

Innisfree

VILLAGE VOICE
WINTER 2008

*New volunteers
at Innisfree try to
"untie the knot"
at our fall
Volunteer retreat.*



2010 Campaign Update

We are excited to announce we are moving ever closer to our \$5,000,000 goal for the 2010 Fund. The generous response of our families and friends has been wonderful and we are eagerly working toward participation by 100% of Innisfree Families and the Board of Directors. Such a broad base demonstrates to other groups and foundations the impressive commitment made by those closest to Innisfree. Our eagerness to support and enhance daily lifesharing in our village will galvanize others to join us in this challenge.

The 2010 Development Committee is glad to report 4.5 million dollars in pledges have been committed to 2010 Campaign and a portion of that is already in hand. The dollars collected to date are critical to address the challenges facing Innisfree today. These three core challenges are:

1) Ensuring scholarships and facilities meet our evolving needs, 2) Attracting and retaining exceptional Volunteers,

and 3) Providing appropriate work for our coworkers throughout their lifetimes.

Gratefully the response to our 2010 Campaign has been encouraging. We continue to work hard to reach our goal and hope that if you have not made a gift before that you will now. We are especially committed to building our endowment to ensure Innisfree's future for all who call this village home. Please join us today and contact Carolyn Ohle at 434 823-5400 or villagedirector@aol.com.



*Many hands were needed
to erect the new hoop house
—expanding the vegetable
garden's growing space and
giving coworkers important work
throughout the winter.*

Our Village Guide

by Carolyn Ohle

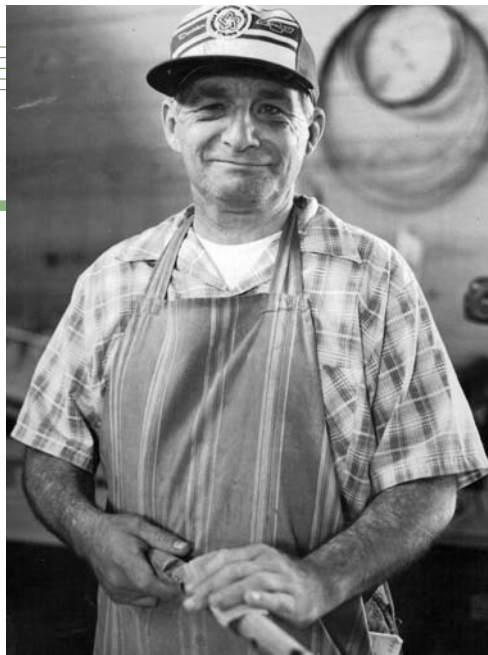
Sometimes when I'm walking along a trail in the woods the route gets faint and seems to disappear. The trees and bushes no longer seem to part helping me to be certain how to proceed. I get a little confused and don't know which way to go... I look left and right, sometimes even back up to try to retrace my steps a few feet to see if I have strayed from my path.

That happens here at Innisfree, too. We get so busy, so involved in the important tasks of our days that sometimes we lose track for a moment of where we're going and what is really important in this life after all.

This is why we have loved having a friend like John Dickinson. John has been our compass, our village guide. And even now as we think back on his 35 years at Innisfree and remember special moments with him, John is helping us find our way and remember why we chose to live together here on this



Andy enjoys all the outdoor work in the village.



farm. He was a master and taught the lessons patiently, again and again because often it appears perhaps we didn't really get it the first time. John taught us by showing us, by being a living example.

Affectionately known as John D, John's greatest accomplishment was the boundless love he gave to this world. In his three-and-a-half decades in the Innisfree lifesharing community, John touched more than 350 volunteer houseparents from 25 countries and 40 states and showed love and forgiveness to the oldest and newest of community members without distinction.

Joining the Innisfree community in 1971, its first year, John loved living on this farm. He greeted the mornings with delight, celebrated the Innisfree mountains daily, gathered feathers, carried milk cans, folded napkins, gave bear hugs, kissed babies and pretty women, ate most anything for years regardless of having no teeth – and made friends wherever he went.

What a powerful legacy John has left this village. He has shown us the way toward community. He remains our compass.

Sharon Snyder and her husband Lonnie welcomed our newest community member, Ariel Rowan Murray Snyder, to their family on Dec. 23.



Chris B. and Mark M. brought home medals in the Alpine Ski Championships held in Wintergreen.



A Legendary Man

At the end of December Innisfree said good-bye to another pillar of our community, the second in just two short

months. Joe Coleman, the farm manager for our village from the very beginnings of Innisfree, passed away. Any words used to describe Joe feel so small in comparison to the man.

Innisfree is what it is today, looks as it does today because of Joe Coleman. His strong back felled the trees, his unfailing commitment tended our animals, his keen tracking kept us all safe and in our warm houses at night. Joe's sure hands built and mended our fences, his reliable eye for detail kept our farm land beautiful, and his kind heart was always looking out for the vulnerable people of Innisfree. Though seemingly rough as sandpaper, Joe was a tender-hearted man beneath the bull-dog exterior. A few stories from former volunteers help to show how very much Joe was a part of Innisfree.

From Monty: I was quite fond of Joe and always enjoyed talking with him, and whenever possible learning from him. His intuitive sense of the physical world and ability to shape and mend it was truly amazing. To me, Joe represented an older, "pre-hippie" version of Innisfree which I could only access through him. I will miss him. Rest in peace, Joe.

From Melinda: Even though he called me and Reto hippies he liked us, but he especially loved our son, Krishna. While living at Sunflower, Krishna and I spent many hours watching Joe milk the cows and feed the pigs. Joe used to squirt the milk from the cow right into Krishna's mouth. One

of Krishna's favorite activities was to sit on a chair and pretend he was milking a cow. His Swiss grandparents got a kick out of this.



One time Joe even gave Krishna a pig of his own. Once Krishna's pig was reintroduced to the barn scene, Joe would pick Krishna up and put him on his pig's back and let Krishna ride him like a horse. Krishna loved this and so did Joe.

I don't know how many times Krishna would be outside playing in front of Sunflower and he would see the tractor out in the fields and go running after it. This always scared me. But Joe would always stop the tractor and pick Krishna up and take him for a ride to Krishna's delight. Joe was an incredible guy. His friendship meant a lot to us.

From Phyllis: Joe's care – the extra-ordinary care – for cows, for the land, for things and even people, beneath his gruff exterior, is something hard to ever expect again from one person. When my father died Joe told me,

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a newsletter of

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continued

"they don't make them
like that any more." That is
exactly how I feel about Joe.

How can we honor a man
who devoted 57 years to
the careful tending of this
land, this farm that became
Innisfree Village? By
remembering him and
telling his stories
for decades to come. For
someone larger than life
like Joe Coleman, that will
be an easy task to fulfill.



Giving to Innisfree has
never been easier.
Please remember the
donor's button on
our website.
www.innisfreevillage.org

Wish List

(New or good condition, please)

4 Kitchen Chairs
Pasta maker
TV table/Entertainment shelf
Fireplace tools
Cusinart
Electric Tea Kettle
Wheelbarrows or Garden Carts
Hand Pruners &
Other sturdy garden hand tools

*If you need us to provide transportation
for any donations, please let us know.*
Thanks



*New folks at Innisfree, Elizabeth and Miseon,
get into the spirit at the costume party.*

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE IT

Please see our web site at www.innisfreevillage.org

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A record year has come to a close. In 2007 we bid farewell to old friends and welcomed two new little ones. You remembered and honored many of our greater Innisfree Family through donations and gifts to our village and our special 2010 Fund. A special thanks to those you sent gifts in honor or memory of Dr. Harry Blum, Joe Coleman, John Dickinson, Phil Gair, John and JoAn Gronemeyer, Robin McCarty, Judith McCauley, and Mr. Charles "Pop Pop" Vogelfanger.

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Our Board of Directors, in concert with the entire Innisfree Community, has undertaken our most ambitious fundraising effort in our 35+ year history. Our 2010 Campaign is a multi-year effort to create a critically important fund to foster implementation of new and exciting opportunities. This Campaign has the goal of endowing each of our initiatives – enhancing our scholarship fund, creating new and maintaining existing physical structures, attracting and retaining our exceptional volunteers, and providing suitable work for our coworkers in all stages of their lives. The people listed below have stepped forward to lead this effort. We hope you will join them to ensure that these initiatives can be fully implemented.

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Paul keeps busy on his bike with his many deliveries.