

Innisfree

VILLAGE VOICE
WINTER 2024

Crosby shows off his amazing Simba costume.



A Roaring Success



Max, director extraordinaire, proudly holds up the playbill for the Lion King production.

Riding on the success of the 2023 Innisfree production of *Beauty and the Beast*, our coworker Max once again put on his director's hat as he brought to life the *Lion King* for an incredible production, and most especially a "roaring" good time.

With great pride, our cast of characters, which included coworkers, staff, and volunteers, dressed up in their animal best to share the story of Simba and all his friends.



Joy and Elizabeth dress up as their favorite safari animals to support the show!



The cast and crew are all smiles after a successful performance.

From painted whiskers to full lion costumes and wildebeests running around the community center, it was an entertaining experience we will not soon forget!

A Special Olympics Victory



A special congratulations goes to the All-Stars half-court basketball team which includes Innisfree coworkers Justin and Chris, who came home with the gold medal from the Special Olympics State Games in Richmond. Way to go guys!



Justin prepares to make a winning basket!

Serving the Community One Meal at a Time

by Margaret Hughes

Meals on Wheels is an organization that delivers hot meals to homebound members of the community on a daily basis. This gives the MOW volunteers a chance to offer the client friendly social interaction as well as a safety check to make sure nothing is wrong.

On Tuesdays Marny and I deliver to a neighborhood in downtown Charlottesville just off of Carlton Ave. We have nine clients that



Marny packs up her meals and is ready to deliver.

Interview with the MOW volunteers:

Tell me a little bit about Meals on Wheels.

Bee - So we go to the houses and we deliver Meals on Wheels. We knock on the door and say, "Meals on Wheels" and it's something that I really enjoy doing and it's very satisfying and it makes me feel good knowing that we're doing something for somebody else.

Marny - I deliver meals to these people that can't get out ... It's a volunteer job.

What is your favorite part about Meals on Wheels?

Bee - I think my favorite part of it is seeing the people happy.

Marny - Being helpful.



Marny and Bee are all smiles as they drop off their meals.



Bee helps unload the meals as she prepares to make a delivery.

I look forward to having more coworkers become involved on Fridays this spring. It is a wonderful way for us to reach out and give back to the larger community.

we deliver to. On Fridays Bee and I deliver meals to a neighborhood just off of Preston Ave. This route has seven clients, and we deliver week-end meals - two frozen meals and two cold boxes in addition to the hot meal and cold box for Friday, to one person.

I look forward to having more coworkers become involved on



Marny displays a sample meal packaged and ready to go.

Why is Meals on Wheels important?

Bee - Because it gives people food for the weekend and it gives them something to eat while they can't get out.

Marny - People can't get it out and it just helps people get a hot meal.

1, 2, 3, draw!

by Larry Goldstein

My first career was touring a one-man show as a mime, clown, and actor. I gave over 2000 shows from 1982-1995. My best friend was Michael Parent, a consummate storyteller, who toured worldwide and became known for telling true stories from his life as well as widely imaginative fictional stories. We loved to drop all of our solo work and put together zany, creative shows once or twice a year with lots of audience participation. In the mid-1980's I joined Michael for an hour long show at Innisfree Village. We sang funny songs, juggled, and one of our skits had me standing center stage as an automated, gunslinging cowboy. Michael would stand near the audience and pretend to put a quarter in the coinbox to play a 'shooting' contest with the cowboy. The coin would engage the cowboy who would start moving slowly.



*At the end of my first day as
Director of Development, March 1, 2024*



*Performing with Michael Parent
in the late 80's and early 90's*

The cowboy would say, "Howdy, partner. Get ready to draw." Then he would slowly count to three and draw. The contestant and the cowboy would shoot at each other and one would win because their gun went off first. What the audience and the participant (Michael) didn't know was that the cowboy cheated. Each time he would draw before he got to three or he would count slowly then speed up

quickly. Most of the audience found this very funny. Marny did not. She started yelling, "Hey that's not fair!" Michael would calm her down and let her know that he was ok and that he'd win the next round but he didn't. The cowboy kept getting the

better of him and Marny got more and more incensed. Eventually, she charged the stage yelling at the cheating cowboy. The staff and volunteers came to the cowboy's rescue and we moved on to songs and other skits that the co-workers, including Marny, enjoyed.

Years later, after purchasing beautiful table runners and other quilting and Innisfree made woodwork on the downtown mall, I returned to Innisfree as the Director of Community Service at Tandem Friends School where I

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**Special thanks to
our 2023 donors!**

***Stay tuned for more details with our
Innisfree Village Fund Impact Report
being released this summer.***

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a newsletter of
INNISFREE VILLAGE

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Please see our web site at www.innisfreevillage.org

continued from Goldstein

worked for 23 years. I began my career at Tandem running the theater program and I finished in 2019 as their Director of Development. While I directed the service program, we established a day long visit, many times a year, for a group of students and faculty to come out, work in the gardens, helping out in a variety of ways, spending the day with co-workers and volunteers and always reporting that they received more from Innisfree Village than they gave. This was one of Tandem's favorite service placements.

I returned to Innisfree in the fall of 2022 with Panorama Consulting, working with Scott Williams, Rorie Hutter and the board to build a consistent, sustainable development

program. I had a very fulfilling 16 months and when we designed the Director of Development position I heard longtime Innisfree Village friend and board member, Annie Stafford say, "If this job was available when I retired, I may have taken this position." Well, that statement describes me perfectly and I am honored to work with Rorie, the staff and the board to implement the plans that I helped to author as a consultant with Panorama. Once again, I have journeyed from a theatrical start to a position in development, advocating for the work of an organization that I love.

I look forward to meeting you and learning more about what you love about Innisfree Village.

**Save the Date
for Junefest 2024!**

**Join us on June 8th for
our annual music festival and craft fair.
Check out our social media for more details
as we get closer to the day!**