

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT MCV'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY
VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION CELEBRATION
(April 28, 2013)**

Good evening, everyone. I am Joe Isaacs, President of Mill Creek Village and, on behalf of our Board of Directors, I welcome you tonight to this special celebration of our volunteers who have enabled our Village to persevere and thrive to reach a milestone of ten years of service to the Mill Creek Towne community.

That achievement is even more impressive when you factor in, that unlike other most senior villages in the county, state and nation, Mill Creek Village has required no dues from its patrons, never charged fees for its services and programs, nor ever had the assistance of paid professional staff.

Before I make a few additional remarks, I want to give a special shout out to three individuals who helped to put this party together. First and foremost, Kristin Mitas, who helped me plan the soiree, ordered the food and supplies, got the beer and wine donated and set up this room so nicely.

Kristin had the help of a fella from Brooklyn, NY, her delightful husband Guy Federico, who is also the Grand Knight of this Knights of Columbus Lodge that we are in this evening. And, finally to my wonderful wife Debbie Isaacs, who put up with me through all the preparations and follow-up calls to invitees and made sure the pizzas got here tonight. Please join me in a warm round of applause for them.

Thanks largely to the book written by Hillary Rodham Clinton, we have become familiar with the African proverb that "It takes a village to raise a child." It means that an entire community of people must provide for and interact positively with children for those children to experience and grow in a safe and healthy environment.

In the instance of senior villages such as Mill Creek Village, it means it takes a community of compassionate neighbors willing to support their elderly and disabled neighbors so that those neighbors can age safely and well in their homes, avert social isolation and prolong their independence.

Yes, it takes the time, energy and dedication of volunteers to make a Village like ours. As American anthropologist Margaret Mead said: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

President John F. Kennedy stated once that "Every person can make a difference, and every person should try."

Mahatma Ghandi taught that “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

And, finally, Martin Luther King put it this way.

“Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don’t have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

For a decade, the current and former volunteers listed on the handout placed at your tables tonight have shared their grace and love to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors. They planted the seeds for and tended to a nonprofit community service organization that continues to thrive and serve our beloved community of Mill Creek Towne.

Over those 10 years, these good neighbors have:

- Dedicated more than 12,000 person hours and tremendous in-kind support;
- Led and managed the Village to ensure it remained financially and operationally viable;
- Provided transportation assistance, friendly home visits, check-in calls, prepped meals and grocery shopped more than 1,500 times for elderly and disabled residents;
- Published more than 250 issues of our e-newsletter, “Mill Creek Towne News;”
- Created and administered to an informative website that houses among other things a photo gallery of hundreds of neighborhood event memories and many resources;
- Established and moderated a popular Facebook page with more than 300 postings annually about household and health tips, local news of importance and free and low-cost programs of interest to residents; and
- Hosted and gotten flyers out to every household for more than 60 free neighborhood social events that have drawn more than 2,600 participants.

So, thank you current and former Mill Creek Village volunteers, for all you have contributed to our community since 2013. Tonight, we celebrate and congratulate you and the organization you made possible!

With your support and the help of future volunteers, our Village will continue to promote a caring, socially connected community, while lending a helping hand to our elderly and disabled neighbors to support their efforts to age well in their homes, avert social isolation and maintain their independence.

Now, our Board Secretary Ed Ludwig will light and blow out for all of us the 10th anniversary cake candles and wish for the continued success of Mill Creek Village. He is being assisted by his lovely wife Robbie who is holding the candles for sanitary

reasons to avert spreading germs on the cake itself. And raise your cups and join me in a toast to our collective efforts ...

Happy 10th Anniversary Mill Creek Village and congratulations to all of us for making its good work possible in service to our neighbors and community! Cheers!

Borrowing from the song from the play "Hamilton," I was not "in the room where it happened" ten years ago. But we have two folks here that were. So, I'd like to invite them up to answer some questions I'll pose about the organization's history. One of the original co-founders, former e-newsletter editor and still a driver is Jane Lewis and the other is the Village's first President W.D. McAdams.

1. "What was the impetus for starting a Village in the first place? What circumstances suggested the need?"
2. "Where did you turn to for advice with this relatively new concept? And what led to the decision that there would be no dues or fees, unlike most other villages today?"
3. "Who acted as the driving force (s) to sell it to others in the community, recruit the volunteers and initiate the Village's formal creation? Do you recall the selling points?"
4. "Who served on that first Board and what kinds of services and activities did you initiate early on?" Weren't there early discussions about the need to not only focus on our elderly neighbors but engage the community intergenerationally?"
5. "Was the early experiences of establishing and operating the Village ones that made you hopeful or concerned about its sustainability?"
6. "As Founders, what are your thoughts about where Mill Creek Village is today, as we celebrate a decade of community service?"

THANK YOU BOTH! LET'S GIVE A WARM ROUND OF APPLAUSE TO THESE TWO FOUNDERS OF MILL CREEK VILLAGE FOR SHARING THEIR RECOLLECTIONS AND THOUGHTS AS PART OF THIS 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE ORGANIZATION THEY CREATED.

Thank you all! Now, have another slice of pizza, grab another beverage, eat some anniversary cake, and continue to enjoy this special evening and each other's company!