



### A word from our Board President...

Fifty years ago, the Village of Progress was launched. Its mission was to provide opportunities to Ogle County residents with developmental disabilities. A lot has changed in those five decades.

- The Village began in an old 1,500 square foot shoe store in Mount Morris. At present, it owns a 28,000 square foot facility.

- The Village started by serving 4 adults in its training center and 2 children with disabilities in its day care. Currently, it serves over 90 men and women from all corners of Ogle County.
- In its first year the Village had 6 full time and 4 part time employees. Today, we have a dedicated and talented staff of 45 full time and another 30 part time employees.
- The annual budget has grown from \$120,000 to over \$3,000,000.

Looking back at the Village's early years shows an active involvement in the Explorer's Club (a version of Boy Scouts designed for people with disabilities), including marching in local parades proudly displaying their uniforms.

Today, the options available to our men and women are so diverse. Biking Club, Trips to the Byron Library, Walking Club, Crafting with residents at the Oregon Nursing Home, Therapeutic Horseback riding, Music Therapy, Special Olympics Track & Field events, Special Olympics bowling, to name just a few.

In addition, the Village has come a long way in its offering of work opportunities. Since its inception, the Village has believed that work isn't an end in itself, but a means. It's a means of fostering a sense of worth and accomplishment. Over the years the Village has experimented with a broad number of work experiences.

Today, the Village not only offers several opportunities inside its facility, but a number of opportunities in the community as well. These include the Village Cleaning Service, The Village Bakery, and part time work through private businesses.

Yes, a lot has changed about the Village in the past fifty years. But its founding values endure. A dedication to providing a place of trust; affirming each person's self-worth; letting them feel that they are valued for who they are.

May the same be said of the Village in another fifty years!

#### VILLAGE OF PROGRESS, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

##### Officers:

- JEFF GLEN  
President
- BILL LINDENMIER  
Vice President
- TOM FELKER  
Secretary
- DIRK MEMINGER  
Treasurer

##### Directors:

- SID ANDERSON
- TOM CHAMPLEY
- DON ETNYRE
- GARY FERB
- MERLIN HAGEMANN
- HEATHER HATCH
- ANGELA LARSON
- JULIE MANN
- MAGGIE NYE
- BILL TALLYN
- LINDA WILLS

#### VILLAGE OF PROGRESS FOUNDATION, INC.

##### Officers:

- PAT DONAHUE  
President
- LARRY YOUNG  
Vice President
- JOE CLINTON III  
Secretary/Treasurer

##### Directors:

- BRION BROOKS
- WANDA CACCIATORE
- JEFF GLEN
- BRETT HERRMANN
- CHRIS MARTIN
- DAVE NELSON
- DAVE SMITH
- ROB URISH

#### HUMAN RIGHTS/BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- CAROL ANDERSON
- SID ANDERSON
- JESSICA ARMBRUSTER
- TOM FELKER
- ASHLEY KOZA
- DONNA MATTISON
- MARLA ROZEBOOM
- TERRY SCHUSTER
- AMY STEPHENITCH

#### VILLAGE OF PROGRESS STAFF

##### Administrative:

- BRION BROOKS  
Executive Director
- DAVE BAKENER  
Accountant
- SHERRI EGAN  
Assistant Director
- JACKIE FRANSEN  
Bakery Manager
- KAREN KEREVEN  
Production Manager
- DONNA MATTISON  
Program Manager
- MARLA ROZEBOOM  
Social Services Coordinator
- TIM TAYLOR  
Village Sales & Cleaning Manager

##### Direct Care:

- JESSICA ARMBRUSTER  
Registered Nurse
- CINDY BARNHART  
Production
- BRANDY GROBE  
Registered Nurse & Safety Director
- ELLEN LAURENT  
Registered Nurse
- ANGIE MARTIN-BAKENER  
Residential Liaison
- SHIRLEY MCPHILLIPS  
Supervisor
- DEB MUMFORD  
Cook & Supervisor
- DENNY MUMFORD  
Supervisor
- CATHY SNYDER  
Production Supervisor
- LORA STENZEL  
Production Supervisor
- SOPHIE TERRY  
Production Supervisor
- DAWN TODD  
Special Olympics Coach & Supervisor
- BRYAN WATSON  
Production Supervisor
- AMBER WRIGHT  
Special Olympics Coach, Cook & Supervisor

##### Support:

- DENNY ARJES  
Maintenance Supervisor
- LISA BOEHLE  
Bookkeeper
- MIKE CARR  
Route Driver
- ASHLEY KUEHN  
Baker
- MARY KRUG  
Route Driver & Supervisor
- PAM LOTZ  
Executive Secretary
- DEANNE MUNHOLLON  
Assistant Bookkeeper
- FELIPE RODRIGUEZ  
Route Driver & Supervisor
- DEB SETTLES  
Route Driver & Supervisor
- LOUIE WEHMHOEFER  
LOTS Route Driver
- SARA ZELLERS  
Bakery Assistant Manager

The Village of Progress is a private not for profit 501(c)(3) agency funded in part by: The Ogle County Community Mental Health (708) Board United Way and Rochelle Area Community Foundation.



# VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE • 1969-2019



## Village of Progress, Inc. Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report

Celebrating 50 years of service to those of Ogle County who have a disability.

Thank you to: FN Smith Corporation and KSB Partner in Health who contributed money specifically for this report.





# VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE • 1969-2019

**DURING BOB’S 38 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP, THE VILLAGE EXPANDED FROM 6,000 SQUARE FEET TO ITS CURRENT SIZE OF MORE THAN 25,000 SQUARE FEET. IN 1990, BOB WORKED WITH JOHN HERRMANN AND BOB MOEHLE TO START THE VILLAGE OF PROGRESS FOUNDATION. A FEW YEARS LATER, THE FOUNDATION PURCHASED A 58,000-SQUARE-FOOT WAREHOUSE THAT HAS BEEN RENTED TO AREA BUSINESSES, RESULTING IN INCOME TO THE FOUNDATION. BOB BELIEVED IN THE POWER OF INDUSTRY AND WAS NEVER AFRAID TO EXPLORE NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO GENERATE BUSINESS FOR THE WORKSHOP. MANY OF BOB’S PROGRAMS AND TRADITIONS ARE STILL ACTIVE AFTER 50 YEARS.**

**FROM THE VILLAGE’S BEGINNING, JOHN HERRMANN PROVIDED VALUABLE BUSINESS AND MANUFACTURING GUIDANCE. JOHN WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN CONVINCING CARON INTERNATIONAL TO CO-SIGN A \$40,000 LOAN TO BUILD THE VILLAGE’S CURRENT FACILITY. IN 1972, JOHN TRAVELED TO SPRINGFIELD TO RECEIVE THE FRANCIS J. GERTY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH CARE. JOHN SERVED ON THE VILLAGE’S BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 30 YEARS AND ON THE FOUNDATION’S BOARD FOR NINE YEARS. HE REMAINED ACTIVELY COMMITTED TO SERVING ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 2000.**

**WHILE THE VILLAGE HAS UNDERGONE TREMENDOUS CHANGE OVER THE PAST 50 YEARS, ITS CORE VALUES HAVE ENDURED AND CAN BE FOUND IN ITS CURRENT VALUES STATEMENT: “WE BELIEVE ALL PEOPLE SHOULD BE TREATED WITH RESPECT REGARDLESS OF INTELLECTUAL OR PHYSICAL ABILITIES. WE BELIEVE THAT INTERACTION WITH THE COMMUNITY, EVEN ONE PERSON AT A TIME, HAS VALUE IN CHANGING PERCEPTIONS ABOUT THOSE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES. THE VILLAGE DOES THIS BY SEEKING OUT ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES OVER GOVERNMENT FUNDING.”**

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY BOB AND JOHN TO THE VILLAGE OF PROGRESS - THE FORMER CARON INTERNATIONAL BUILDING AND CURRENT FOUNDATION WAREHOUSE WAS NAMED THE JOHN HERRMANN COMPLEX IN 1997  
THE VILLAGE OF PROGRESS’ PRIMARY FACILITY WAS NAMED THE BOB GLASER TRAINING CENTER IN 2019**

The charts below reflect two of the pillars of the Village of Progress – creating meaningful work experiences and providing interactive social opportunities.

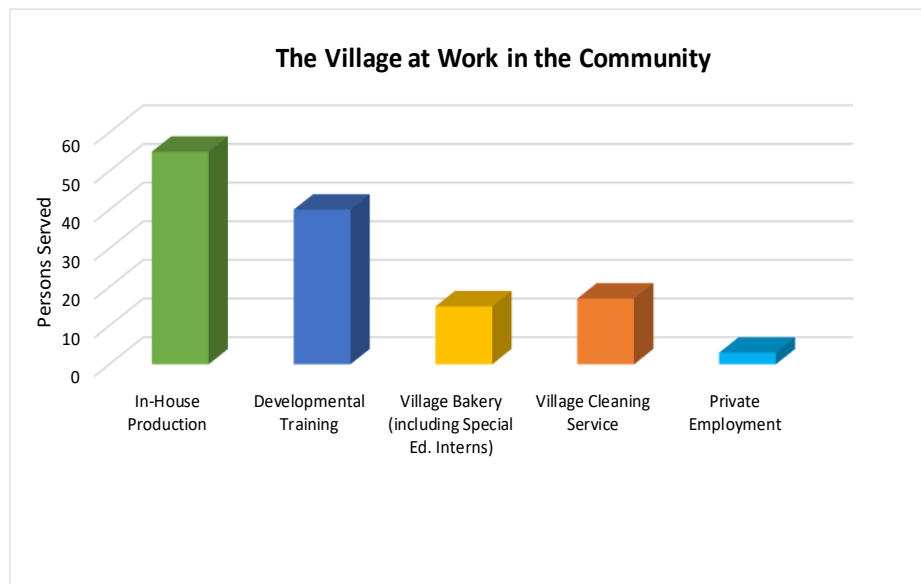
Throughout its 50 year history, the Village has always believed that the opportunity to work is a means of promoting self-worth. It’s as true with the people we serve as it is for everyone else. What we do for a living is often seen as an extension of who we are.

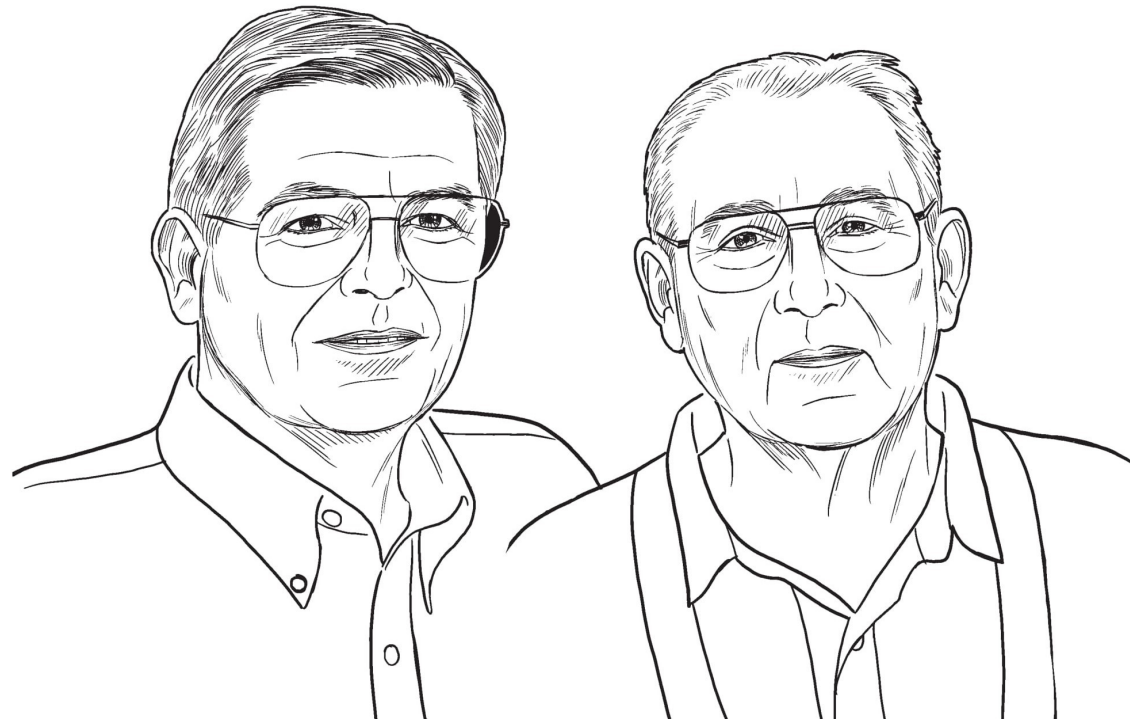
At the Village, we continually strive to offer a diverse array of work for men and women of all abilities. Our in-house assembly and production work has always been a mainstay of our mission. This year, we’ve not only streamlined and expanded our assembly capabilities for our major clients, but we have also partnered with Etnyre Company to produce kits that can be used by Etnyre’s customers to perform on-site repairs of their equipment.

Our Village Cleaning Service – established 44 years ago to create more community employment offerings – has expanded considerably in the past few years. The Village Cleaning Service now has a total of

37 full-time and part-time employees, including over 10 men and women with disabilities. Together they serve 45 clients across two counties.

The Village Bakery has now completed its second year of operation and continues to grow in sales and popularity. Most important, it has helped many people with disabilities gain confidence while working directly with the public in a retail setting.



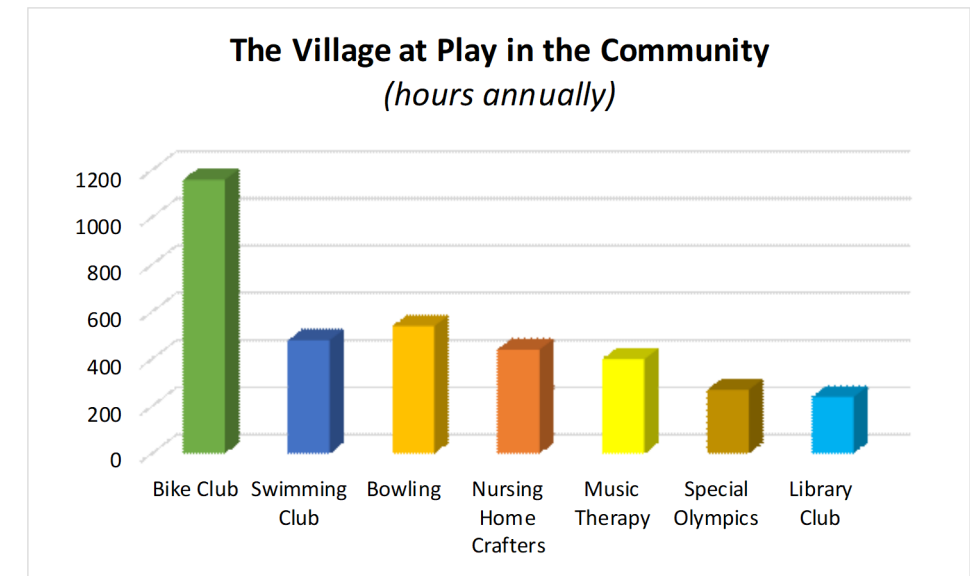


**ON NOVEMBER 5, 1968, OGLE COUNTY CITIZENS PASSED THE 708 MENTAL HEALTH REFERENDUM, CREATING FUNDING TO ASSIST IN MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES. IN ITS FIRST YEAR THE REFERENDUM COLLECTED \$35,000.**

**IN APRIL 1969, BOB GLASER WAS HIRED TO HELP ESTABLISH THE VILLAGE OF PROGRESS, INC. ON SEPTEMBER 6, 1969, THE VILLAGE OFFICIALLY OPENED ITS DOORS IN MOUNT MORRIS. TWO PROJECTS WERE IMMEDIATELY INITIATED: A DAY CARE CENTER AND A SHELTERED WORKSHOP. THE WORKSHOP'S FIRST CONTRACT WAS WITH THE LOCAL TEXTILE MANUFACTURER, CARON INTERNATIONAL. THIS WAS THE START OF NOT JUST A CORPORATE RELATIONSHIP, BUT A PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN BOB AND CARON'S OPERATING MANAGER, JOHN HERRMANN.**

**AS THE VILLAGE BEGAN TO OUTGROW ITS SURROUNDINGS IN MT. MORRIS, CARON INTERNATIONAL DONATED MORE THAN 5,000 SQUARE FEET OF THEIR FACILITY IN OREGON FOR THE VILLAGE'S PRODUCTION WORK. SIX MONTHS LATER, CARON INTERNATIONAL FOLLOWED UP ON THIS UNPRECEDENTED SHOW OF SUPPORT BY DONATING TWO ACRES OF THEIR LAND IN OREGON FOR THE VILLAGE TO CONSTRUCT A BUILDING DEDICATED TO SERVING ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES.**

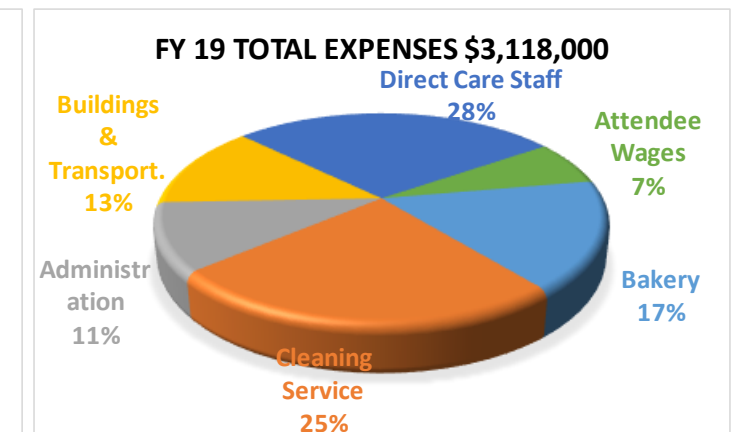
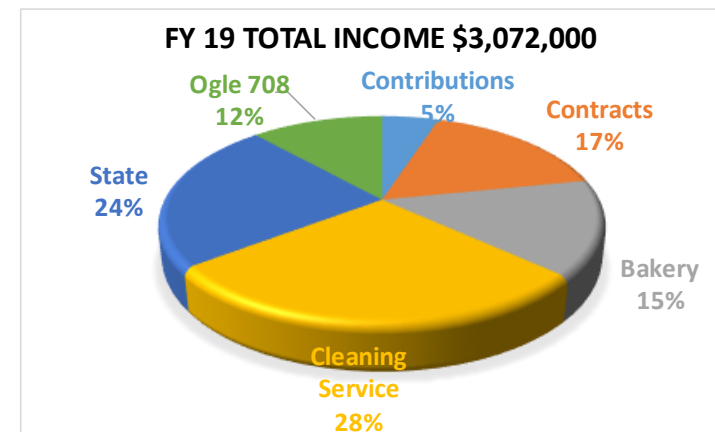
While our in-house work offers opportunities primarily for those who meet the state's stringent definition for a developmental disability, the Cleaning Service and Bakery hire many individuals who face intellectual challenges that might not reach the state's threshold. In this way, we can offer a variety of opportunities for *all* adults with developmental disabilities.



The second pillar of the Village's mission is to challenge the men and women we serve to grow in their social abilities and life skills. The Bike Club is one example. It has provided tremendous opportunities for our men and women to interact with volunteers from the community while getting in a little exercise and fresh air. Music Therapy also helps build interactive and communicative skills, while helping to make music.

Special Olympics is another shining example. It has long been a vital part of the Village's social and recreational offerings. Whether its soft ball throws, running events, basketball skills, or bowling, several dozen of our men and women learn teamwork, camaraderie, and the thrill of healthy competition.

In all these ways, and many more, the Village continues its legacy of bringing the Village to the community and the community to the Village.







**Elementary & Secondary Education Act**  
Federal law providing state and federal money to create programs for children with disabilities.



**Education of the Handicapped Act**  
Federal law giving funds to train special education teachers and create special education classrooms.



**PARC v Pennsylvania**  
Supreme Court rules that all children with disabilities are entitled to a Free, Appropriate Public Education.



**1965 1968 1969 1971 1972**

**Blackhawk Assoc. for the Mentally Retarded**

Parents group forms to explore ways to improve the lives of Ogle County children and adults with disabilities.

**708 Initiative Passes in Ogle County**

County passes tax levy funding county-based programs that help people with disabilities and mental illness.

**Village of Progress Opens**

Mount Morris - based nonprofit to provide training to adults and day care to children with disabilities.

**VOP Moves to Current Site**

Caron International donates land for new location. Building completed in 1971.

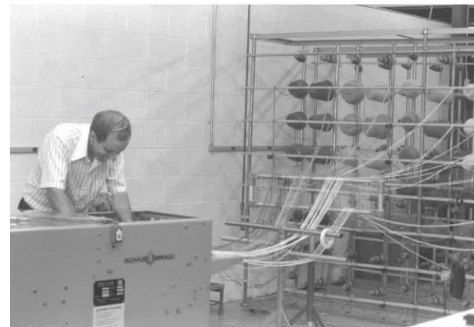
**VOP Daycare Discontinued**

Children able to start attending local special education classes in public schools.



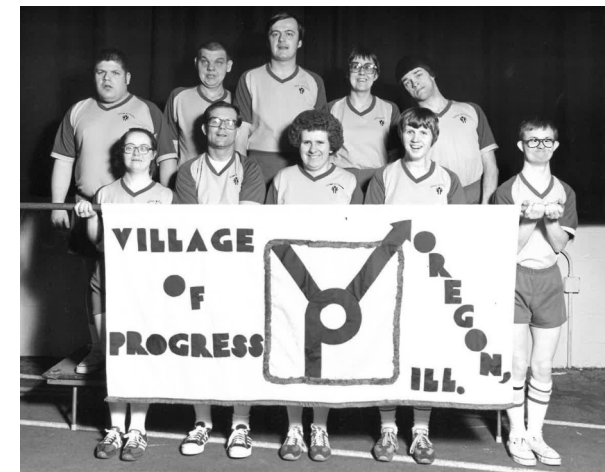
**Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act**

Becomes illegal for public schools to discriminate against children with disabilities.



**Timothy W v Rochester Schools**

Supreme Court rules that public schools cannot reject students because their disability may be "too severe."



**1973 1975 1989 2003 2017**

**Yellow Bird Opens**

A store for selling VOP items and for Senior Citizens. Later became the Rock River Senior Center.

**VOP Creates Village Cleaning Service**

Began in 1975 with six contracts and \$3,000 annual income. Currently 43 contracts and \$880,000 annual income.

**VOP Foundation**

Established.

**VOP Expands**

New addition created for administrative offices, freeing up more space for serving those with disabilities.

**Village Bakery Opens**

Unique venture to provide integrated and competitive employment opportunities to adults with disabilities.

**Rolling Hills Progress Center Launches**

Based on strong demand, VOP helped establish another day service program in Carroll County.



**VOP Foundation**  
Purchased the John Herrmann Complex.

