



A word from our Board President...

“In every life a little rain must fall.”

In July the City of Oregon, as well as the Village of Progress, received more than a little rain. Nine inches, to be precise. The resulting flood experienced by the Village was a huge unexpected obstacle for this past year. But I'm happy to report it was an obstacle the staff and those who attend the Village overcame with grit and grace.

Grit, because when the staff arrived on the Saturday after the flood they grouped together, prioritized the work to be done, delegated the employees, and got to it. From all the reports I heard, the staff worked as a team, showing great determination to get through this.

The workshop showed grit in the way it worked to honor its contract with Wahl Clipper. The Village was in the midst of fulfilling a large order for Wahl, and they were relying heavily on the Village. Even before the flood waters had fully receded, workshop staff were busy cleaning out the one elevated section of the building not affected by the flood. That section was transformed into a temporary production area. High school students were brought in to help with assembly work until the main workshop could be re-occupied. The result? The workshop lost only one day of production.

The developmental training staff, those who serve our men and women with more significant disabilities, also displayed tremendous grit. They worked in cooperation with the two area residential facilities to quickly resume services to them – bringing the Village's staff to the residents there when they could not yet come to the Village. By the end of the second week, the Village was re-opened and running at full capacity.

But there was also the experience of grace. Volunteers from around the community arrived to help shoulder the burden of cleaning up the mess the flood left behind. Others showed great generosity in giving items and money to help in the recovery. Parents and guardians exhibited tremendous patience and support. And then there are the folks who attend the Village. They coped with the Village's “construction in progress” look with a wonderful attitude.

On behalf of the board, and on behalf of the Village of Progress Foundation, I am so appreciative of the Village's mission, the character of its staff, and the compassion of this community.

Thank you.

Jeffrey E. Glen
President, Village of Progress Board of Directors

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DEB SETTLES
Route Driver & Supervisor
LOUIE WEHMHOEFER
Village Cleaning Supervisor
ROD YOUNG
Village Cleaning Supervisor
SARA ZELLER
Bakery Assistant Manager

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VILLAGE OF PROGRESS



Village of Progress, Inc. Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report

Celebrating 48 years of service to those of Ogle County who have a disability.

Thank you to: Design Enhanced Manufacturing Company, Inc., FN Smith Corporation, & Rochelle Community Hospital who contributed money specifically for this report.

VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

“Alone you can do so little; together we can do so much” – Helen Keller

It's been a challenging year for the Village of Progress. Some challenges have been good; others have set us back. All of them have made us better.

In the spring we opened The Village Bakery in downtown Oregon. The Village Bakery is a rather unique enterprise. It gives persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities 'real world' experience working shoulder-to-shoulder with others in an integrated work environment. Of the approximately 40 part time employees at the Bakery, about 10 have disabilities. All earn competitive wages. With the start of the new school year, we were able to add another eight special education students to our staff as interns. Our little bakery now provides income and work experience to over fifty men and women in the Oregon area.

Last year we added a new fundraiser, the TOSOC (Tour Of Scenic Ogle County) bicycle ride. TOSOC, along with our long-standing John Herrmann Golf Play Day, raise critical funds for our Attendance Grants. These grants, introduced in 2014, provide opportunities for people with disabilities to attend the Village despite a lack of state funding. Both TOSOC and the golf play day broke new records this year for dollars raised.

The third event that's shaped our year was less pleasant. In July a record rainfall in the area resulted in widespread flooding. The Village wasn't spared, suffering a foot of floodwater throughout our building. While we were able to clean up the mess and reopen in under two weeks, much remains to be done. Our administrative offices are still located in temporary office space outside our building. We should be moving back sometime in November. Our kitchen that serves hot lunches to the men and women who attend the Village won't be reopened until next year. We won't likely be "back to normal" until spring.

A new business venture, fundraisers, and a flood. As diverse as these events appear, there is one common theme, one red thread, which joins them together – you. None of these events would have turned out as they did without the support of a caring and generous community.

The Village Bakery has enjoyed tremendous support from the community. Every day, people come in to grab a cup of coffee or a pastry, meet old friends or new business associates, or just watch the world go by. In all these ways the community welcomes those who seem different, only to discover common interests and desires.

Our fundraisers are only possible because of men and women who donate their time and talents. For TOSOC, volunteers served crucial roles in planning the event, helping with registration, manning the rest stops, providing mechanical support, and donating food and material. The John Herrmann Play Day both relies on and is energized by the support of golfers from around northern Illinois. These folks donate items for our raffle, provide sponsorship, and demonstrate tremendous comradery and generosity throughout the day. These men and women give both events a warmth and friendliness that is noticed by virtually all who attend.

Then there's the flood. Because of you, what at first looked like a natural disaster turned into a cause for giving thanks. Yes, the loss was extensive. But what we quickly found was that the scope of the loss was overwhelmed by the scope of the community's response. Volunteers from all over the area came and walked beside us in our soggy mess. Added to that, the outpouring of support through your contributions has been heartwarming and humbling.

Often we hear encouragement from you about the work we do and the mission we carry out. But this year, especially this year, we want to make sure you hear us say, "Thank you. We literally could not do what we do without you."

