



A word from our Board President...

This has been a tumultuous and challenging decade for the Village of Progress.

The Great Recession of '09 ushered in the decade. During that time the Village faced severe budget shortfalls as the state fell further and further behind in paying its bills.

In the mid-2010s, the Village suffered through a dysfunctional Illinois govern-

ment that couldn't even pass a budget; nonprofits across the state suffered tremendous financial hardships. Many closed and never reopened.

In 2017, the Village suffered from a record rainfall that left its building sitting in over a foot of muddy water. Now the decade is closing with a worldwide disaster of another kind – a flu pandemic unlike anything seen in the last 100 years.

When facing a crisis some turn to despair and ask, "why me?" But others continue to find a way forward, led by the question, "So what should I do now?" I'm proud to report that the Village of Progress fall into the latter category.

When faced with the economic turmoil of 2010, the Village made tough decisions, tightened its belt, and pushed forward.

Faced with the ravages of a flood, the Village was lifted up by the tremendous support of the community and came back with a facility that is newer and more inspiring than ever.

This is also the decade in which the Village Bakery was born, providing competitive wages and integrated community-based work to individuals with disabilities – enriching both the community and the lives of those who work there.

The Village Cleaning Service also expanded its operations over the past decade, offering training and job opportunities to many with disabilities and others who lived on the margins of society.

Finally even in the midst of this worldwide pandemic the Village has risen to the challenge of maintaining services and building community.

I'm so incredibly proud of the men and women who are the Village of Progress – from its board members to its staff, from the volunteers to those who attend here each day. The Village has met every challenge it has faced. And its mission continues to shine into the community.

Thank you.

Jeff

Jeffery E. Glen

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VILLAGE OF PROGRESS



A TALE OF TWO YEARS

Village of Progress, Inc. Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report

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

Thank you to: KSB Partners in Health
who contributed money specifically for this report.

VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

The story of the Village of Progress this year is really two stories. The Village's 2020 fiscal year can be almost evenly divided between the time before the pandemic (July '19 through December '19) and the time in the midst of the pandemic (July '20 through December '20).

In the first half of the fiscal year the Village was on track for another great year. The Cleaning Service was showing solid growth. The Bakery was really taking off with the lunch menu proving exceptionally popular. Our main training center was also firing on all cylinders with its assembly work, thanks in no small part to the faithful support of Wahl Clipper.

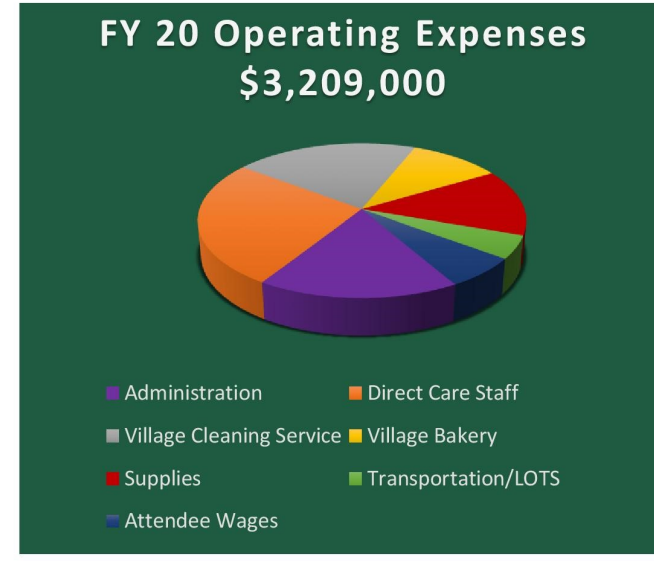
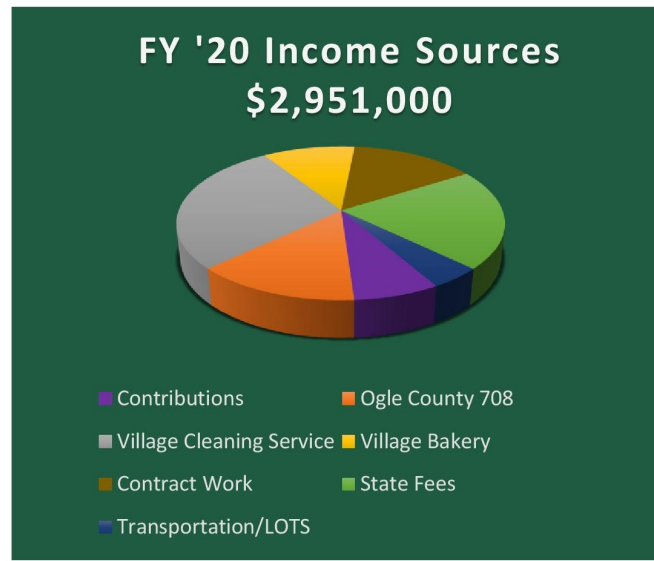
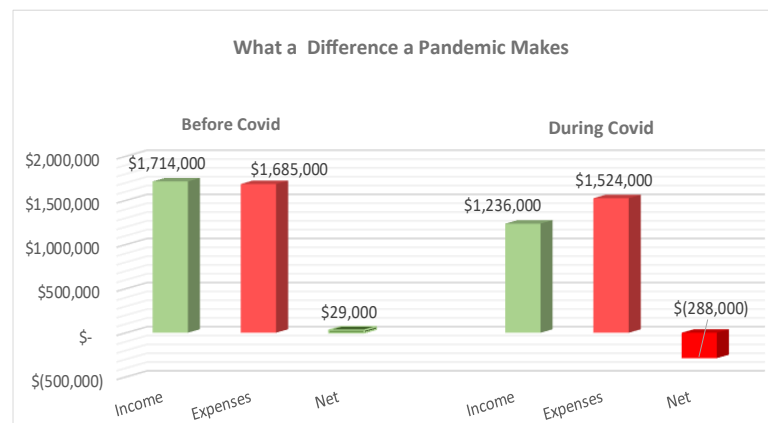
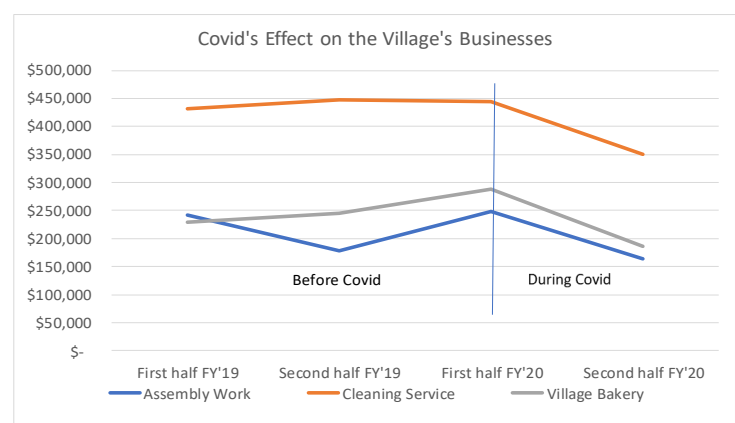
This year was moving along nicely, with few surprises in sight. Or so we thought....

Then in January news emerged of a new flu virus spreading across the globe. By February, the virus popped up in at first one location in the US, then another. In just a matter of a few weeks, Covid-19 – like a wildfire fanned by strong winds – had infected people in virtually every state, including Illinois. The word “pandemic” became a household word for the first time in a century.

By mid-March, just as the Village had decided it would be prudent to close for a few weeks, the State ordered all non-essential businesses, including all Day Service Centers, to suspend operations. Who could have known that the Village would have to remain closed through the rest of the summer? The pandemic put considerable stress on the Village's finances. As the first chart shows (lower left), gains made in the year and a half before Covid, were wiped out entirely between January and June.

The second chart shows (lower right) that what promised to be a modest gain during the first half of the fiscal year turned into a deep loss by the end of the second half.

Still, the Village found creative ways to cope. Financially, the Village was able to secure a Payroll Protection Program Loan from a local bank. This afforded us the opportunity to pay our staff even while services were suspended. The Extended Family Medical Leave Act also allowed several of our parents to stay home and care for their kids.



The staff next turned its attention to finding ways to stay in contact with those who attend here. The Village has always stressed building and maintaining community. The staff became concerned that, if our men and women remained isolated for too long, their emotional, and possibly even physical health might suffer.

As the pictures on the front cover show, a lot of creative energy went into keeping our individuals connected to each other and the Village.

Zoom meetings were set up to play games, exercise, and just talk and joke. Virtual tours of the building were offered to let our individuals see what changes were made to cope with the pandemic and let them know that we were still up and running. Weekly letters and cards were sent out by all the staff, wishing our folks well, reassuring them and expressing the sincere desire that we can get back together soon.

Our bus route drivers delivered monthly care packages to everyone's homes. The packages were individualized according to each person's unique interests. Hand delivering them was yet another way to let our people know that we were still here and still cared.

During the summer the Village also staged a car parade. Two dozen staff cars and trucks, many festooned with banners, balloons, and signs, went past the houses of our folks and other common areas. It was great fun and greatly appreciated.

Volunteers and supporters of the Village have also helped tremendously. Hundreds of hand-made cloth face masks have been donated, not to mention generous financial contributions. For all of this, the Village has been most grateful.

It is now the Fall and the Village has slowly begun ramping up services again. This has been a difficult time for the Village – as it's been a difficult time for all – but we are still moving forward..... as a community.