

2920 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

9. It is a rare case that a disadvantaged youth has successfully completed a public school vocational program of study.

The preceding examples seem to be grouped as atypical shortcomings. This group has positive traits as well:

1. These youth have a code of ethics that is very strong. If they give their word, you can depend that they will almost do anything to keep it. They believe strongly in "fair play."

2. This type of young man is independent and can shift for himself. He will not hesitate to walk 20 miles to get somewhere. He will hitch-hike almost any distance with little or no money on his person.

3. Most are highly motivated to learn a skill or craft in order to live a better life. During private counseling sessions, most have expressed that their main reason for learning a trade is to get a "steady" job and raise a family properly.

4. There is a strong need to identify with something that is good and important. They are proud of their school and take exception when anyone criticizes it.

5. The boys are not "culturally deprived;" they have a culture of their own. They will hold onto it for security reasons while experimenting with the new culture they are exposed to.

6. Disadvantaged youth like and respond to action. He is a "gadget" minded person. He responds to teaching machines and other learning "gimmicks."

The above lists of characteristics are indicative of a need for a training program that is involved in the "Total Child" if desired outcomes are to be realized. A traditional training program influencing only a fraction of the trainee's time, separate from his social and other after school experiences will not truly be effective in changing attitudes and neither will there be an exposure to another way to live, by actually living this type of life.

Housing program

Mahoning Valley Vocational School trainees are provided housing in one of four comfortably furnished dormitories. Depending on size, each room houses two or three men who are given considerable freedom in the arrangement of their rooms to suit their particular tastes and comforts. Each dorm has two large lounges for television and leisure time activities. Supervision is provided by a staff of 60 dedicated men and women offering a broad program in social living, moral attitudes, health, recreation and citizenship.

Meals are served cafeteria style in the large dining hall under the management of qualified individuals in the fields of dietetics and food preparation. A staff of cooks and food service personnel provide wholesome and nutritional meals seven days a week.

Religious services and moral guidance are provided by the school's two chaplains—a Catholic priest and a Protestant minister. Both Catholic and non-denominational services are provided each Sunday. Special arrangements are made for those of the Jewish faith to attend services at a local Synagogue.

A registered nurse is on duty daily from 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. to provide first aid and minor medical service on campus. Medical emergencies are referred to the school's physician, who holds a clinic two afternoons a week, or to a local hospital. Each trainee purchases, for a nominal fee, medical and surgical insurance to cover his major medical and surgical expenses.

A broad recreation program is offered year around, seven days a week by a staff of six experts in the field. It includes:

1. Intra-mural competition in football, basketball, volleyball, and softball, plus a varsity competition in basketball in a local community league.

2. Badminton, horseshoes, weightlifting, wrestling, boxing, movies, ping-pong, bowling, snack bar, Bible Club and Catholic Youth Club.

3. Off-campus trips by bus for bowling, roller skating, ice skating, movies, plays, miniature golf, dances, etc.

4. Talent shows, exhibitions, and visiting "name performers."

5. A Letterman's Club for participants in all activities.

Counseling and dormitory supervision is provided by a group of 25 dedicated men, most with training and/or experience in sociology or youth work. A dorm leader is on duty around the clock in each dorm for counseling and supervision. Four dorm supervisors and a program director furnish additional trainee and staff supervision.

Experiences in leadership and student government are available to mature and responsible young men who serve as appointed student dorm monitors and as elected officers in the Campus Council. The Campus Council provide opportunities for the trainees to become involved in campus government.