

other agencies, but in practice they also receive referrals for services on a reciprocal basis. We discovered, for example, that the State Employment Service (one of the receiving agencies of Outreach) had referred many of its clients to an Outreach Worker whose success in job placement was particularly notable. Some 100 job placements were made by this man during the last week in August, 1966, and we were informed that many of these applicants were referrals from the state agency. Several of the Outreach Workers have developed a special area of competence in providing services directly to clients.

Many services are available via the numerous public and privately-operated centers in the area. The CAA-operated Neighborhood Center offers the services of many established agencies such as the Welfare Department, State Employment Service, Legal Aid, Maternity and Infant Care. In addition, a few OEO-funded programs are available through the Center (NYC, Small Business Development, ENABLE) and may receive referrals from the Outreach Workers. The privately-endowed centers offer a number of recreational and group activities for children and teenagers, the aged and the handicapped. Private agencies also make available a number of educational programs and special programs for adults (voter registration drives, Christmas Season Employment Program, etc.). The list of services available in the city to which the Outreach Worker may refer his clients appears endless, but a glance at this list indicates that one area of service may have been completely neglected—that of employment and vocational training. There are available the services of hospitals, credit unions, organizations, clubs, employment clinics, etc. They serve all age groups from Head State for children to the Soldiers and Sailors Relief, but it may be that vocational training for these undereducated people is sadly lacking.

10. Community Action

This is an area where community action has in the past taken the form of a periodic explosion of violence with a resultant damaging effect on property, individuals, and the morale of the area as a whole. The younger members of the community are most active in the disastrous riots that have occurred. Older citizens of the community appear to be resigned to their lot in life and too discouraged to take an active role in concerted attempts to air grievances. These older citizens have been discouraged by the past negligence of authorities to do anything for the area and many of them have resigned themselves to being passive recipients of welfare services or employment at a menial job. Most of them are too concerned with meeting the basic needs of their everyday lives to think abstractly about airing grievances of a broad social nature. However, it is this group—the “tame” members of this society—that is the target of Outreach. They want to interest the families, the elderly, and the handicapped into organizing for peaceful participation. Outreach has been instrumental in forming neighborhood clubs, street and block clubs, mothers organizations, and special interest groups to concentrate on solving specific area problems. Neighborhood conferences formed by Outreach meet to discuss and act on a variety of community problems such as housing, lack of city services, inadequate street cleaning and lighting, rodent control, street hazards, etc. During the month of August, 1966 the following new service groups were formed:

- (a) A young adults group for young men aged 18 to 30 interested in working toward a solution of some of the problems of employment, housing, police relations in the area.
- (b) A mothers group interested in Safety Patrol along various streets in school areas.
- (c) A businessmen's group with the SBA and Urban League participating.
- (d) Various block clubs and street clubs.
- (e) Groups of middle class families from outside the target area are being encouraged to “adopt” needy families, providing the poor families with companionship and exposure to middle class values.

Almost half the population of the area is under 21; this group is regarded by Outreach and settlement house people as the dangerous element whose rebellious tendencies had best be channeled into constructive activity. Realizing that this group will be the most difficult to reach, Outreach officials feel that the only answer to communication with them lies in the direct employment of some of their leaders. Outreach people feel that if there is no outlet provided for these youths and no immediate attempts to incorporate them into the program, the area may be turned into a battlefield again before the aftereffects of the latest riots have been cleaned up.