

# Wake Opportunities News

WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES  
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## ... SPOTLIGHTS FROM THE STAFF ...

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mrs. Charles Wood . . . . .

The function of the Neighborhood Center according to the policy of the Office of Economic Opportunity is twofold: 1) a center of communication for referrals; 2) and a center of community development.

Wake Opportunities' four operating Community Action Centers have been engaged in making referrals since they opened in October of 1966. As the staffs become more aware of individual needs in the community these will no doubt increase.

The first step in community development is to find the problems - this has been done through the survey. We are now ready to take the second step through planned community action. This is the time for which the Program Development Council, Board of Directors, Wake Opportunities' staff, and the people have waited. The needs are known and with careful planning of all involved programs and projects will develop suitable to each community. The beginnings of such is a tutorial program being planned in Chavis Heights.

It won't be an April fool's joke when you hear that the Fuquay-Varina and Halifax Centers are open. Spring will bring with it a burst of many things -- new personnel, training sessions, and all sorts and kinds of center activities.

### COORDINATOR OF VOLUNTEERS

Mrs. Margaret Arline . . . . .

Volunteers provided transportation for Head Start children to the Health Department for follow-up dental work. Transportation has also been provided twice a week to the speech therapy clinic for a child in the Waldrop Community.

Pre-school registration volunteers worked at the Crosby-Garfield and Thompson schools on February 9, 1967.

The Adult Basic Education Volunteer Recruiters Committee met on February 21 with fifteen members attending. The purpose of the meeting was to report on satellite committee activities. We are all delighted with the work of volunteer recruiters and the Adult Basic Education classes are increasing as a result of their efforts!

Two sociology students, El Plowman and Lewis Murray, from North Carolina State University are working in census tracts 2 and 4 recruiting Adult Basic Education students.

Plans for the Tutorial Program in Chavis Heights are well under way. We hope the program will be in operation by the middle of March. By the April Newsletter we should have specific statistics for you!

On February 15 and 16 I attended a Volunteer Training Program in Chapel Hill sponsored by the Multi-Purpose Training Center. Another session was held on March 9 and 10. These sessions have been a great help to our Volunteer Program!

Our new program year began on March 1. Volunteers will be needed in numerous areas of service this coming year. Please call us if you are interested in a group project or individual services.



## WHITE OAK COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER

DIRECTOR - Mrs. Geneva Baker . . . .

All of our aides are working hard making surveys, trying earnestly to catch up with the other three centers. Of course, we know we never will because the other centers are working hard too! But we are looking forward to the time when our surveys will be completed and each aide can begin other tasks in his job description.

No news item from White Oak this month would be complete unless we mention Percy, our World War I veteran, who has really taxed our ingenuity. When Mr. Davis, Services Aide, had gotten Percy to the Veterans Hospital in Virginia, and everyone there had received him so kindly, we were very pleased both for Percy's sake and for our own at the thought of a job well done. However, Percy could not bring himself to sign the legal papers for the hernia operation that he needs desperately. As a result the Veterans Administration could only send him back to Apex, for without this operation he could not be placed in the Veterans Home.

However, Percy still could see about getting his pension, so a volunteer took him to Winston Salem for the necessary physical examination where it was discovered that Percy had a very bad wound on his thigh caused by a broken spring in the back seat of the old car which was Percy's only bed. Percy was then taken to the VA Hospital in Durham. There, although the doctor warned Percy that he might lose his leg if the wound were not treated, Percy would not listen to the doctor, the volunteer, the social worker, nor any of the others who tried to help him. He would not let the doctor do anything for his leg. So the volunteer brought Percy back to Apex, bought him some supper and took him "home". Next morning Percy was back in our office. Mr. Davis convinced him that we were not going to do one more thing for him if he did not cooperate. Because Percy trusts Mr. Davis and understands him, Mr. Davis took Percy to the VA in Durham. Before Mr. Davis left him safely in bed, Percy had signed the papers authorizing the operation and release of information for the social worker to get him into the VA Home in Virginia, and care for his leg was begun. Now we do feel that we have done our job.

We have done other successful referrals this month, some of them very rewarding that we would like to tell about, but we chose to

tell about Percy because from working with him we learned so much, both how to do and how not to do.

We are enjoying our work in Apex. The Adult Basic Education class in our center is going well and Mr. Lumsden has another scheduled to begin March 13. We feel we are beginning to justify the help and training we have been given.

Do come visit us.

## WALDROP COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER

THE STAFF . . . . .

The staff of the Waldrop Community Action Center is very proud to have Mr. David L. Haywood as our new Director. It has been said that the first impression is a lasting one. We are greatly impressed by his desire to do a good job without reservation. It is the staff's intention to compliment our most deserving Director by emulating his sincerity toward helping the community to be the kind of place in which they would like to reside.

We, the staff of Waldrop, would like to take this time to thank all the members of the community for taking time out from their daily routine to answer questions asked by us while conducting our surveys. The staff appreciates your thoughtfulness and patience. We assure you that your time was not taken in vain. In a short time you will see the results of the survey. Again we thank you and will continue to serve you in constructive capacities.

Our plea to the Community is, be a tax payer and not a tax burden. Through logical reasoning we are trying to get the community to realize that their general conditions are sub-standard, and that they should have an earnest desire to overcome them by seeking help from the Waldrop Community Action Center.

The impoverished individuals have cried, "If only I had the opportunity to do better, I certainly would take advantage of it." Well, now the opportunity has come and it is up to you and you alone to take advantage of it. We can help only those who want to be helped and help is as near as your Community Action Center. We hope you will not emulate that Knight who spent his entire life in search of the Holy Grail only to return home and find the object of his quest right there at his door steps.