

The presence of the young women in our town has taught staid old Guthrie something about tolerance, about the right to human dignity that all of our citizens have. These lessons are learned slowly, admittedly, but they are being learned.

Naturally, because the city of Guthrie owns the Job Corps site, we may expect to benefit materially when and if that site is turned back to us. Job Corps and Philco-Ford have both invested considerable sums of money in our site and these are dollars which will accrue to the ultimate benefit of Guthrie citizens. This fact is generally realized throughout the city and, undoubtedly, contributes materially to the strong support of the Center and the Corpswomen by our citizens.

The Guthrie Center staff, intimately aware of the problems of totally integrating 425 energetic young women into a basically staid, almost stodgy, somewhat upper-middle-aged community, has moved very carefully in its attempts to involve the Corpswomen directly in community affairs. The general policy which they seem to be following is to permit the Corpswomen to participate only in carefully selected projects which will win for them the popular support of all citizens. For example, Corpswomen have worked on clean-up teams maintaining the neat appearance of the grounds surrounding the Center, on our local Heart Fund campaign; they have contributed from their meagre incomes to our Cerebral Palsy Drive, and spend many hours per week working with local orphanages and in the Head Start program.

Just recently a concerted effort has been launched to, for the first time, bring Guthrie's young people and the Corpswomen into direct social contact through the opening of a downtown Job Corps "canteen". In a town where available young men are in somewhat short supply these 400 Corpswomen are generally looked upon as an ever-present danger. Whether or not we can overcome this feeling remains to be seen. In any event, the Center's past policy of keeping the young people apart except for well-planned social affairs, has kept us from any unpleasant incidents.

The Job Corps Center, operating under established Philco and Ford policies, has proved to be a fine neighbor. They keep their "house clean", they move quickly and efficiently to take care of any problems which may arise, they purchase locally thus supporting those who supported them, they joined the Chamber of Commerce, giving a substantial contribution on behalf of the Corpswomen, and a large number of the young women attend church each Sunday, which is looked upon very favorably in this part of the country.

I do hope, Mr. Kelly, that this brief run-down will meet your needs. May I extend, on behalf of the town of Guthrie, our warm invitation for you to personally visit Guthrie to see, first-hand, how smoothly our Center is proceeding and how well regarded the Corpswomen and staff are in the town.

Most Sincerely,

*Charles F. Gerlach, Jr.*

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