

thousand nine hundred twenty children in Headstart and preschool programs, 20,854 medical and dental visits, 48 school community centers, school social work for 413 children are a few examples of programs successfully started and which give promise of being continued by our public school systems. Much of this has been done, using poor people as staff to get an important job done.

In the Cincinnati public schools alone, 356 target area residents are employed as teacher assistants or aides.

Employment programs, too long fragmented by a variety of sources of funds, have been brought closer together through the efforts of the community action commission.

Focusing on the needs of the individual poor people, the CAC has been able to influence and bring about significant change in the State employment service and the board of education as well as the Federal agencies charged with the responsibility for training and employment opportunities under the Manpower Development and Training Act.

Using neighborhood people trained especially for the task the CAC has reached 2,604 unemployed persons and assisted them to obtain jobs or training opportunities.

In addition, more than 291 youth have been recruited for the Job Corps, and we have assisted in the placement of hundreds in the various Neighborhood Youth Corps programs in the five-county area.

Despite what we have done and despite the full cooperation of the Labor Department, the OEO, and other Federal agencies, there are still insufficient job openings for the untrained.

While our community has enjoyed the benefits of one of the finest county welfare departments in Ohio, this department like all others, has become overworked and understaffed for the gigantic tasks imposed by our changing society.

Not surprisingly, the welfare department is often viewed as insensitive to the individuals who require financial assistance.

Community action programs have stimulated a dialog between the clients and the administration of this most important public agency.

Also, with financial aid from title V of the EOA the welfare department is training 175 persons for jobs. Twenty-two trainees have already secured permanent placement.

United Appeal agencies, long a bulwark in the war against poverty, has given full cooperation to the community action commission. Much of our accomplishment is due to the technical knowledge and community support we have received from experienced professionals and dedicated board members of the private health and welfare agencies.

While there have been times when it was necessary to be critical or challenging of one particular service or another, we have found general support to go in the direction envisioned by the legislation.

A major source of our local contribution has come from the new funds raised by the United Appeal. The president of the community chest and council officially appealed to our local congressional representatives, urging the continuation of Federal funding for community action programs.

Poor people and residents of poor neighborhoods usually feel outside of the system. The personal lives of the poor, their poverty, their schools, their housing, and in fact their whole environment demonstrates to them constantly their inability to do anything about conditions which affect them.