

2610 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE BOORADY MEMORIAL READING CENTER

In Chautauqua County there are approximately 2,040 economically and educationally deprived children who qualify for remedial reading assistance, since it is the only center of its kind in Chautauqua County.

As of January, 1967, there are 260 Durkirk children at the Center under the OEO program:

45% are Puerto Rican.

10% are Negro.

45% are others.

All students are in classes that purposely mix all economic and ethnic groups. Teachers are not advised which children belong to which economic group. All are given the very best of individual attention.

The most remarkable thing about the program so far is the continued enthusiasm of teachers and students. To date there have been no dropouts of students. Rather, the waiting list of students doesn't wait quietly in the files; little brothers and sisters of enrolled students come again and again saying, "Please, may I join up?"

Why does the center insist on having students of all economic levels? Because more than just reading is taught here—attitudes, love, initiative, intellectual curiosity, pride and confidence in self. The combination of the planned program, skilled and dedicated teachers, bright and attractive physical plant is only part. Without realizing it, the less fortunate children are learning from the more fortunate. Prejudice simply does not exist.

They all take great pride in themselves, their work and the facilities at the Center. With 350 children attending classes twice a week, there is no defacement of the building or educational materials.

The need in Durkirk is great. This program is designed to prevent dropouts at the Junior High and High School level by giving the younger children a good foundation and enthusiasm for learning. If we had the facilities, we could double the enrollment.

A child's needs cannot wait three years to be met. When they reach high school age a failure pattern is difficult to reverse. Hence, the large numbers of dropouts of Junior High and High School age in the city now.

Ideally, an additional program designed to the needs of these boys and girls should be considered now. Again and again we hear pleas from distressed parents of Puerto Rican and Negro origin for help with these dropouts. It is wrong to dismiss these young people with the attitude that their parents don't care and are to blame. They do care. They don't know how to go about it.

The hope of the future is in the young people of today. Children cannot be kept waiting.

Bi-Lingual Children.—A particular program is set up for the children who do not yet read and speak English. It is meeting with great success.

Improvement after summer session of 1966.—100 predominantly Negro and Puerto Rican children enrolled.

Improvement:

50% improved a 3-4 month grade level.

25% improved a 6-8 month grade level.

15% improved a 10 month grade level.

10% practically no change.

Teamwork and love of children have been the key to success here. The staff consists of Director, Social Worker, Master teacher, 2 speech therapists, 4 Vista workers, 6 qualified teachers, a bookkeeper, and an office clerk. All work at less than standard salaries. In addition, there are 8 teachers' aides, 6 of whom are Neighborhood Youth Corps.

Community volunteers help as needed. Contractors (construction, electrical, architect) reduced their fees. There are more and more offers of personal time and effort by citizens. Local Union #266 is preparing a benefit day with a goal of furnishing a bus for the Center.

Center is chartered by the New York State Board of Regents. It is non-profit and operated by a Board of Trustees.

Services:

Developmental Reading.

Remedial Reading.

Study Skills.

Psychological Services.

Parent Education.

In-Service Courses for Teachers and

Aides.

Experience Room.