

tion is provided. Because we feel reading is particularly important, Huntington girls are required to read a book a week.

Each of our graduates leaves the Huntington Center with at least the equivalent of ninth-grade ability in the basic education areas.

One of our major problems is the fact that most of these girls come to us, not only with an extremely low level of learning, but with no idea of how to go about studying.

Therefore we have instituted a Learning Skills Development course. A required subject for all students, it shows the girls the different approaches needed to study reading as opposed to arithmetic. It also prepares them for taking Civil Service and general education development tests.

Because we recognize that a major goal of a Huntington Job Corpswoman is to be an effective wife and mother, we give her a very generous helping of education in the various home economics skills.

In further pursuit of this *total* approach, we have instituted evening cultural sessions designed to teach the girls to spend their leisure time in a constructive and personally-rewarding manner. This program has given many of the girls their very first exposure to good music, opera, ballet, handicrafts. We feel this exposure will lead them, when they return to their homes, to participate in community activities, from hobby groups to civic organizations.

An intrinsic part of our approach is to tailor a girl's vocational training to a realistic appraisal of her interests and abilities. It is not only pointless, but destructive, to encourage a student to take up a vocation for which she has little or no aptitude. We would much rather train a girl to be happily productive in food service than see her adding a new frustration to a long line of failures in a vain attempt to become a typist.

We have graduates successfully working in a broad gamut of career fields. keypunch operators, PBX operators, clerk-typists, file clerks, nurse's aides, practical nurses, institutional aides, retail sales clerks, and graphic arts.

In order to follow the progress of each trainee—and at the same time obtain some measure of our program's cost effectiveness—we have instituted an individual tracking system. It is set up for automatic data processing based on four electronic tabulating cards for each girl: a vital statistics card, a "milestone" completion card, a behavioral analysis card and a cost analysis card. This system permits us to monitor with great accuracy the progress of each girl and the performance of the Center's program as a whole.

It has been our good fortune to enjoy fine support from the Huntington community.

Our girls are invited into many private homes for dinner. They are welcome in the youth activities of local churches and sing in church choirs. Our Job Corpswomen have been invited to special showings of motion pictures, to the Marshall University artist series and to a host of other community activities.

Library cards, which cost college students \$1 in Huntington, are given free of charge to our girls, and many Huntington citizens have taken the time to give talks, before a highly-responsive Job Corps audience, on topics ranging from national affairs to flower arranging.

Some 2,000 Huntington citizens have toured our Center, and a number of community organizations have held their meetings there.

We are deeply grateful, not only for what the Huntington community has done for the Job Corps Center, but for what it has permitted our girls to do for it. Our students, for example, devoted many hours of extra-curricular work to the last two Mental Health Society campaigns. They have participated in the Christmas drive and the March of Dimes, and they are currently working on a civic clean-up drive of the Junior Chamber of Commerce. The girls have taken food baskets to needy families at Christmas, they have made gifts and given a party for mental patients of the State Hospital, they have baked and mailed more than 3,600 cookies to Huntington-area servicemen serving in Vietnam.

Our corpswomen have also benefited greatly in their training from the cooperation of the Huntington business community. More than 250 of them have enjoyed on-the-job training in such local enterprises as insurance offices, florist shops and hospitals.

For all this progress, we are very much aware that the past 20 months of operation in Huntington are but a modest beginning. But it is a significant beginning.

I think we can all be proud of the dedication brought to the Job Corps program by its administrators in the Office of Economic Opportunity and by the