

Innisfree

VILLAGE VOICE
SUMMER 2011

Forty Years Young!

Volunteers Make the Difference Celebrating 40 years of Lifesharing

Innisfree has been very fortunate over the years to be able to dispel some of the stereotypes about "young people today." Youthful volunteers from all around the world have been finding their way to our community since 1971. I'd like to introduce you to a few current volunteers and their reflections on their lives at Innisfree.

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"Above all my reasons why I have chosen to apply to

Innisfree was the need to learn. Innisfree has fulfilled my expectations. For someone like me, living at Innisfree means primarily living in a very stimulating and challenging environment.



Stephen and Kate



Wes (first arrived as a volunteer in 1988) shows how to Twist and Shout at Mayfair 2011.

I admit that the benefits I get here are greater than the contribution I can possibly offer back.

Being at Innisfree gives me the possibility to make myself available to others when called upon, to contribute according to my abilities and to live a way of life dedicated to the well-being of others. That is to participate in the Innisfree mission. It feels pleasant to know that the little I do

here has a positive impact on lives of several people. I've never realized that there is a place like Sunflower where one toast with peanut butter can be appreciated with such joy. "

Jagoda Janiszewska, a Volunteer in Dogwood this last year, learned of Innisfree from her SCI work-camp experience living in Poland.

“These months at Innisfree have probably been the biggest learning experience for me so far in my life. I enjoy learning different skills and crafts, so it’s been an amazing experience to be able to work in the weavery, the woodshop and the herb garden. My workstations let me be creative and excited about every new working day. Catherine, Miriam and Denny

have wonderful teaching skills and angelic patience to explain things over and over to volunteers like me.

When I applied to be a volunteer at Innisfree,

I knew it would be a challenge for me. Now, I especially cherish the moments when the roles turn around and I get to learn from others—like Willie, who taught me how to comb the threads on the loom and shape the wooden spoons in the woodshop or Chris, who taught me how to make peanut butter. Living in a community {has had} a big influence on me and makes me try to be a better person, to rethink and re-evaluate my opinions and beliefs. “



Jona Roloff, a Volunteer in Amity is completing a year of social service. He is a recent High School (Arbitur) graduate from Germany.

“I’m 22 years old and started volunteering in Amity last August. I have learned so much about community life, our coworkers, myself and other people and I still keep learning. That was/is one of the main reasons I came—I wanted to learn. Learn about/from people with disabilities, people from other countries and life in an environment of a community. I want to see life from other perspectives, to understand and see more what is around me and even observe myself and see what I think needs improvement. But just my well-being and to improve my skills wasn’t the main reason I came. I want to to learn but not just for me, more important to me is to use my knowledge and skills to share and in the end to help wherever I can. That’s my secret philosophy ‘use your learned skills to help wherever you can when your help is needed and you will learn and receive so much more.’”

Compiled by Nancy Chappell, a formerly young, idealistic volunteer who is currently our Medical Coordinator.

ORDER YOUR MEMORY BOOK NOW

In honor of our 40th anniversary, we are compiling a commemorative history of Innisfree.

This 60+ page full color book will capture our beginnings and celebrate our today.

You can assure you get one (or more) of these wonderful momentos by sending your order to 40thbook@innisfreevillage.org Consider giving a book to members of your family and your friends to share the story of Innisfree. Include your name, address, and phone number to reserve your copies. The book is expected to cost about \$20 and will be available for pick up at our 40th anniversary celebration October 16, 2011.

Former Volunteers have shared their memories on our Innisfree Village Facebook page. Check us out!

Nicole Koskinen-Koster

I came to Innisfree the first time in April 1999 from Switzerland and I stayed for a year. There are no other words than the ones, that I loved it!The second time I came back in June 2001 together with Veli my Finnish boyfriend. I wanted to show him this beautiful and great place. We lived in Halcyon with Stephen, Jenny and Nicky... Lee married us up at Trillium's porch, and it was the wedding I always dreamed of. A very small circle of dear friends and far away from home...It was a time we will never forget. One year later our son, Moritz was born and I hope some day we will be able to visit Innisfree again. We are living since 5 years in Helsinki, Finland and I just graduated as a nurse last December, Veli studies to become a Waldorf teacher and Moritz attends the 2nd grade at the local Waldorf school. Innisfree will always have a place in my heart!



Ashley Shoemaker

I hesitate to write this because I never feel like I can articulate what I experienced at Innisfree.

I came as a young lady to Innisfree in October of 2007 and I left as a woman in December of 2008. I lived in Sunflower with Stephen, Linda, Debra, and James, and later on... Vinh.

Innisfree was the hardest I have ever worked in my life, it was the most I have ever given of myself, the most exhausted I have ever been....and I would not trade it for anything in the world. I did not realize it at the time, but Innisfree changed my life...I mean really. I grew not only in responsibility, but in my faith, in my passions, and it later helped me to pursue an education in Secondary Education in Home Economics and hopefully a future masters in Special Education. I have such fond and nostalgic memories of my time there! I often wish I was back there. From time to time, I even find myself dreaming that I am working there again.



Dolores Curry

I came to Innisfree in 1974 bringing my teenage daughter, Lorie Lichtenwalner, who wanted to do something other than what the common culture offered. We fell in love with Innisfree; as we departed a rainbow followed us out and stayed with us a long time. We knew that was a good omen. Lorie came back and worked there about 18 months; I visited many times and knew someday I would get there. It took over a quarter of a century but I did get there in 2001 (just as Lorie was having her last baby in Harrisonburg). I have had some of the richest experiences of my life at Innisfree, and am not finished with it yet. John D was the best boyfriend I ever had and lots of my other best friends are there. I was a mental health counselor/social worker before coming to Innisfree, but my most satisfying work was done at Innisfree.





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*Our pool opens for summer with
perfect weather on Memorial Day.*

Claudia Kopp

I came to Innisfree
from Leipzig,
Germany in 2000.
Lived in Meadow
for 6 months and
then in Laurel for
another 6 months. I
absolutely loved it

as it was one of the best, most inspiring years
in my life. I loved gardening with Claire and
weaving with Miriam. I now live in Boston, MA
with my husband Michael and fundraise for the
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. We miss Virginia.



Sarah Holt Gilbert

I was at Innisfree from 1979 to 1987, with Pete
joining me in 1980; we married in 1981, our
daughter was born in 1985. We lived in
Sunflower, Meadow, the Cabin, Dogwood, and
then Hollow Tree with Jim Levinson. I ran the
weavery between Carolyn and Miriam, and
still miss it! I learned to milk a cow, drive a
tractor (baling hay!), run a household, garden,
weave, spin, live in community, not repeat
myself in meetings (thanks, Sato), identify wild

Caty Mayall

I came to Innisfree from the UK in 2003. It seems
a lifetime ago now! I now live in Christchurch
New Zealand where I am a nurse (which is all
thanks to my time at Innisfree!) I have so many
fond memories of my time in Innisfree, but I
probably would pick my favorite: the time I
spent with Jill in Meadow, all
the songs we used to sing when
I was helping her get ready and
walking her to workstations,
we had a song for every occa-
sion! When I hear one of those
songs now it makes me smile!
I can safely say that Innisfree
changed me and set me on a
whole life path, and I don't
think I would be here in New
Zealand enjoying earthquakes
without first being at Innisfree!

**TOGETHER
WE CAN
MAKE IT!**

edible plants, value
the uniqueness of each
individual. Now we're
in Appleton, WI, where
I still weave a little,
write poems, volun-
teer, run a household,
garden....hmm, such
valuable life skills I
picked up in those
Innisfree years!