

ment are supplementary. Center employees in this department bring information on a variety of training programs available through universities and high schools. In many cases, scholarships and loan funds are going unused, and there also are conditions where fees may be waived until a student completes the training and is on the job. This department of the Center attempts to bring together these opportunities and people who can take advantage of them. Vocational counseling also plays a major role in this department in order to help the client make the most efficient use of his latent abilities.

Participating Agencies

A number of established agencies have assigned staff to the Center to receive referrals from the Center staff. All agencies who participate in this program have received the approval of the neighborhood board, and their continuance within the Center is also subject to board approval. At the present time, Youth Opportunity Center, Public Welfare, Family Counseling, Legal Aid, and Community Council have placed personnel at the Center. The Health Department intends to open a Planned Parenthood Clinic in the near future.

7. Outreach

The concept of reaching the poor by direct contact is basic to the operations of all Center departments. Community Services takes over the majority of this responsibility with neighborhood workers organizing block clubs, coffee klatches, and interest groups for action. These workers extend to contacting the people door-to-door, finding those who need service, and following up later to determine if the client has been helped. Eleven staff members have the duty of attempting to serve the eight or nine thousand poverty families in the area and they feel that so far they have only scratched the surface.

Various other methods of outreach are utilized—churches, news media, civic groups—to broadcast activities and services of the Center. Flyers circulated throughout the neighborhood advertise special programs and Center meetings. Innovative methods have been proposed by staff members, such as a portable booth which could be set up near a crowd to dispense information about the Center. From the area residents has come the idea of "Operation Job Hunt" which not only would locate available jobs in small businesses in the area but also serve to pass on information about Center activities.

Center records indicated that over 3,000 people had been served by the Center through June, 1966, and we were informed that about 4,500 people had been reached by the Medicare Alert Program.

8. Target Area

In a city of over half a million people, about three-fourths of the Negro population (or about 12,000 people) are literally jammed into an area of a few city blocks. The area and its people fit neatly into the "poverty" category; almost a quarter of the families there fall below the \$3,000 per annum income guideline. These people are living under conditions of extremely overcrowded housing, unemployment (about 6.5 percent), undereducation, and health problems.

The area is undergoing definite changes in connection with the building of a new freeway, causing many residences to be razed and thereby displacing occupants. There is a severe shortage of low-cost, rental housing.

Social problems often erupt into a show of violence, delinquency, and crime. Racial tensions, and housing problems are to the residents perhaps the most frustrating of all problems and the most difficult for them to endure. As a result, this area of the city is occasionally the scene of stormy activity where hostilities are unleached and grievances are brought out into the open.

9. Services

Services are dispensed through the Housing Department, the Vocational Department, and the Community Services Department. The Housing Department maintains a log of available low cost rentals, information obtained from realtors, city government offices, and other sources. Surveys are conducted by Housing Department workers to identify situations where poor conditions exist that might be fixed by a landlord. Homemaking classes are held to instruct women in home sanitation and decorating. Clinics are offered monthly (often by professional speakers) to instruct residents in household repairs and financial matters regarding leasing and purchasing of homes. The Housing Department has been known also to assist in cases where discrimination in housing is alleged.