

The emphasis of the Center programs and service efforts is on the elderly and the very young. Not much is provided for those in between these age extremes. The Center staff members seem to be at a loss as to how to serve the middle-aged poor. By and large, they have given up on them.

7. Outreach

It appears that the Center Director and his staff have been diligent in attempts to extend their services and programs to the community. It is their conviction that maximum community action and participation is necessary to revitalize the area. They have employed every method known to them to accomplish this goal. Their efforts seem to have been very successful. Our researcher in the area found few residents who were not aware of the Center or one of its programs. The community is small, however, with a population of less than 3,000 and the paid staff members have been greatly aided by the efforts of volunteers. Members of the CAA remain enthusiastic in spreading news of the programs. The few other private groups and the churches in town appear to have been cooperative in informing their memberships about Center activities.

Many of the initial programs were of the type which necessitated door-to-door contact by staff members and volunteers; e.g., Medicare Alert and recruiting children for Head Start. This type of contact is employed continually by the staff.

A weekly newspaper is published in the community with prominent space devoted to Center activities. Posters are often exhibited throughout the business section of town to announce special meetings and activities.

It was noted by our researcher that in a town of this size problems of outreach and informing the citizenry do not exist and that the most effective method of outreach was built into the system long before the invention of the telephone—the "grapevine" could handle the situation very nicely. We might add that this grapevine works both ways. Center personnel are constantly alerted by this informal system to the needs of the community.

8. Target

The area served by the Center is a small community of fewer than 3,000 persons. Ten years ago this was a city of 30,000 population and the hub of an active mining operation. At that time the mines employed over 6,000 people.

In 1957, the decision of the mining company to discontinue its operations there left the community in chaos, both physically and economically. The mines and equipment were located in the center of the city, and in their departure, the company left much of the equipment and debris in the main street of the town. That part of the city is still owned by the mining company and attempts by Center staff to have the area cleared by the company or even to get their approval for such a program have been futile.

Due to the collapse of the city's economic base, many of its most influential citizens and community leaders suffered drastic financial reverses or were forced to move from the city. Almost total depression of the community resulted; many businesses had to close their doors or move. Most buildings in the main business district are empty and boarded up. Unemployment became a chronic problem. Many of those who were skilled, young, and well-educated moved out of the community. Those who remained felt that they were too old to move to another home and start their lives over again or that they had no skills or education to offer industry and thus no prospects for employment if they did move. Many of these people are Welfare recipients.

Traditional public assistance agencies such as the Welfare Department and County Health Department exist in the county where this community is located but their activities during the last ten years have not even partially solved the problems of the area. Their services seem to have included only the distribution of Welfare payments and dispensing of services to take care of immediate needs. No outreach method was employed to take the services to the people or inform them of the services that were available. These agencies evidently were not concerned with the community but only in distributing a few handouts.

This community has almost no resources. There existed no city welfare agencies for aid to the poor prior to the Center. The small city budget of \$12,000 per year allowed no monies for such an agency. The town has no recreation facilities; there are no longer any movie theatres or community centers; there is no swimming pool; and there are no public playground facilities for children. Many of the buildings are unoccupied and in an extreme state of disrepair. Those buildings that are presently occupied are badly in need of repairs for which there are no funds.