



Each week Rhonda works with Sharon to provide an afternoon art activity for many coworkers.

Ways of Giving

Becoming a Volunteer

By Rhonda Miska

*"Everybody can be great...
because anybody can serve."*

– Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I had the good fortune to be raised in a home where giving back to the community was a way of life. When I would tag along with my parents to help serve the community meal at Christmas or visit homebound seniors, we didn't call it volunteering. It was simply how we lived. Spending two years as a Jesuit Volunteer in Nicaragua and working in pastoral ministry was a natural outgrowth of the values with which I was raised. Within the past year I was drawn into a new way of giving, so I became a volunteer at Innisfree and am also the new volunteer recruiter.

Why Innisfree? With so many good projects and worthy efforts, why have I chosen to give here, in this way? Since my older brother has special needs, I know how important it is to create and maintain spaces where adults with disabilities can live meaningful, productive lives. Furthermore, Innisfree's commitment to wise stewardship of our beautiful land is compelling. Providing an example of sustainable, responsible land use is an important way to give. In volunteer recruit-



ment and support, I have the unique opportunity to help shape the service experience of young people from around the world.

Perhaps most unique, however, is Innisfree's vision that we work "with" and not "for" adults with intellectual disabilities. When I talk about my new position, I always stress that we live with "coworkers." We are a community, not an institution. We choose to focus on abilities: from skills in

weaving and weeding to a coworker's beaming smile or beautiful singing voice, Innisfree chooses to celebrate the ways everyone in our community can give.

After baking cookies for a Charlottesville homeless shelter fundraising event, Chris G, part of the baking crew said, "I like doing things to help other people." This is the same sentiment I hear from potential volunteers all the time: "I want to do something where I am helping other people." Innisfree has become for me, as it is and has been for so many others, a place of service, a place to celebrate both giving and receiving.

Type of Gift: Become a Volunteer

How it Works: Make a one-year commitment to lifeshare in an Innisfree household.

Cindy Westley:

Involvement through the Innisfree Board of Directors

Cindy is a nurse at UVA Health System in Charlottesville and previously had an informal connection with Innisfree, meeting many who live in our village through her wide social network. She joined our Board of Directors last year. In her role as Board member Cindy has connected to the Innisfree community first by getting to know our various households, then sharing her many resources in the Charlottesville area with the village and offering her wise counsel about health-care issues.

"Not having a family member who lives at Innisfree and not being a volunteer gives me a different viewpoint, a useful outside perspective on supporting aging coworkers and meeting their health challenges. I've enjoyed watching how the community pulls



Cindy making a wreath at last year's Holiday Open House.



together to support each of its members. Each situation has brought new opportunities for collaboration and creative problem solving. It is refreshing to see how people brainstorm, searching for what is best for each person and striving to help meet ever-changing needs."

"I enjoy sharing a meal with the different households and visiting workstations during the year to more deeply understand the inner workings and dynamics of lifesharing at Innisfree Village."

We are so lucky to have the gift of Cindy's expertise as part of our Board of Directors and Admissions Committee.

Type of Gift: Serve as a Board Member

How it Works: Make a 3-year commitment to attend meetings. Learn the needs of the community from each unique perspective and encourage efforts toward good stewardship and a creative, therapeutic environment.

**2009
Holiday Open House
and Wreath Making**

**Mark your calendars
December 12, 2009**



Board Members join Village Volunteers at a "get-to-know-each-other" luncheon.

Littlest Community Givers

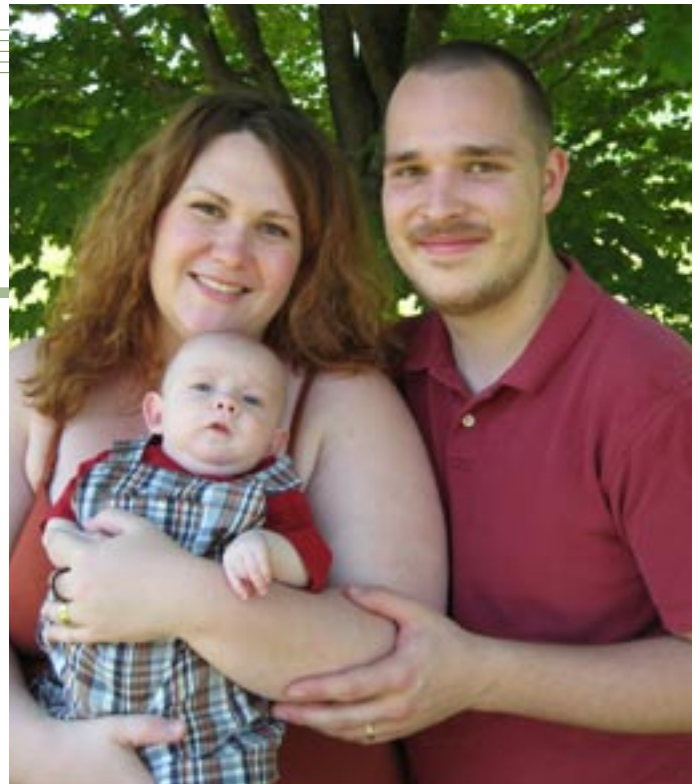
by Emily Thornbury

It's a special time in the Village. Along with the chirping of birds and clucking of chickens, the laughter and squeals of baby humans is in the air. These days there are four babies (all under the age of two) sharing with us their innocence and wonder, and keeping volunteers and coworkers busy busy busy. I know because my son, Luke, is the oldest of this brood. Luke was 9 months old when his dad and I moved to Innisfree last July.

We were thrilled to meet 6-month-old Ariel and 3-month-old Lucy, two other young babies who were already the darlings of the Village. These days Lucy is walking and talking. She says "hi" and loves her dog, Peach. As the daughter of garden gurus, Trisha and Cabell, she is naturally at home playing in the rich garden soil.

Ariel is climbing to new heights literally and boy oh boy can she eat! She also has the most deliciously plump apple cheeks. So very fitting that Ariel's mother, Sharon, is in charge of preparing our tasty lunches at the Community Center.

And now there is a new addition to these boisterous babes... the handsome and charming young Milo, born just February 4, 2009, to Innisfree volunteers, Katie and Nathanael. In the Village, I can usually tell if Katie or Nathanael are around the corner from the sounds of Milo's adoring fans saying, "ooh" and "ahhhh." It's clear how much people enjoy seeing these babies.



Katie, Nathanael and Milo Schwarz

Talking, walking, running, climbing, crying, falling, laughing, looking, learning...it's true babies are a lot of fun, but they are also a lot of work. Thankfully there are many who are interested in working with children. Our newest coworker, Vinh, for example,

loves babies and is a tremendous help. Three mornings a week, Vinh meets me in my home in Dogwood and we go pick up Ariel in the Community Center. Then Vinh and I might take Luke and Ariel to play in the gym, go for a stroller ride, read some books, visit the chickens, or the most exciting activity...go visit Lucy in the garden! Then Vinh usually helps give Ariel her snack before he

heads out to his next workstation. Luke and Ariel are benefitting so much from their time with Vinh, and Vinh receives enjoyment and satisfaction as well.

Whoever said it takes a Village to raise a

continued



Lucy, Luke and Ariel play together in the gym under Emily's supervision.



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Littlest Community Givers, continued

child knew something very fundamental about what a child needs to have a rich upbringing. Our Innisfree babies reap so many benefits from the Innisfree community, whether it's an international volunteer speaking to them in his or her own language or a coworker sweetly pushing them in a stroller.

At home in Dogwood, I also receive plenty of help from coworkers who love Luke and want to help me out as well. In our house you may see James preparing Luke a snack or Katie K. straightening up some baby toys. Day to day moments like these are what strengthens the bonds within the Innisfree family and perpetuates feelings of love.

Our days are filled with the essence of giving, for lifesharing itself is an act of giving. Families share their children with the community and those living at Innisfree lend a hand in caring for



Vinh enjoys reading a book to Luke during their morning together.

the children. Our children are models of giving, sharing smiles and hugs, a friendly wave to ALL. And the circle of giving continues...

Type of Gift: Share your childhood with Innisfree!

How it Works: Your parents become Volunteers at Innisfree. You come to live with them on a beautiful farm with great friends, and many animals. Expect lots of dancing and music and swimming and bike riding.

Why Consider an Endowment Donation, a Bequest, or Trust to Benefit Innisfree Village?

Innisfree Village is honored to be included in the special gifts or estate plans of our most loyal donors. Your endowment donation, bequest or trust may allow you to make a larger gift than you ever thought possible, receive tax benefits and provide an income for yourself or a loved one.

Joe and Phoebe Antrim: Honoring the Talents of Innisfree Volunteers

Phoebe and Joe Antrim are neighbors of Innisfree in Browns Cove. In fact, our properties abut each other. So, when they look out of their windows, they see the same natural splendor as those living at Innisfree do.

"We know that Innisfree, like our farm, is a stunningly beautiful place. But that's not all that makes it so special. While it's true that you can't tell a book by it's cover, when it comes to Innisfree, you can trust what you see. There, form follows function. The natural beauty of the land is made 'special' by the wonderful people who live and work there.

"We firmly believe the organizations are only as vibrant as the people who guide them. Therefore to us,



without the Volunteers, Innisfree would still be a beautiful place but not the remarkable place that it is. We have been privileged to know many of the Volunteers over the years. They are dedicated, warm, caring, and capable people. It's because of the Volunteers' incredible gift of service to this exceptional community that we have been financial supporters.

"Innisfree is indeed a special neighbor for us and we echo their motto, Together We Can Make It."

Type of Gift: 2010 Endowment Contribution

How it Works: Donations of \$1 to \$1 million or more given to this campaign are set aside in our endowment fund, assuring scholarships and the future of Innisfree.

Janet and Allan Green: Helping Those with Intellectual Disabilities



Janet and Allan Green recently became trustees for the estate of an elderly neighbor and guardian for her 60-year-old son with autism. Their neighbor asked Janet to look into beneficiaries for her estate.

Janet and Allan immediately thought of Innisfree --- not just because Innisfree is a lifesharing community with people with intellectual disabilities, but also because they have watched Innisfree make a significant and positive difference for families with adult children with autism. Janet and Allan wanted to help

ensure that Innisfree would be available to families for years to come.

"We want to have an impact on options available for families with adult children with disabilities. We want to see Innisfree continue to provide a family environment for all residents of the community."

Type of Gift: Bequest

How It Works: Simply include language in your will naming a specific dollar amount or percentage of your assets to go to Innisfree.

Helen Lasagna: Finding a New Home for Our Son

"The first time our son, Christopher, saw Innisfree we were in Virginia visiting his sister and her family. Chris knew at that moment that Innisfree was where he wanted to live. That was more than ten years ago. Maybe he felt all of the love and goodness that came from the wonderful people who lived and worked there."

Coworkers, the people with disabilities at Innisfree, have as much independence as they can handle in a safe, healthy environment. They have the satisfaction of doing a variety of interesting jobs, some chores that need to be done and some crafts that create beautiful goods.

"At Innisfree, my son, Chris, is appreciated for his good endeavors. He likes to visit with our family, but he knows he has his own place to go home to—Innisfree. It gives me great peace of mind to know this is so. I want to help ensure this wonderful community's future for all the families lucky enough to be able to share it."



Type of gift: Charitable Remainder Trust

How It Works: A trust may provide you or a loved one with an income stream and tax benefits with the principal eventually benefitting Innisfree. Or, a trust may provide payments to Innisfree with the principal going to an heir.

In Tough Economic Times, Consider Planned Giving

Do you find yourself wanting to support Innisfree, but with less discretionary income than you previously had for making charitable gifts? Are you rethinking your long-term priorities — including retirement and estate plans — in response to the new economic reality? If so, this might be a good time to consider a planned gift to Innisfree Incorporated.

A bequest to Innisfree through your will is simple and easy. A bequest can both reduce estate taxes and enable you to make a more significant gift than you can during your lifetime. It can be one of the following:

- A specific amount of cash, stock, or a piece of real estate
- A percentage of your total estate (There is an added benefit to this: the size of your gift grows over time as the size of your estate increases.)
- All or a percentage of the remainder of your estate after all other distributions are made.

If you already have a will, there is no need to rewrite it. To include Innisfree, your lawyer can add a bequest through a simple codicil. Other types of remainder trusts or annuities can also be arranged.

For suggested bequest language and relevant Innisfree information, or to discuss other options that might meet your charitable goals and offer potential benefits (such as tax savings) to you or your loved ones, contact your personal lawyer or Carolyn Ohle at VILLAGEDIRECTOR@aol.com or 434-823-5400.

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