

SHARE FOUNDATION: Nurtures adults with special needs

Biography

■ Founded by Father Dennis Blaney, shown blowing a horn to start the annual Leprechaun Hunt.

■ Incorporated in 1982.

■ Located on 184 acres near Rolling Prairie, Ind.

■ First residential village opened in 1994, camp and craft building 1995.

■ Second residential village to open this year.



Mission: Share Foundation is a not-for-profit privately funded Christian organization, said director of development Michael Hoffman. Its mission is to provide residential living, services and support programs 'for other-abled adults in the atmosphere of a peaceful and loving midwestern community. We strive to accomplish this mission through recognizing, respecting and providing for the uniqueness of each individual.' The residential program includes vocational training that give villagers essential skills and encourages them to reach their highest level of achievement. Share Foundation also provides programs for handicapped adults at The Values Retreat/Camp throughout the year and sponsors mini-camps and dances.

Special events: Nick's Liquors of Hammond is sponsoring a wine and microbrewery tasting Sept. 29 at Dynasty Banquets in Hammond and a gala dinner dance and silent auction will take place Nov. 6 at The Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster. The organization also sponsors a spring luncheon, an annual Leprechaun Hunt at Sharing Meadows and offers a Mass and dinner in observance of the Feast of the Holy Innocents. Proceeds from the fund-raisers are earmarked for supporting the foundation's many programs.

Advice: 'We have often heard it takes a village to raise a child. At Sharing Meadows, we build villages that nurture adults who need continuing care and support to develop and maintain their skills and knowledge.'

How to get involved: Volunteers are always needed for camp, assisting the residents and for maintenance of the property. For more information, call 778-2585.

People might be surprised to know: 'Each year we have over 800 people who come to Values Retreat/Camp and dances at Sharing Meadows.'