

Wake Opportunities News

Volume I Number 7 January 1967 307 W. Jones St., Raleigh, N. C. Tel. 833-2886

A News Summary of the WAR ON POVERTY

January 9, 1967

ASSURANCES THAT THE Office of Economic Opportunity will continue to support an "effective and creative program" were contained in a memorandum issued on January 3 by Sargent Shriver, Director of OEO, and distributed to agency officials. The complete text follows:

"On this first working day of 1967 I wish to express my appreciation and congratulations to your entire crew for a year of real progress in the War on Poverty. Despite the annual speculation about OEO's future, you may rest assured that this administration will continue to support an effective and creative program. The President's statement over the weekend reaffirms this determination.

"The past year has seen significant progress in every one of our programs, and you and your colleagues are responsible for this. Of course, we do not have adequate funds to do everything we wish. The President himself has said this on many occasions. But I know of no other agency which has more grounds for satisfaction than OEO. The poor have been given a new voice and a new role in society. Millions of them have taken their first steps out of poverty. Other agencies, public and private, have become sensitized to the real needs of the poor. We can now proceed to build on this good beginning and on our good programs.

"It's good to be critical and impatient. That's what OEO should always be. But it's also right to take satisfaction in what has been done. There is much ground for satisfaction, and for appreciation.

WAKE COUNTY OPPORTUNITIES, INC.
307 West Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603

NOW PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
Raleigh, N. C.
Permit No. 320



Mollie H. Lee, Librarian
Richard B. Harrison Library
14 South Blount Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

"Thank you for all the dedicated, intelligent, and resourceful work and leadership which you have contributed to this pioneering effort."

STRONG SUPPORT FOR the War on Poverty came from President Johnson last weekend as a spokesman emphasized his concern about anti-poverty programs and his expectation of further progress from them. The White House also released statistics which showed that the number of people with an income of less than \$3,000 a year had declined since 1960 from 40.1 million to "32 million plus". The total decreased by 1.4 million during 1965 and by nearly two million in 1966.

VOL. I-43 OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

BETTER HOUSING for North Carolina's low-income families is the goal of the new Low-Income Housing Development Corporation, a spinoff of the North Carolina Fund launched with a \$376,426 grant from OEO, and \$61,671 from the North Carolina fund. The new corporation will support and develop projects to provide low cost single and multi-family housing and related facilities for low and middle-income tenants or buyers.

Specific areas of action by the corporation will include assisting North Carolina communities to make use of financial and technical assistance from all available resources, lending development funds to selected non-profit organizations to enable them to undertake construction or rehabilitation, and disseminating design, construction and financing information.

VOL. I-42 (January 3, 1967)
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL VOLUNTEERS:

Please mail your Volunteer Work Records to Wake
Opportunities as soon as possible!

the Home Extension Service, and the Welfare Department, respectively. In this training, they were taught special information and skills which they will need in doing their work in the community.

Mrs. Gloria Hill, our Services Aide, has worked toward developing a Big Brothers and Big Sisters Club for the teen-agers in our area. It will be a club which will stress all types of learning -- school work, social activities, household activities, game and sports activities, and many others. Mrs. Hill would very much like to hear from any young people who are interested in such a club. Our office telephone number is 828-6326.

As a result of the numerous presentations by Mrs. Dorothy Allen, our Community organization Aide, many people have visited our Center to discuss our services. Because of this, Mrs. Allen has referred 55 people to existing agencies where they have received help with their problems. We feel that through this we are reaching many people from all walks of life in our community. Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Hill will continue speaking to church groups, school P.T.A.s and classes, civic groups and clubs whenever they are invited.

Our Home Visitors have talked with members of most of the households in our area. We are now making the survey. We are thankful to all of the people who have been so helpful and cooperative. After all, your cooperation and support are necessary to insure success in reducing and eliminating the problems of our area.

WALDROP COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER

The Director of Waldrop Community Action Center resigned to accept a position as Deputy Director of the Community Action Program of Johnston County.

Mr. Wanzo Hendrix, who has been Director at Waldrop since August, 1966, began his new duties in Johnston County on January 16, 1967.

The staff of Wake Opportunities would like to take this opportunity to wish Mr. Hendrix much success in his new job.

At the present time, Mr. Alfred Newkirk, Coordinator of Education, is serving as Acting Director for Waldrop until a new Director is hired.

The Center Staff is continuing to work on the door-to-door survey, with the hopes of completing it by March. The results of the survey data at that time will determine the kinds of activities, clubs, groups, and classes which will be created. Program pri-

orities will be determined by the greatest problems and needs in the Waldrop Community.

We will all miss Wanzo! The work which he began in Waldrop will continue to grow in the direction for which it was intended - to provide opportunities for individuals to attain their maximum capacity to earn a living which would include the basic necessities of life - adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and for the people in the community to become participating citizens.

WHITE OAK COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER

DIRECTOR - Mrs. Geneva Baker

The White Oak Community Action Center is now open.

We are very happy to have our Center open and we extend a cordial invitation to each reader to come by to visit us. Coffee is perked and waiting. Already many friends have been in to visit us, and we hope many more will come by.

We are very grateful to all those who have helped us in so many ways: with our training, with practical advice, with preparing the way for us, with encouragement, and with genuine friendliness. More help has been given us than we can possibly acknowledge, but we are grateful and feel deeply our obligation to do our best to repay everyone's kindness and help by working as hard as ever we can, and by doing our utmost to live up to our motto of helping people to help themselves.

On January 10 an Adult Basic Education class was scheduled by Holding to start in our Center.

We have our maps now and feel that we are ready to take the first step of introducing our Wake Opportunities Program to our people in White Oak Township.

Again, we thank each of you and invite each one to come see us.

LITTLE RIVER COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER

ACTING DIRECTOR - Mr. J. T. Locke

The month of December has been a most fruitful and rewarding experience for the workers at the Little River Community Action Center. Everyone has been busy working on the survey forms on a door-to-door basis. We are still in the process of tabulating these surveys so that we can set up programs to meet the needs of people, especially those in the impoverished segment, and refer them to resources already available.

CENTRAL OFFICE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Mrs. Charles Wood . . .

Caught on the treadmill of each passing day we often lose sight of accomplishments. The coming of the New Year causes one to pause, reflect, make resolutions, and move on toward a set goal.

Wake Opportunities, Inc. was granted its first funds for program development on January 28, 1966 and employed its first personnel on March 11, 1966. During the short nine months that have passed, the pieces of the kaleidoscope have fallen into place to form a design, the objective of which is to provide every individual with the opportunity to attain his maximum capacity to earn a living which would include the basic necessities of life - adequate food, clothing, shelter, and medical care.

We look toward the New Year with a summer head start proposal for 1,100 children; refunding of the central office and the four operating neighborhood centers plus one in the Halifax Courts area of Raleigh, and Fuquay-Varina; day care centers which will be economically feasible and make it possible for parents to work to raise family incomes; and a manpower program to help the unemployed find work and/or training.

It would be presumptuous to assume that we have come to this point by our own merits; we haven't. We owe a real debt of gratitude to the many agencies and organizations who have so willingly participated in our training programs and made their services known to Wake Opportunities staff for referrals and to the volunteers for their time.

Our wish is that the economically deprived in Wake County will have a happier 1967.

DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTEERS - Mrs. Margaret Arline

A nucleus of program plans, activities, and clubs is beginning to get underway in the Neighborhood Centers. At long last we are on the threshold of some real community action and involvement.

Mr. Newkirk and I will spend approximately seventy-five percent of our time from now on working in the Neighborhood Centers.

We have been given the green light to work with the Center Staffs and the people in the Center areas to go ahead with creative and constructive program development. We predict some exciting and meaningful results for 1967.

The Adult Basic Education Volunteer Recruiters Committee has been reorganized. A meeting was held on January 12 at 8:00 P.M. to project plans for the coming year.

Along with the door-to-door survey in the Center areas, Wake Opportunities is also conducting a Comparative Sample Survey in the upper and lower income groups. Our thanks to the individuals and groups who have so willingly helped us conduct the Comparative Sample Survey. Mrs. Charles Kistler has helped tabulate the results.

The Raleigh Junior League had a well-planned panel discussion program on January 11 at 11:00 A.M. at Saint Michael's Episcopal Church. Mrs. Charles Wood, Mrs. V. B. Bensen, and Mr. Robert Marley served on the panel representing Wake Opportunities. Junior League members - Mrs. Grey Poole, Mrs. Victor Bell, Jr., and Mrs. Scott Venable - asked questions concerning the overall Economic Opportunity Program from the federal and local point of view.

Mr. Robert Ward of the State Planning Task Force spoke on Wake Opportunities at the Benson Memorial Church (Woman's Society Christian Service) on January 9 at 8:00 P.M.

Many thanks to all our volunteers for their services in 1966. We know 1967 will present many opportunities for all kinds of volunteer services. We'll be calling on you!

CHAVIS HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER

DIRECTOR - Mr. Allen Weatherford, III . . .

The Chavis Heights Center Staff takes this opportunity to express to Mrs. Norman T. Watson and the Pullen Memorial Church and to Mrs. George C. Debnam and the Jack and Jill Club sincere gratitude for the donations which they have made to this Center. The donations of furniture, cooking utensils, and tableware from the Church and the donation of clothing for the Center 'clothes closet' from the Club are, indeed, much needed and highly appreciated. We assure our contributors that their donations will be put to worthy uses.

During the time between November 14th and 25th the Health Aide, the Home Management Aide, and the Social Services Aide received specialized training under the supervision of the Wake County Health Department,