

Innisfree

VILLAGE VOICE
WINTER 2010



THE BIG SNOW!

We saw the forecast. We knew it was coming, but still were surprised by the size of the mid-December snowfall that blanketed our village. Starting Friday afternoon and continuing until Saturday evening the weekend before Christmas, about two and a half feet of snow fell covering our world, making Innisfree a wonderland. The blizzard was especially exciting for volunteers like Jane from Brazil and Zachée from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Luckily, the last-minute change in logistics worked out and the van transporting many of our coworkers to DC for family holiday visits was able to depart a day early and many community members arrived home safely before the blizzard. We must thank Iz for his concern and vigilance, carefully watching the predictions and urging this modification. Another huge thanks goes out to our families who adapted to the change in schedule on short notice and made plans to meet the van in northern Virginia a day early. Families helped families ferrying coworkers to points further north! Truly everyone's holiday was happier because people got to celebrate as expected. Though a few flights were delayed, everyone made it home for the holidays.



For those of us who remained in the village for the duration of the Big Snow, it was quite an adventure. Peter made sure all the houses had firewood before the snow even began to fall. When the power went out early Saturday morning, we were ready! Volunteers reorganized those remaining in the

village into the houses with generators: Meadow, Amity and Laurel. Peter drove people from Halcyon down to Amity in the four-wheel drive truck. Tom began plowing as soon as the snow stopped falling. He and Leigh and Debra shoveled for days clearing paths.

Everyone was able to be flexible. For a while during the weekend of the power outage, there were eighteen living together in Amity: ranging in age from one to eighty-two, representing at least five different nationalities. It was community living intensified by several degrees, and it was encouraging to see how all spontaneously responded by supporting each other in the midst of such extraordinary circumstances. Emily baked a cake in the wood-burning stove as we sang Christmas carols, and volunteers took turns helping Angelica with her puzzle and playing with toddlers Luke and Maia. One evening we all piled into the

living room to eat popcorn that had been popped in the screened porch on a propane-powered camping stove, and watched *The Charlie Brown Christmas*, having plugged the TV/VCR into an extension cord to reach the outlet powered by the generator.

A few days after the snowfall, a group ventured out to one of our hills to go sledding. Not surprisingly, the sledding inevitably evolved into a good-natured snowball fight. In what turned out to be an impromptu community team-building exercise, five-year-old Josie Clay led all of

us in building an enormous snowman. After two days, phones and power came back and we were all able to return to our respective houses. The Big Snow of 2009 will be remembered by many all along the East Coast, and it was certainly unforgettable at Innisfree Village.

Innisfree 2010 Fund

Our 2010 Campaign is an ambitious fundraising effort spearheaded by the Board of Directors to create a critically important endowment fund. In this past year the 2010 Fund has continued to grow, reaching toward our target of \$5 million. This Campaign has the goal of ensuring 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 in this past year to join this multi-year effort. A very special and heartfelt thank you to those who contributed in memory of Robert Good toward the 2010 Campaign's scholarship fund.

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2010 Fund

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2009 General Fund

It has been a year when your gifts have meant more than ever. Trimming our operating budget has been an important part of our fiscal frugality in the current economy. One project, the design phase which began nearly two years ago has moved ahead thanks to your gifts, even with the inconvenience of very cold temperatures and the massive snowfall. We are in the midst of the upgrade of Sunflower and Dogwood, so houses are very full as we accommodate those from Dogwood in other village houses temporarily. A very special thank you to those who sent gifts to our General Fund in memory of Dr. Julian Levinson and Evelyn Blackburn and in support of our mission.

Dogwood and Sunflower Renovation

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We do our very best to keep accurate records and want to acknowledge your gift. If we have made an error, please contact us so we may correct this listing.



Innisfree Village Voice
a newsletter of

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Please see our web site at www.innisfreevillage.org



January 14-16, 2010

Two of our Innisfree Community were among the invited athletes at this year's Xperience held at the Boar's Head Inn in Charlottesville. Jon Fried and Chris Raupp each won gold medals in their respective divisions. The second tournament brought more than 30 athletes from as

far away as California to complete. Thanks to Mark and Barbara Fried, Ron Manilla of the Boar's Head and to the UVA Tennis team for joining our athletes in a weekend of excellent tennis and supportive sportsmanship.



Many maintenance and repair projects are especially important to do sooner, rather than later. If completed in a timely way, less overall damage is encountered. This is especially true of water leaks. We have been offered a matching challenge grant to focus on maintaining our physical plant. Our 2010 budget has several projects in this category including skylight repairs and roof replacement. Please help us to make these repairs in a timely manner AND have the benefit of your gift being matched dollar for dollar. Contact Carolyn by email for more information. villagedirector@aol.com

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