

The Cleveland Job Corps Center for Women provides 345 girls a total change in environment—an entirely new living experience in a residential center where we have 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 12 months a year responsibility, and opportunity to work with them.

They come from 46 States and represent many ethnic groups, including Indians right off a reservation, Hawaiians, a fairly large group of young women with Spanish-speaking backgrounds, Negroes, and whites.

We call them “underprivileged,” “disadvantaged, culturally deprived,” “dropouts.”

We label them as “poverty victims,” “slum dwellers,” “hard core,” “welfare cases,” “deviates,” “specials”—all negatives, all deficits, all lacks.

We refer to these young women as part of the “them” we think of when we talk about “us”. “We-they, us-them.” We talk about going down “there” to help “them.”

Our Nation is really now for the first time admitting and placing squarely the existence of conditions within its borders which so incapacitate great numbers of its citizens that their life circumstances are nearly hopeless.

The realization of this condition in our country today has come as a severe moral shock to many who, because of Job Corps, have been privileged to face-to-face contact with reality often for the first time.

The family, the church, civil society have all isolated these middle class adults and youth from the harshness, pain, ugliness, and rawness of life by means of abstract intellectual sophistication.

This has created a pride in many which further has shut off real touch with the human issues of our time. But Job Corps, especially through the one-to-one contacts of WICS, has provided a way to shatter the false attitudes of do-goodism and uninvolved charity and open the way to a realistic recognition of interdependence and mutuality.

It could lead to a recognition of the fact that distinct ghettos exist on both sides of the city broadly, neither of which is more human than the other.

Job Corps provides not only a second chance for many young women, it provides society also a second chance, and in many cases, a last chance.

Who can estimate the value of Job Corps to society if for no other reason than to provide the school not only for the Job Corpswomen but for middle and upper class adults who are a part of this new unique partnership?

Here they find it necessary to forge a new understanding of one another as persons. Who can estimate the consequences for society as a result of what will come to many who find it necessary to forge a new understanding of one another as persons?

Who can estimate the consequences for society as a result of what will come to many who find it necessary to redefine their own relevance to “others” as they face the facts of life in their new relationships with them?

Social causes, a few years ago, were the domain of college professors, labor unions, and student demonstrations. Today they are becoming the new business of business. Who can dare guess what the