

Women in Community Service is a volunteer pool formed on a national level by the National Council of Catholic Women, United Church Women, the National Council of Jewish Women and the National Council of Negro women.

In Houston about 40 volunteers have sent 350 girls to Job Corps camps across the country. So far, 39 girls have returned here, fully trained.

The volunteers have learned that putting a girl on a plane for a Job Corps camp is more difficult than it seems.

"Frankly, I thought we could tell girls about free job training and they'd ask when they could leave," Mrs. Wiesenthal said.

The first task is finding the girl. About half of WICS referrals come from the Third Ward area around their office in St. James Episcopal Church, 3129 Southmore.

WICS has had difficulty recruiting white girls, though Mrs. Wiesenthal is convinced there are many needy white girls who could benefit.

Many girls resist the idea of leaving home. Most of the volunteers have experienced a sinking feeling when an excellent prospect, carefully screened, just didn't show up at the airport.

Mrs. Wiesenthal has suggested an orientation program to prepare the girls for departure. Many of them will not speak out about their fears, many are overweight, many have never left their neighborhood before, she said.

NURSERIES NEEDED

More than 75 percent of the girls WICS placed have children. Job Corps requires that the children stay home while their mothers go to camps.

Mrs. Wiesenthal believes this encourages irresponsibility. "The girl leaves the baby with mama, and when she comes back mama is so used to caring for it that the girl may never take on her duties as a parent," she said.

She has suggested nurseries at Job Corps camps similar to those on Israeli kibbutzes. "Not only could we insure that the girls learn all the best things about child care, but we could give the babies the best possible medical care," Mrs. Wiesenthal explained.

Follow-up is another aspect. Mrs. Robert Childers leads volunteers in checking on returnees, helping them adjust to their new jobs.

TOO BIG A JOB

But the task is getting too big for an all-volunteer group, Mrs. Wiesenthal said. She has suggested that an office coordinator and two clerks be paid.

"We get terribly involved in our work," Mrs. Wiesenthal said. "We're dealing with human beings. We can't just forget a girl when something goes wrong. The book just hasn't been written for this kind of work."

STAFF REPORT TO THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT, MANPOWER AND POVERTY

Submitted by Dr. James L. Sundquist, Brookings Institute

ISSUES OF ORGANIZATION AND COORDINATION

Background

When the President announced "unconditional war on poverty in the United States," in January 1964, he defined that war in terms of the concerted use of all of the weapons at the Government's command—all existing programs with an impact upon the problems of the poor, plus new programs to be enacted. He announced also that he was designating Sargent Shriver as his personal "Chief of Staff" for the war.

As the new programs—which became the Economic Opportunity Act—were developed, two competing organizational possibilities existed:

1. They could be assigned to existing agencies, to be administered in coordination with existing anti-poverty programs.
2. They could be assigned to the new agency which was being set up in the Executive Office of the President as the command post for the war on poverty—the Office of Economic Opportunity.

For six of the nine new programs, the former alternative was chosen; while responsibility was placed in OEO, it was delegated (and in three cases, later transferred) to existing agencies. The remaining three programs were assigned