



Print Page

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After 40 years, IVI still looks to grow

EDITOR'S NOTE - This is one in an occasional series of stories written by, and detailing the work of, the partner agencies that receive funding through the United Way of Grundy County.

After celebrating its 40th year of serving adults with disabilities (1968-2008), Illinois Valley Industries is not sitting back and enjoying the successful past.

Instead, IVI is already setting plans into place for program expansion, building remodeling and additional services for 2009.

Currently IVI is providing services to 57 clients on a daily basis. Kandis Cassetto, executive director, states that, by July 1, 2009, she is hopeful it will be able to increase that to at least 65 people. To do that, several steps have to be taken.

The Adult Learning Center building at 1011 Third Ave. has to be remodeled to double the floor space currently made available to the Developmental Training group receiving life skills training Monday through Friday.

Home-Based Services Facilitation, funded by Medicaid, is also a service provided through this program.

Because the space needed to expand is currently being used to warehouse components for IVI's barricade manufacturing, the second item needed will be additional warehousing space.

To help transport people into Illinois Valley Industries to participate in the programs, a larger van may be quickly needed to pick up riders in the Mazon, Gardner and Coal City areas, while an additional van route is being considered into Minooka and Channahon.

Also being studied is the feasibility of one, if not two, four-person group homes.

Director Cassetto has been with IVI since 1978, and states the relationship IVI and the United Way of Grundy County has is an essential part of IVI's ability to provide "Best Practices" programming to the community.

Over the years, UWGC has provided funds for such things as production equipment, air conditioning, a gazebo, and a transitional independent living program. The funds from UWGC are vital in assisting IVI to purchase things the State of Illinois will not allow their funds to be used for.

Anyone having questions or wanting additional information, may reach Director Cassetto at (815) 942-6133.