



You may know Pamela “Pam” Iserloth as one of the many recognizable front desk faces at The Villages Health, but you may not know that she spent her childhood in Indianapolis at one of the few integrated schools.



India Pantin | Daily Sun

GETTING TO KNOW PAMELA “PAM” ISERLOTH

Age: 73
Spouse: Robert “Bob” Iserloth
Village: Lynnhaven
Moved here: 2010
Moved from: Indianapolis, Indiana
Favorite Village activities: Working at The Villages Health, golfing and swimming.



Taylor Strickland

THE VILLAGES DAILY SUN

Do you know someone with an interesting backstory to tell? taylor.strickland@thevillagesmedia.com or call 352-753-1119, ext. 5334

Pamela “Pam” Iserloth always tries to focus on the brighter side of life. Iserloth grew up in a “moderately poor” family in the south side of Indianapolis. Her formative years took place during the Civil Rights movement, but Iserloth said she was unaware of most of it.

She went to school at Harry E. Wood High School, which doubled as a vocational training school for middle and high school students. A large portion of the student body were made up of Black students, many of whom came from the surrounding areas to take advantage of the secondary-level education the school provided as part of the vocational programs.

“We were a close-knit school,” Iserloth said. “We didn’t really realize there were racial tensions or what was going on in the rest of the country at the time.”

Iserloth’s family was very involved in the Indianapolis community and the school

system in particular. Her elder brother became a teacher at the school in her junior year of high school, and her mother was head of the local Parent Teacher Association.

It was while attending Harry E. Wood High School that Iserloth became close to her best friend, Gayle Doucey, who eventually convinced Iserloth and her husband, Robert or “Bob,” to move to The Villages.

Harry E. Wood High School closed in 1978, but Iserloth and her former fellow students, including Doucey, still attend a school reunion picnic every few years.

Iserloth credits her all-American upbringing as a one of the most powerful grounding forces in her life.

“I was raised in such a loving, conservative family,” Iserloth said. “My parents were very involved and I think that’s probably what a

lot of kids lack today.”

Involvement means more than just being present for one’s family to Iserloth. She believes community involvement is just as important, and points to the intensive extracurricular activities many of her family members enjoyed. Her brothers were athletes, even going so far as to become friends with coach and former Harlem Globetrotter, Jumpin’ Johnny Wilson, and her sister was a musician and singer.

It was Iserloth’s love of community, as well as dire financial need following a move to Colorado and her first husband’s subsequent deployment, that drew Iserloth to health care.

“I just needed a job,” Iserloth said. “I got hired at social security disability, so I got a background of working cases where people had medical issues and needed disability.”

Iserloth’s career took off after working at the social security and

disability offices in Colorado. A wife of one of the medical examiners worked at Larue Carter Mental Hospital and recommended Iserloth take over as executive secretary there.

From there she worked primarily in mental hospitals before becoming a supervisor at a cancer care specialist center. She ended her career at a cardiothoracic surgery practice. “I’ve always enjoyed helping people,” Iserloth said. “That’s what kept me in medicine. Really it’s the only thing I know and know well. It made me feel like I could contribute.”

Iserloth is deeply intertwined with the history of The Villages Health, and Colony Care Center in particular. She and her husband bought a home in The Villages in 2004, but didn’t officially move to the area in 2010. Unlike many Villagers, Iserloth and her husband were not retired

yet. After losing a remote opportunity at her previous job, Iserloth joined The Villages Health.

“Patti Bonner, who was my partner at The Villages Health, and I are two of the oldest employees at The Villages Health,” Iserloth said.

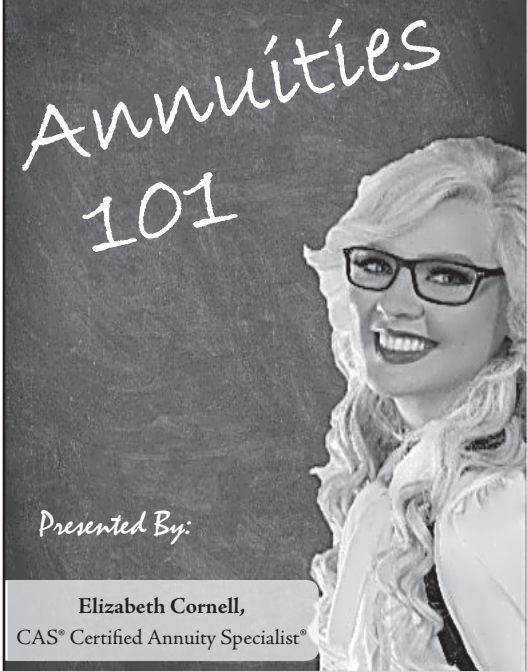
The two were part of the staff who opened Colony Care Center, The Villages Health’s first, in 2012.

Iserloth and Bonner made a name for themselves in The Villages Health’s early days. The comedic duo were often the source of many patients’ comfo

“We had so much fun in those early days,” Iserloth said. “It wasn’t a job to us.” Though Iserloth and Bonner are now technically retired, Iserloth is still manning the front desks throughout The Villages Health’s care centers. She is the first per diem staff member The Villages Health employed, and enjoys visiting the same patients and old friends she made years ago.

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