

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967 2613

Now it needs the help of the community to see that funds are provided to assure its continued services. Officers of the Center have suggested a letter writing campaign to public officials. We might also suggest that the local public school officials be approached to put in for a federal grant since the Center is now a licensed educational institution. There are many ways to help. See what YOU can do!

[From the Buffalo News, Dec. 5, 1966]

STATE OEO AIDES INSPECT DUNKIRK READING CENTER

DUNKIRK, December 5.—Present and future programs of the Boorady Memorial Reading Center were reviewed by state and regional personnel of the Office of Economic Opportunity Saturday.

After a four-hour conference with Sister Marie Baptista, SSJ, director of the center, Miss Astrid Gray, executive assistant to the New York State director of OEO, and Albert J. Petrella, field consultant, and Gene Seymour, task force consultant of Buffalo, said the center is "one of the best in the state, if not the nation."

The center is giving 356 youngsters individual attention in both remedial and developmental reading and has a waiting list of more than 200, Sister Marie Baptista said.

OEO staff members learned that the social and cultural needs of the students are considered, as well as the lack of reading skills. They were also told of the community endorsement of the program—volunteer workers, renovation of the basement into additional classrooms by the Dunkirk Rotary Club and several special events underwritten by local citizens.

After the conference, Miss Gray observed that "Boorady appears to be achieving all of the aims of OEO—education, integration and motivation."

[From the Evening Observer, Dunkirk-Fredonia, N.Y., Monday, Dec. 5, 1966]

OEO OFFICIALS VISIT BOORADY READING CENTER

Three officials of the New York State Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) made a brief visit to the Boorady Reading center Saturday afternoon to obtain information for the annual OEO report to Gov. Rockefeller.

Albert J. Petrella, OEO field consultant, praised Sister Marie Baptista for the work that she and her staff are doing in the field of reading programs with children of the area.

Accompanying Mr. Petrella was Miss Astrid Gray, executive assistant to Mrs. Ersal H. Poston, state OEO director, and Gene Seymour, rural consultant for the OEO. Also taking part in the afternoon conference was Russell Proffitt; recently appointed executive director of the Chautauqua Opportunities Inc., and Mrs. C. B. Mosher, president of the board of directors of the center.

The visit to Dunkirk was part of a three-day tour of western New York to view projects financed in part by funds from the OEO.

Sister Marie Baptista outlined her past as an educator and explained the goals and hopes of the reading center. She further explained how OEO aid was obtained to help partially finance the program and outlined the reading program available.

Mr. Petrella commented that he was happy to see a community where a need was recognized and then definite action taken locally to solve the problem. He said that OEO wants the community to help itself and start with a good program and then ask for federal aid in further financing it.

The future plans of the center were discussed along with various recommendations which could be made to other areas wishing to start a center such as the one in Dunkirk.

It was pointed out that the Boorady Reading Center was started through the efforts of Sister Baptista and other interested citizens of the area and expanded to such a point as to have a waiting list. OEO funds were then obtained to help finance the reading program and make possible the further expansion, and continuation of the work.

Mr. Petrella said that the state OEO will help officials of the center continue their work and that the staff will offer all possible assistance.