

# Givers Keep Giving — No Matter What

 Good morning friends and neighbors. Haven't we been treated to beautiful weather lately? The arrival of spring is always one of my favorite blessings. I hope you agree.

*"Listen  
Do you want to know a secret?  
Do you promise not to tell?  
Whoa, oh, oh  
Closer  
Let me whisper in your ear"  
— The Beatles*

Do you want to know a secret? Promise not to tell?



**Nancy  
Wood**

  
*Commentary*

And here in The Villages volunteers flourish like a field of spring flowers waving in the wind on a sunny day.

This year's award winners were outstanding.

First was The Villages Quilting Guild. I cheered for that one because when my husband, Sterling, was dying at Cornerstone Hospice I was given a patriotic quilt from them to honor his military service. It is one of my dearest treasures. The 25 Villages chapters support many local charities — in 2020 their donations equaled \$439,779.

Next was the award to a fairly new chapter of Civitan, an organization that works to bring awareness and treatment to youth with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

In the six short years since its inception in The Villages, the group has raised over \$250,000 in volunteer support

and financial grants for organizations in need in the area.

Last but not least was a real favorite of mine — Greg Parady, founder and CEO of Parady Financial Group.

I first met Greg a couple of years ago when seeking a financial adviser. I teased him about the fact that it was hard to ignore him with his huge, informative newspaper ads. I wasn't sure what to think but had heard that he and his staff were good at their work and excellent members of our community.

All of that was true and as each year goes on they prove that in so many ways. Their accomplishments are too many to even try to mention but include help for veterans, children, parents, families of Alzheimer's victims, local food pantries and so much more. This is all a reflection of Greg Parady's inner commitment to people and to our community.

When I retired from my varied career life there was one thing I was certain I wouldn't miss. Meetings.

One of my careers was as a Methodist minister. We used to joke that "Methodist" was synonymous with "meetings." We used to have meetings to plan meetings, actually meetings to extend topics to more meetings and meetings to evaluate the completed meetings. It was almost absurd. Remember, that's between you and me.


Sometimes, however, there are meetings I don't want to miss.

A little over a week ago the meeting of choice was the Villages Homeowners Advocates annual gathering to give out volunteer awards. If you ever need a lift, that yearly event shows that no matter what is going on in the world, there are people who give of themselves to help others.

Thank you, Greg.

I learned more about the Parady family that evening. Greg's wife has an extremely creative web site, [thenerdygourmet.com](http://thenerdygourmet.com). She invites you to join her in her love for books, films, recipes as she comes up with wonderful ways of combining the joys of all of them. It's hard to explain but really worth a visit. She brings a smiling sense of positive living to those who visit. Thanks to you, too, Jenni.

Well, that's it for today. Congratulations and thanks to the VHA winners and thanks to you for joining me this morning. I'll look forward to meeting you here again, next Sunday, On the Bright Side.

  
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