



**You may know Linda Shotsberger as your neighbor in the Village of St. James or from Zumba classes, but what you may not know is that she was both a pediatric nurse and a touring musician.**



Bill Mitchell | Daily Sun

**GETTING TO KNOW LINDA SHOTSBERGER**

**Age:** 74  
**Village:** St. James  
**Spouse:** David  
**Family:** one son, two grandchildren  
**Moved Here In:** 2012  
**Moved Here From:** Boalsburg, Pennsylvania  
**Favorite Villages Activities:** Zumba, Camp Villages



**Kristen Fiore**

THE VILLAGES DAILY SUN

Do you know someone with an interesting backstory to tell? Email kristen.fiore@thevillagesmedia.com, or call 352-753-1119, ext. 5270

Linda Shotsberger grew up in small town Reedsville, Pennsylvania, where she joked that she was raised with horses and three brothers. "I decided when I was 6 years old that I would be a nurse, and I never changed my mind," said Shotsberger, of the Village of St. James. Shotsberger was inspired by her great-aunt and aunt who were nurses. She also said she believes that God put the idea into her heart from the time that she was young. Shotsberger's faith would play a big role in her life. She said that it has driven her through everything she's done. She studied at York Hospital School of Nursing and modeled on the side for high-end department stores to make some extra money. Her first job in what would

be a 50-year nursing career was as a floor nurse in Lewis-town Hospital. She then became a visiting nurse for two counties, which entailed visiting people in their homes, helping their caregivers and reporting to the patients' doctors. She met her husband, David, at a Holiday Inn pool. They've been married for 49 years. After her job as a visiting nurse, Linda went to work for a cardiologist, where she made rounds, wrote prescriptions and visited people in the hospital. The doctor she worked with wanted her to go to school to specialize in cardiology, but then she got pregnant with her son and took time off to raise him. After six years, she desperately wanted to get back to nursing, so she

started working at a pediatric practice. She stayed with that practice for 30 years, teaching women how to breast feed, giving children and their parents medical advice, working as a triage nurse and screening about 100 phone calls a day. Young mothers have a lot of questions, Linda said. In the late '70s, Linda's youngest brother died and she turned to evangelism and Christian music. She was part of a band called New Life, for which she was the keyboardist, lead alto vocalist and outfit coordinator. The group went from touring in a van to a 40-foot tour bus, Linda said. They performed from the Atlantic to the Mississippi River across the Northeast and up in the New England states. Linda's husband and

son were in the band, too. "I loved every minute of it," she said. "I loved being able to meet people." As time went on, the group became more well known and started performing at fairs and festivals in addition to churches. They opened for country acts including Clint Black and Atlanta, and recorded at The Oak Ridge Boys' studio, which Linda said led to 11 albums over 20 years and a Grammy nomination in 1983. After a while, Linda and David grew tired of the snow. They visited friends in The Villages in 2011 and then went back home to a very difficult winter. By then, their son had married and moved to Memphis, where, inspired by his time in New Life, he became a doctor of musical arts.

They moved to The Villages in 2012. Linda is a member of her neighborhood's AED team and has assisted neighbors in hospice. At her church, Life Church Assembly of God in Fruitland Park, she is known as someone who can be relied upon in case of a medical emergency. One of Linda's favorite activities is Zumba, which she does three to five days a week. She also does it with Camp Villages, which she loves, as it gives her the chance to work with children again. In between all of those activities, she models for Patchington in Spanish Springs Town Square. "I really believe that God put me here for a reason in The Villages," Linda said. "I call it paradise on Earth."

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