



A word from our Board President...

Two years into the Covid pandemic and the Village of Progress not only endures, but moves forward with tremendous optimism.

As the board president, it's exciting to have a bird's eye perspective on all that the staff of the Village is doing and exploring.

The Village was among the first employers in Ogle County (after health care facilities and schools) to offer the Moderna vaccine on-site in February 2021. The turnout was heartening, as 95% of the Village's staff and another 95% of the individuals who attend here received their first jabs.

As the Village came out of the months-long lockdown in April, already new projects were being prepared to launch. In late spring, staff began taking individuals down to Crest Foods in Amboy. These groups of a half-dozen men and women work shoulder-to-shoulder beside their counterparts at Crest Foods, packaging boxes of food in assembly-line fashion. Different people comprise the Village's work groups, allowing about ten different people the chance to experience real-world work conditions away from the Village's campus.

Most recently, the Village has been in conversations with a national tool manufacturer to provide them with packaging services. It's a win for the manufacturer, who is looking for more labor, and a win for the Village's individuals who always enjoy more work opportunities.

With Covid still around, but less threatening now than a year ago, it is remarkable to see and hear how – throughout the entire ordeal, the Village has kept its spirits up and its lines of communication with their individuals open.

I'm truly looking forward to see how the Village will change and grow even more as the threat of this two-year-old pandemic finally begins to lift. A bright future for the Village lies ahead.

Thank you

Jeff

Jeffery E. Glen

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VILLAGE OF PROGRESS



Village of Progress, Inc. Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report

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



VILLAGE OF PROGRESS

Despite entering into two years of the Covid pandemic there is much that the Village of Progress is grateful for.

Yes, it has been – and still is – a trying and stressful time. The Village was closed for services beginning in March 2020 and did not receive authorization to reopen its doors until August. A few staff opted to retire early. The Village Bakery was closed to inside dining from March 2020 until February 2021 – nearly a full year.

Throughout it all, however, the Village’s staff worked tirelessly to fulfill the Village’s obligations to it’s business customers. Even while those obligations were met, the Village continued to offer support and community to the men and women it serves through personal visits, care packages, letters of encouragement, and Zoom gatherings.

Finally, by the spring of 2021 the Village was able to welcome back about a third of its regular population. The availability of vaccines (which the Ogle County Health Department generously administered at the Village) let everyone – staff and attendees alike – breathe a little easier.



While the threat of more Covid outbreaks still linger, the Village began hitting its stride again. Gradually, more men and women have begun to return. And thankfully, no serious Covid outbreaks have yet to arise within the Village.

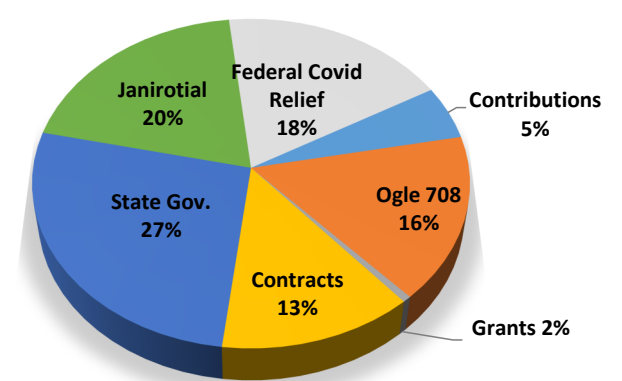
Throughout this lingering ordeal, the men and women who make up the Village of Progress have kept its mission at the forefront – challenging men and women with disabilities to reach their full potential at work and in the community.

This work is often done quietly and in small ways. That’s what has made the pandemic so difficult – the restrictions that go with staying safe. But it’s also what has made the pandemic in some ways irrelevant – that despite what goes on in the world we can work, person by person, to let them know they are respected, accepted, and able to do more than they might imagine.

In some ways, the work of the Village is akin to the work of mending torn fabric. The world that our people live and work in is torn with misunderstandings, limitations and risk. Every day, in a thousand different ways, the staff at the Village walk alongside men and women who just need friendship, a word of encouragement or a challenge to boost their confidence, a place of community. Each in itself a small stitch, carefully placed. It is work that might mean little in the eyes of the world, but means the world in the eyes of those who are here.

The Village of Progress is so incredibly fortunate to have the staff and volunteers that it does. So, as Covid continues to wreak its havoc and grab headlines, remember the work of the Village and other social service agencies, doing the quiet and unassuming work of mending the torn fabric of society.

FY '21 Income = \$2,950,000



FY '21 Expenses \$2,612,000

