



## FIELD NOTES FROM THE FARM – DECEMBER 2021

### OPENING LETTER

The photograph at the top of Field Notes is a picture of a wreath. This circle is decorated in such a way as to make one recognize a certain holiday that celebrates the gift of life. It is a symbol in the shape of a circle. It has a starting point which continues and attaches to its end point. It is continuous. As we go around this (or any) circle there are bumps, branches and arteries that interrupt the smooth path to the end – or new beginning. Some of the bumps are amazingly beautiful and some of the branches are painful, while the arteries allow us to give from whence, we come. Each disturbance is a gift which allows us to examine and learn how to get back to the circle. When we pass through those interruptions, and continue the journey, we then complete the circle and can start again. As you continue to read you will see that IAW has completed a circle – a circle that focuses on life and community. It began as a dot, an idea, which marks the start. There have been many obstacles, innumerable gifts, incredible work, and tremendous rewards, all of which have brought this dot full circle to a new beginning. HAPPY, HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

### VOLUNTEERS IN THE FIELD

**Recognizing volunteers** – There are always so many people who give so much. They give their time, their energy, thoughts, and prayers to IAW. And there are those in every segment of our many “wreaths” that bring us closer to starting another. The names below are just a few of those that have helped create the final section of our most current circle. It is with gratitude that we recognize: Zina Glazebrook, Mike Stevens, John Gallagher, Nancy Monroe and Alida Zimmerman, Mary Piasecki and John Lappen, Jason Anthony and Heather Hardy, Martha Dodge, Tracy and Verne Verney, Susan Winter, Patty Palmer, George Dolengowski and Sharon Abair. There are also volunteers who live many miles away but continually provide life sustaining nourishment to the branches of our celebratory circle. Our friend, Kay Decker has brought the gift of education, and experience to the

mission of IAW. Below she tells us of that experience and how her knowledge continues to help us. Her advice is the nourishment that keeps us focused as we continue the loop.



*Kay Decker*

My daughter's family has known Sherry and her husband Sandy for many years. Sandy was in the same Air Force squadron as my daughter's grandfather.

About 9 years ago, Sandy and Sherry came through Oklahoma on a visit. Sherry and I got to talking about my involvement with nonprofit community

development work. I am an applied sociologist and taught at the university in Alva Oklahoma for over 30 years. I also serve as the founding Executive Director of a development nonprofit in northwest Oklahoma. My organization has been involved in affordable housing development for 21 years, and we have been involved in the arts since 2008. We own and operate an arts gallery and arts education center in downtown Alva. I also write and administer grants and facilitate strategic planning for community organizations.

I shared information with Sherry about how to start a nonprofit, and gave her pointers on board composition, by-laws, policies, and mission. Then, the next summer I went to Maine to facilitate the initial strategic plan with IAW's first board. While we were there, Sherry received word that the IRS had given IAW its 501c3 status. That was a great day. At that time, Sherry was doing hospice work and shared how much a mutually supportive living environment would be to so many of her patients. We toured several facilities for older residents as well. I encouraged her to be on the lookout for a good location

to create such a facility. Mid-coast Maine needs this type of living environment. Sherry and I communicate by phone and email regularly. I share information with her, as I run across things that would be helpful to IAW.

When the Chapman farm became available, I was thrilled that the family wanted the farm to be purchased by Inn Along the Way. It's a perfect location for the purpose of IAW. I return to Maine every year or two to see the progress that's occurred, and I love seeing all my Maine friends when I visit. Sherry, the board, and volunteers have done a great job of pushing the project forward.

I am a big fan of Inn Along the Way and hope the board can see its way clear to begin building permanent housing soon.

Merry Christmas to all and I wish each of you a very healthy and blessed New Year!

All my best,  
Kay Decker, M.S. Ed.D.  
Executive Director, Freedom West CDC  
Professor Emerita of Sociology, NWOSU

### WHERE THE SEED IS PLANTED

**A seed from the past** – John Gallagher, who is a very active volunteer and a member of the family who once owned the farm, has provided us with his memories of the farm in past issues of Field Notes. This history, or any history, might be regarded as the foundation / inspiration for new dots that add to or create a circle. Thank you, John, for sharing your many memories!

Christmas was always a festive holiday at the farm. There were several high points that stick out in my mind. My favorite was getting the Christmas tree. The back acreage was covered with fir trees. There were so many that it was never a problem finding one, just picking one out and getting to them. Back in the days when we had snow before Christmas, we had **FEET** of it. David and I would start our tree hunt on a Saturday morning, walking to the edge of the marsh. We were careful crossing the frozen area as breaking through would require a return to the farm. Once the tree was selected, and cut, the harder part came in dragging it the quarter mile back to the farm. Many years later the snowmobile made the trips back and forth, easier. Selecting the tree, however, was still a problem.

*John Gallagher*

**Seeds of today** – The seeds of today are the volunteers at IAW. Without this growing collection of individuals, we would not have set roots that are now emerging ideas, programs, and projects. Some of these are in development while others are already harvested. The volunteers are the seeds, or the dot at the top of a circle,

that continue to show up, dig in and do the work that needs doing to complete the many wreaths that they have created. The list of jobs that volunteers do at IAW is endless. Allow me to list just a few. They cook, clean, write thank you notes, sing, play instruments and provide entertainment for our greater community, make visits to people in need, set up and take down events or conferences, do data entry for record keeping, share ideas, write articles, take pictures, paint throughout the house, build cabinets, build walkways and decks, make donations of every kind imaginable, mow, rake, weed, attend meetings, review by-laws, plant, harvest, pay attention to finances, recruit, train and manage volunteers, recreate dated banisters, discuss and plan the future of IAW and so much more! Each dot, friend, seed, volunteer, is connected to another and together we are creating a circle of community. We are blessed to have acquired so many beautiful individuals. Each one shares a special gift and brings life and fullness to our wreath. Many thanks to all!

### SPROUTINGS AND GROWTH

**Building progress & news** –The farmhouse at IAW is still a work in progress but the transformation so far is



miraculous!! The entrance to the Inn is spacious, handicapped accessible and ready to welcome all visitors with a beautiful, handmade reception desk, shelves, a coat rack, and warmth. There is a downstairs powder room that has been enlarged and reappointed. The dining room is ready to serve the community but in keeping with restrictions imposed by COVID there are no meals being

served inside at this time. The kitchen is up and running however, and with the help of many volunteers, was able to provide delicious “take out” Thanksgiving dinners for eighteen. Just off the dining room is a cozy little parlor (which used to be the entrance) as well as a bedroom for



the Innkeeper. The floors throughout this main part of the house, and upstairs, have all been beautifully refinished and are ready for the stories that new footprints will bring! The three upstairs bedrooms and two baths are all painted but not quite ready for guests. Also, just before you enter the Inn, there are two doors immediately to your right. These doors lead you into two warm and welcoming respite rooms – each with its own bath and roll in shower.

The farmhouse with its history, has completed and decorated many wreaths and circles of community and life. With the help of so many people, spread far and wide, this home and this property will now have many more wreaths to finish, to hang and to share.



**Nourishment for Growth** – A wreath is nourished by the greens that are added to it. A community is fed by the people and businesses who populate, support, and inspire it. With that in mind we thank –

- With the use of old doors and used cabinetry, Matt Schumacher (a volunteer) was able to create a

very handsome cabinet that holds the technology needed for our ZOOM meetings and other presentations. This is a tremendous asset as it will allow us to reach many people in our community as we move through COVID and beyond. We thank Matt for his creativity, time, and talent.

- Sproul’s Furniture for their assistance with the purchase of the queen bed and box spring which brings coziness and comfort to one of our respite rooms. It is because of Tim and Betsey Norland’s kindness that the room comes full circle with their gift of beautiful sheets, pillows, and down duvet.
- We are also grateful to Diana Impallomeni for providing our kitchen with a gorgeous new commercial refrigerator.

### **CULTIVATING THE FARM**

#### **Information & Dates –**

- **Seasonal Conversation Circles** - Scheduled “Seasonal Conversation Circles” are:
  - **Starting Anew in 2022**, Sunday January 30, 2022 from 3:00 – 4:15pm
  - **Mud Season to Blooms**, Sunday March 27, 2022 from 3:00 – 4:15pm. Advance Registration is required. To express your interest in attending contact Sherry Flint at: [sherry@innalongtheway.org](mailto:sherry@innalongtheway.org) or call her at: 207-751-6261. Participation will be limited to 20 persons.
- **Volunteer orientation** - Tuesday, February 8th. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator Cindi Hasty: [cindhast1@gmail.com](mailto:cindhast1@gmail.com) for further information.
- **Grief and Resilience Zoom meetings** will be held every other Wednesday, at 1:00pm. For more information, contact us at, [info@innalongtheway.org](mailto:info@innalongtheway.org).

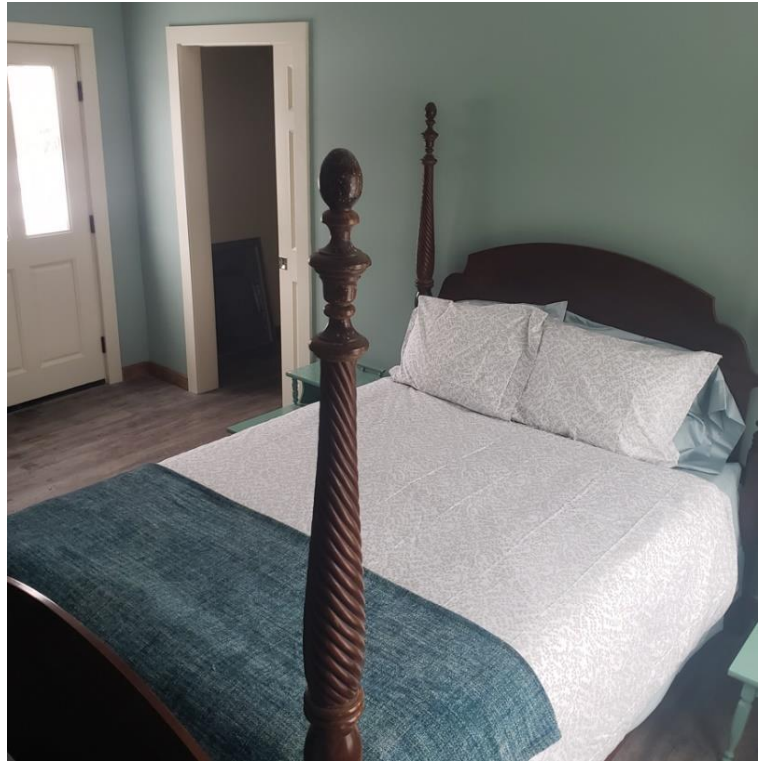
**WAYS OF GIVING** – We are amid the season of giving and grateful for the opportunity to recognize the grace involved in the giving and the receiving of a gift. IAW has been the recipient of some incredibly gracious offerings. The In-kind donations provided to IAW have shown us what tremendous support we have from our community. The First National Banks pledge of \$50,000 to Inn Along the Way’s Capital Campaign, was contingent upon IAW raising \$2.5 million. Financial contributions, the In-Kind donations and estimated wages of volunteers’ hours helped us reach that goal. Since our formation our In-Kind contributions are approximately \$86,131.08. As we all know our volunteers are the soul of IAW. In the past few years, we have been tracking the hours that our volunteers have given. Thus far they have gifted us 16,805 hours of their time! That is the equivalent of eight

work years if that person is working five eight-hour days. At \$28.54, per hour, this comes to an estimated contribution of \$479,614.70. This support is astounding and is so greatly appreciated. The giving is the best part of a gift. THANK YOU!

### CLOSING THE BARN DOOR

The newsletter might be ending but – if you have continued to read to the end (as suggested at the beginning) you will now recognize that a completed and beautiful wreath has been created for our greater community. **We can now announce, with excitement and joy, that once we have received our permit, we are ready to open our rooms, beginning with the Norland Room – pictured on the right.** We will be open and ready to serve the community in a way that reaches the goals of our Mission Statement. We will have closed a circle, while opening so many more. We are incredibly grateful for the many gifts of love and support that have allowed us to come this far!

It is with admiration, respect (and of course love) that I thank my husband, John Zimmerman, for his support and technical help with every issue of Field Notes.



"Service or giving is the other side of receiving. Giving and receiving is a full circle: a full circle feels more natural than a half circle."-Laura Huxley

Respectfully submitted.  
Alida Zimmerman

PS - Closing artwork is graciously provided by our friend, Kathi Nordone.



*Inn Along the Way*