

OPPORTUNITY VILLAGE

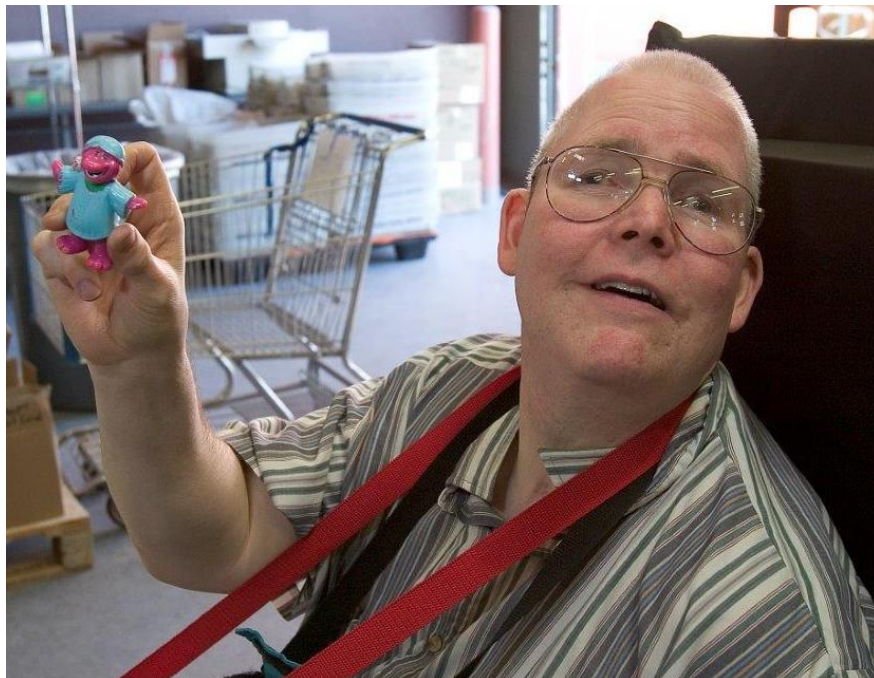
PRIDE, PURPOSE AND A PAYCHECK

Opportunity Village supports initiatives that expand employment opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities and opposes initiatives that eliminate choices for people with intellectual disabilities.

Opportunity Village believes that disability is a natural part of life and that people with intellectual disabilities have the right to participate fully in the life of their community. One of the ways that most people participate in the community is by working.

Opportunity Village believes that all people with intellectual disabilities should have the opportunity to earn a paycheck. Work helps people with intellectual disabilities become more independent and economically self-sufficient. Work also gives people with intellectual disabilities purpose, dignity, self-esteem, and a sense of pride in their accomplishments.

Opportunity Village also believes that “one size does not fit all”, especially for people with intellectual disabilities, so OV offers a variety of opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities to earn a paycheck. We offer assessment and training programs that lead to employment with private businesses in our community. We offer community-based employment at Nellis AFB, McCarran Airport, the Clark County Government Center, Red Rock National Conservation Area, and other community job sites.



We also offer individuals with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to work at one of our four Employment Resource Centers (ERC). People with intellectual disabilities choose this option for a variety of reasons:

- The ERC offers them (and their caregivers) a consistent daytime schedule (e.g. 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.) so they can enjoy evenings and weekends; and allows their caregivers to also remain employed.
- The ERC provides more support and is more tolerant of disruptive behavior (e.g. hugging everyone who enters the room) than a community work site.
- The ERC also serves individuals who cannot meet normal industrial standards, even with reasonable accommodations, and therefore, cannot perform the essential functions of the job. The ERC provides extra accommodations and sometimes loses money on contracts so people with intellectual disabilities have the opportunity to earn a paycheck.

In 2013, Opportunity Village provided vocational assessment, training and employment services for 1,990 youth and adults with disabilities in Southern Nevada. Over 395 of those people with disabilities were placed in competitive or supported employment in community jobs where they made at (or above) the Federal minimum wage. However, another 520 of the most severely disabled people were served in facility-based employment where they were paid a piece rate based on a wage of over \$9.30/hour.

