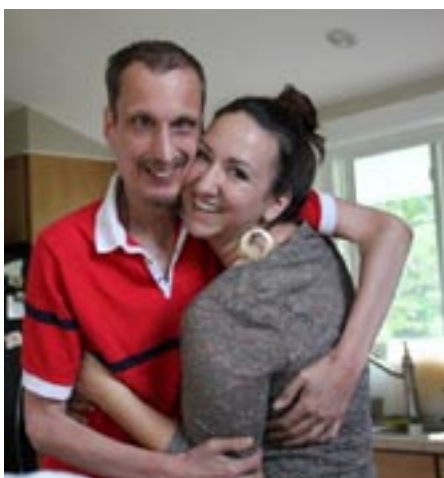
"The caring and sharing atmosphere was the same just like I remembered it 9 years ago. The rain and the fog brought

"Recently I had the chance to revisit Innisfree. It felt like coming home. I can't imagine that the community,

Stefanie and Chris enjoy a walk together.



always filled with abundant love and overflowing natural beauty, ever really changes. For as long as I am able, I will return to the village to connect back to the place that inspired me to live passionately and love unconditionally." —Casey Fabbri



Nicky had plenty of big hugs for Casey during her recent visit!

"It's been almost ten years since I left Innisfree. Since that time, I felt this deep desire to return one day. I always said that this year was one of the greatest years of my life—very meaningful and valuable for both my personal and professional development. It might sound funny but when we arrived



Pirates Sally and Florian - Aaarggg!

at C-Ville Airport and drove towards Innisfree, the fresh clean air made me feel like being at home, after all that time. We spent a fantastic week with old and new friends. It was great to see that we were not forgotten—I guess this is another wonderful thing about Innisfree." —Florian Gerdes

Share The Experience

In December 2007 I arrived at Innisfree to serve as a volunteer for a year. I had many expectations. I was curious about community life and wanted to get a taste of it.

I had been volunteering in Greece for a few years in a big institution for handicapped children but I felt I wanted to go a step forward and see how it is to share your everyday life in a community with people with special needs. Well, I had a wonderful year. My expectations were not only met but beyond exceeded. I ended up learning much more than I thought I would. I learnt about herbs, about people and human relationships, about special needs, about soap making, about challenges and finding a way to take them as they come.

I was expecting to have a taste of community life and I found myself getting a taste of the beauty of life—the beauty of supporting each other.

Now I am in Estia Agios Nikolaos, the only community with people with special needs in

Greece. We are a thriving community full of challenges but also full of beauty, the same kind of beauty that lies within Innisfree.

We are a group of people convinced that this kind of life is possible and that, "Yes! Together we can make it!" About 35 people live on the grounds of Estia Agios Nikolaos, half with special needs, and a few more people from the local community come in to work with us. We are hard workers and we attend workshops (garden, pottery and handcrafts), but of course we also have plenty of time for leisure and other activities. We are very fortunate to live close to the sea and most of us enjoy a good swim and sunbathing:)

I recently visited Innisfree with another member of Estia Agios Nikolaos, Joaquin from Chile. It was wonderful to visit with friends and to have the chance to see how you organize life, the workshops, the land, the farm—to see that in some way we share the same dream, and even if we are so many miles apart, we are so close. Before we left, we talked about a possible exchange program for coworkers and volunteers, so more members of our community could share this experience.

It might be a big dream, but that has never stopped us before! —Dayla Booth
<http://www.estia-agios-nikolaos.org/>



Dayla heads into the CC for lunch.

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Please see our web site at www.innisfreevillage.org

Dayla enjoying a rest during a walk on the loop.

Innisfree Septic System Project

This summer, Innisfree is taking on big questions, like what happens to pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) after we use them? How can we prevent PPCPs from reaching natural environments in a sustainable and cost-effective way? Chloe Greenberg, a Master's student at Virginia Tech, will be conducting an experiment in the Village that compares the ability of three different wastewater treatment technologies to remove nutrients, pathogens, PPCPs, and

Chloe hard at work analyzing data from the septic system project.



other pollutants as they treat actual Village wastewater. She will also compile a report that considers qualitative and quantitative costs and benefits of the different

technologies. The ultimate goal of the project will be to provide data that helps the Village decide how to replace its wastewater infrastructure in the future. —Chloe

