

# Wake Opportunities News

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mr. Robert Marley

"The poor you have with you always" is a familiar Biblical quotation. This may be a matter of fact, but it should not serve as an excuse for not following the second phrase of the same verse that wherever possible we are to do them well. From Biblical to modern times the poor have been with us. As the causes of poverty are frequently historical and usually complex, the approaches for the alleviation of poverty are equally long range and complex. We must recognize that as certain as there is poverty in our county, there are ways of reducing the number of persons in poverty and through the help of many concerned people, especially the poor themselves, these ways can be successfully implemented.

Wake County Opportunities, and those who will receive benefits from its programs, are indebted to the excellent leadership Mr. James Currie provided during its formation and planning. We are most appreciative of his time and talent this past year and his continued counsel.

With the most recent grant to establish the community centers, Wake County Opportunities is looking forward to a very productive year. The patience of many workers have been rewarded. Now we are anxious to "get on with it."

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## THREE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS TO OPEN AUGUST 1

Waldrop, Zebulon and Chavis Heights will be staffed and ready for operation in early August. Each center will have a staff of seven, including a director, five home visitors and a secretary. Mr. Wallace Temple, a Zebulon businessman, will be the Director of the Zebulon Center to be located on Arendall Avenue. Mr. Wanzo Hendrix, Assistant to the Director of Wake Opportunities, has been selected for Director of the Waldrop Community Center in the 900 block of Manley Street. No director or site has yet been

named for the Chavis Heights Center.

A fourth center in Apex will open its doors sometime in November.

The centers will develop and implement programs according to the needs of the local community by conducting a house-to-house survey beginning in September. Referral services and interpreting OEO guidelines will also be an important phase of staff responsibilities.

Staff training and orientation will be held during the month of August.

## ECHOES FROM THE PEOPLE

Alva Wooten

"I have enjoyed and achieved a great deal from working with the Neighborhood Youth Corps. Not only did my salary come in handy, but I learned a great deal from the type of work I was doing. I was employed as a Clerical Aide to the Guidance Counselor at Apex Consolidated School. This plan also provides great financial aid for the graduating senior, as it did for me. And I sincerely feel that more of this type of work should be done. Also, I had the opportunity to be accepted for another wonderful program, PACE, (Plan Assuring College Education) and I truly enjoyed working for both of these programs."

WAKE COUNTY OPPORTUNITY, INC.  
307 W. Jones Street  
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## COMMUNITY ACTION CENTERS

Richard B. Harrison Library  
Mrs. Mollie H. Lee, Librarian  
214 S. Blount Street  
Raleigh, N. C.



Chavis Heights  
Halifax  
Little River  
Middle Creek  
Waldrop  
White Oak

## OPERATION HEAD START

June 17 was a "red letter" day for over 500 pre-school children in Raleigh. On this date, Operation Head Start opened its doors and forty teachers opened their arms and hearts to welcome the children. For most, this is their first school experience.

Raleigh's Head Start program is designed for 5 and 6 year olds who will enter school in September. The program is operated by the Raleigh Public Schools. Five schools are serving as "Child Development Centers." Class size is limited to fifteen, and each teacher is assisted by an aide.

All children are served a well-balanced breakfast each morning. In addition to this, fruits, milk and cookies are provided for a mid-morning snack.

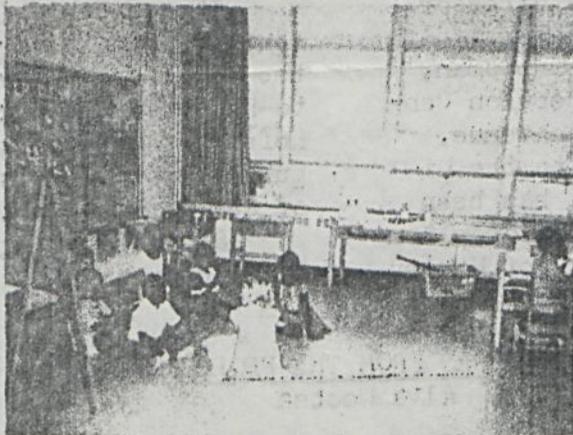
For a period of eight weeks, four hours a day, the children will be engaged in a rich and varied program designed to broaden their experiences, to develop their ability to function effectively in a group situation, and to prepare them for formal school work. One of the primary and most important objectives of the program will be to build within each child a positive self-image of himself that will make him feel important as an individual and as a member of our society.

The importance of good health is stressed, and each child will receive a complete physical examination. In addition to the physical examination and the health instruction, a health screening program will be conducted throughout the eight weeks by the teachers with the aid of nurses working under the direction of the Wake County Health Department. The information gained from the health screening program will be made available to each child's school in September.

The program will be operated from June 17 through August 12. Approximately 600 children, their families, and more than 200 volunteer workers will be involved.

In the Wake County Schools the Head Start Program is operated in nine centers: Apex Consolidated, DuBois, Garner Consolidated, Jeffreys Grove, Knightdale, Lincoln Heights, Riley Hill, and Swift Creek.

Six hundred and fifty children are engaged in pre-school activities and experiences that allow for individual differences and total growth and development. The children are learning to share,



cooperate, accept and respect others, care for property, complete tasks, show consideration and practice courtesy, recognize dependence on others and that we have freedom through responsibility.

### "Getting together for a story" -- Jeffreys Grove School

The personnel for the centers include a director, an assistant director, forty-six teachers, forty-six teacher aides, five secretaries, thirty-six bus drivers, eighteen cafeteria employees and four janitors.

A parent-volunteer teacher aide works five hours per day with each Head Start Class. Other parent volunteers work in the cafeteria, provide transportation for field trips, and contribute toys and equipment.

A Policy Making Advisory Committee of twenty-seven parents and interested community leaders has been organized to advise the director and personnel of the Project Head Start as to the problems and needs of the children and the parents served by the program, and to assist in coordinating volunteer services and parent participation. Advisory Committees in each center will also be organized.

The child's day begins at eight o'clock with a well-balanced breakfast. A snack is served during mid-morning. A sample breakfast menu is - cereal with peaches, ham, grits, scrambled eggs, buttered toast and milk. A sample snack menu consists of lemonade and peanut butter delight.

Four night meetings are held with parents of each center during the program. Some of the topics discussed are as follows: Volunteer Services, Child Development, How Family Problems Affect Children, Wake County Opportunities, Community Action, and Food for a Happy Family.

The teacher's day begins at seven-fifty-five in the morning and ends at three o'clock in the afternoon. From one thirty until three in the afternoon teachers plan for the next day, hold parent-teacher conferences, and make home visits.

An educational consultant and a social service consultant work ten days with the project. The educational consultant, Mrs. Charlotte Barnes visits each Head Start Classroom, gives suggestions and conducts workshops with the teachers in the afternoon. She also conducts workshops as needed with teacher aides. The social service consultant, Mrs. Virginia Sherrill, works with parent programs in securing speakers and helps teachers in recruitment of children.

A Head Start Newspaper is published at two-week intervals at each center. Local newspapers give additional publicity to the program.

Each child has received a complete physical examination. Medical treatment will be provided for the ninety percent of the children whose parents' income is within the qualifying scale.

#### NEWS IN BRIEF . . . . .

Three VISTAS have recently been in Raleigh as part of their training program in Laurinburg, N.C. Mike and Kathy Underwood, and Joe Kelley have spent the last three weeks working with the Raleigh Citizen Association on a program for bringing better lighting to Chavis Park.

"The most outstanding characteristic of poverty we have seen," says Joe, is the condition of housing in Raleigh."

The three VISTAS have talked with Wake Opportunities about the problems of poverty in the Wake County area.

"I am favorably impressed with Wake Opportunities and its plans for the near future in the Apex, Zebulon, and Raleigh areas," continued Joe.

Kathy tells us, "We have visited and observed the Welfare Department, Domestic Relations, Health Department, Urban Renewal, City Planning and City Inspector. We plan to speak at Bar Jonah on Thursday, July 28, at the King Building on State Campus. We will speak about poverty, Vista, and Raleigh.

"Each of us accompanied a Case Worker from the Welfare Department for a day, Joe and Kathy in Raleigh and Mike in the rural areas."

Joe worked two days at O'Berry Rehabilitation Center in Goldsboro . . . . .

#### DAY CARE CENTER COMMITTEE HOLDS ITS FIRST MEETING . . . . .

The first meeting of the newly organized Day Care Center Committee was held on July 26, 8:00 P.M., at Wake Opportunities office with twelve persons attending.

The purpose of the meeting was to acquaint the Committee with the benefits of Child Day Care Centers and to discuss the needs for Day Care Centers in Wake County. Questions were also submitted for the survey.

Mrs. Margaret Scarborough and Mrs. Virginia Sherrill were guest speakers. Speech Highlights - - - - -

What does a good Day Care Center mean to a child? It is a place where he is accepted for himself and his age and a place where the child learns to adjust socially. Parents will benefit from Day Care Centers by learning about Child Development, and they will become more informed about other resources that are available for their children and families.

It was pointed out that if a child has a good foundation in Day Care Centers, the Community will benefit by reducing costs in health, etc. Mrs. Sherrill said that Day Care Center personnel would be one of the most important aspects of the program. "We need teachers and teacher aides who have a good heart with a trained mind."

Mrs. Scarborough told the Committee there were 351 licensed Day Care Centers in North Carolina with 7,000 children enrolled. This did not include the hundreds of Day Care Centers which are operating without licenses. She said there are hundreds of children who are waiting to be enrolled in some kind of a Child Care facility.

Mrs. Thomas Dameron is Chairman and Mrs. Lester Freeman is Secretary of the Committee.

SPOTLIGHT FROM THE STAFF

DIRECTOR

Mrs. Charles Wood

EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Mr. Alfred T. Newkirk

Wake Opportunities has progressed from the design, to the blueprint, and now the contract is signed. The job of building lies ahead. We of the staff look with eagerness towards the reality of getting a Community Action Center staffed and neighborhoods participating in programs.

The initial involvement of county agencies in the planning of the Program Development Council for Wake Opportunities has paid rich dividends. This was expressed through the agencies' real interest and participation in helping us develop areas of content for our neighborhood survey at a meeting of July 14, 1966. Their co-operation at present in developing job qualifications and descriptions for our home visitors has given real purpose to these community level positions.

My most rewarding experience, and yet most frustrating, has been interviewing applicants for vacancies on our center staffs - rewarding because it is such a joy to meet so many able people who desire the opportunity to help Wake County become an even better place, and frustrating because out of all these we must select so few! Directors and office space for the Community Centers in Waldrop and Zebulon have been selected. We feel fortunate to be able to staff these centers with directors who are both able and experienced in Office of Economic Opportunity programs.

By the August Newsletter it is hoped that a firm foundation will be laid, upon which Wake Opportunities can be built.

ACCOUNTING CLERK

Mr. Clyde Finch

Funds have been received from the Washington office of OEO and a proportionate amount disbursed to each of the Head Start Agencies. The Head Start Program in the Wake County and Raleigh City Schools has been in active operation for approximately a month.

As required by OEO, we have gone through an audit of our financial records for the first six months of operation with gratifying results.

Our new Grant Application is all but in the final state of approval, so it looks as if we are going to be in operation for another period.

With the opening of the new Neighborhood Centers in the Walnut Terrace and Zebulon areas on August 1, the educational programs of these areas can be greatly expanded. Materials on a very low and basic level are being compiled for each Center. A survey form is being formulated for the purpose of determining the basic educational needs of each community served by the Centers. Special emphasis will be placed on promotion and publicity for these Centers in order that the community might become aware of the presence of the Center and what it has to offer in the form of information and services. At least one Basic Adult Education class will be set up in each Community Center providing that there is an adequate number of interested students.

DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTEERS

Mrs. Margaret Arline

Approximately 100 eligible Basic Adult Education students have been recontacted as a result of volunteer meetings held in Wake Forest, Garner, Apex, and Raleigh. We hope a good percent of these students will show up for testing! (Cards will be mailed to them indicating time and place of testing.) Volunteers have also helped on four different occasions to register students for testing in BAE.

Mary Sharp is working as a full-time volunteer teacher for Pine Acres Community Center summer kindergarten program. Wake Opportunities is in the process of writing a program proposal for a Day Care Center in Fuquay with Pine Acres Community Center as the delegate agency.

Speaking of speakers! Mrs. George Debnam, member of the Wake Opportunities Board of Directors, spoke to a group of Head Start parents in Fuquay on July 14 and Mr. Frank Turner, of the State Planning Task Forces, spoke to a group of Head Start parents in Apex on July 25. Wake County Staff members accompanied them on both occasions.

Many thanks to all our volunteers for their services this past month!

FIELD TRAINING STUDENT

Mr. R. Varadarajan

Mr. R. Varadarajan, better known to the staff as Rajan is a graduate student in Health Education, School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley. Field Training is a part of this graduate program at the University. He was assigned to the North Carolina State Board of Health who in turn worked out a schedule to work in Wake Opportunities in relation to the Neighborhood Centers Program.

Rajan has considerable experience in the Planned Parenthood Program in India. Population explosion is causing a great concern in all the walks of human life. The uncontrolled increase of population is a bane to national social, economic and political stability. During the early part of this century, there was a political awakening in many countries for freedom from without; today the need to provide for a happier and healthier life to every citizen is a more formidable and challenging task in every developing country. The first step to fight this threat lies with every parent to have a small family.

The villages are the basic units in promoting the family planning program. The local leaders participate in planning and providing the educational and service aspects of family planning. In every village, for every hundred household, one male and one female leader is nominated by the people, and after a training program, they function as family planning volunteers. Village health committees are formed with the leaders who have given every encouraging support and strength for the program.