



# Independence

Contracts received from local industries, most notably Kodak, result in a profit which assists in the operation of the association, benefiting all the clients.

Included in the program is a food service training facility. In addition to blind persons, others are trained in cooperation with other agencies. The food service unit supplies food under contract to senior citizen nutritional centers in the area.

Recreational and transportation problems are the most serious for many of the older clients; the association is working with senior citizen recreational groups to include the blind in existing programs. These programs will usually be closer to the blind person's home, and therefore reduce the transportation problem.

The Association has 50 staff members who served 1,600 clients in 1975, 1,000 of them primarily in the home. Money for the sizable operation comes from a variety of sources. Those services that are included in medical insurance or welfare programs are paid for by the responsible agency. The clients able to pay for their services are charged. The rest of the association's income comes from an endowment, and from the Community Chest.

Several years ago, the association moved into the quarters on Clinton Avenue. The expense of purchasing and equipping the structure diminished the endowment, reducing the annual income. The association's request to sponsor a capital fund drive to replenish the endowment has been refused by the Community Chest. As a result, they have been forced to make up their deficit each year by taking more money from the endowment. William Divens, executive director, estimates this year's deficit to be approximately \$150,000. He predicts that if the present situation continues, in two years the association will have to eliminate all programs that don't pay for themselves. Divens estimates that 70 percent of the clients would be denied services if that happened.

To avoid further financial crisis, the association is asking for more assistance from the Community Chest, and from other community organizations.

Bob Funk commutes to his part time job at the Rochester Association for the Blind by bus. He gets help with his lunch tray in the association's cafeteria, pours himself a cup of coffee and negotiates the sidewalk alone.



Margie Dickinson opens a roll of film to salvage material for reuse.

Bob Miller at work in the tubing room.

Pat Rescrol separates film and paper in one quick motion.

Eugene Luini of the association's staff helps Carlette Ogle work on her mobility training.