

## BUILDING ON STRENGTH, ADVANCING ON PROGRESS



Keith Isley  
President and CEO

As I mark my **first six months** with Progress Industries, I've had the privilege to participate in many meaningful conversations with staff, community supporters, parents and guardians, and, most importantly, the people we serve. This organization is truly special, and I am thrilled to be a part of shaping its future.

P.I. has an amazing legacy, built over more than four decades. Its roots are deep, and its purpose remains clear: supporting people with disabilities to **lead meaningful, independent** lives in their communities. That foundation is strong, and our future is equally promising, not by changing who we are, but by building on what already works and raising the bar for **service excellence**.

My goal as President and CEO is to strengthen P.I.'s position as both the **Provider of Choice** and the **Employer of Choice** in our area. That's a tall order, and that means delivering services that produce quality outcomes for the people we serve.

We are working hard to strengthen the reach and quality of our services. We're investing in stronger training and ongoing support for program staff, and we've completely restructured our onboarding process, so every new employee begins their journey with a clear message: at P.I., the standard is excellence starting on day one.

At P.I., we are exploring innovative approaches such as remote support, which uses technology to expand access to services and foster greater independence. We are encouraged by the

possibilities this could have in our 24-hour residential living services and particularly in outlying communities, where transportation and staffing challenges often limit access to services.

We are also addressing needs in other crucial areas. Our 2025-2026 budget reserves funding to keep our homes up-to-date and to provide reliable transportation for those we serve. We're also investing in energy-efficient upgrades and expanded technology to keep P.I. current and sustainable. In short, every dollar we spend helps create safe, accessible, enriching environments where the people we serve can live their best lives.

In this newsletter, you'll find highlights of the services and stories that have shaped P.I.'s leadership in supporting people with disabilities for more than 45 years. We invite you to join us in our mission through a one-time or monthly contribution.

Consider **Farmers for Progress**, where area farmers contribute grain through local elevators or **Commemorative Giving**, with personalized bricks in our community sculpture garden located in downtown Newton.

I am immensely thankful to be part of this work and look forward to keeping you updated. We remain committed to delivering the highest-quality services and making a meaningful impact for our employees, the people we serve, and their families.

Their progress is our highest priority!



Keith Isley  
President and CEO  
Progress Industries and P.I. Foundation

**Strengthening  
our services  
today to build  
a stronger  
future for  
those we  
support.**

## PATH TO PROGRESS

Tamara recently celebrated **ten years** of service at Walmart in Newton. Over the past decade, she has worked in multiple departments and is now a valued member of the team, keeping the cards and crafts aisles organized and greeting shoppers with her friendly smile.

Her journey began with P.I.'s Supported Employment program, where she worked with a job coach to find a role that matched her strengths and interests. With this support, Tamara has not only built the skills to succeed at work but has also stepped into leadership in her community through her active involvement with the Newton AKTION Club.



Paulette is marking **twenty years** at Papa John's in Des Moines, where she has built lasting relationships with her coworkers. She receives Supported Community Living services from P.I., which strengthen her daily routines and allow her to sustain her independence. With this support, Paulette manages transportation, scheduling, medication, health, and wellness—giving her the stability to maintain her job and live successfully in her community.

When offered the chance to transfer to a location closer to home, Paulette chose to stay, saying simply, **"I like the people I work with."**

P.I. provides **Supported Employment services to nearly 100 people** to obtain and maintain employment. Of this number, **65 people** are **employed** working **5 or more hours per week**, earning an average of **\$12.60** per hour.

Across our residential, day habilitation, and employment programs, we serve over 250 individuals annually. Stories like Paulette's and Tamara's celebrate the achievements of the people we serve and the impact of P.I.'s services.

Serving central Iowans with disabilities since **1979**

## LEARNING THROUGH CONNECTION

This fall, Practical Nursing students from Des Moines Area Community College visited P.I.'s residential homes and day habilitation program in Newton.

This partnership has provided students with interactive clinical experiences, enabling them to engage directly with the individuals we serve. They learn from Direct Support Professionals like Mary Logue (pictured far right, top photo), who share how staff assist with daily routines and skill building activities.

Through these visits, students are better **prepared to meet the needs** of people with disabilities in their future careers.



*Thank You*  
for your support.

Your gift provides individuals with disabilities access to quality services to realize their greatest potential.

Donate securely at [www.progressindustries.org](http://www.progressindustries.org) or mail your gift using the enclosed envelope.

Questions? Email [melissa.butler@progressindustries.org](mailto:melissa.butler@progressindustries.org) or call 641-275-3392.