

**I**F YOU

have reason to believe that you have been discriminated against in buying a house, finding a job, or obtaining a service...your recourse is to have the wrong righted by filing a complaint with the Commission. Any member or the Director of Community Relations will help you file the complaint.

Complaint forms are easily available from any Commission member, the Municipal Building or the Macon County Opportunities Corporation. Just give your name, address, telephone number, and the details of when the discriminatory act was committed and by whom.

For further information, go to the Municipal Building, 707 E. Wood, or call the Director of Community Relations, 423-7541. Your complaint will be dealt with swiftly and fairly.

*"I am the inferior of any man whose rights I trample under foot. Men are not superior by reason of the accidents of race or color. The superior man... stands erect by bending above the fallen. He rises by lifting others."*

Robert Green Ingersoll

**L**EGALLY,

*13 members*  
Decatur Commission on Human Relations members are appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council. The Mayor also appoints the chairman of the Commission. The Commission meets every month on the second Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 355 E. Wood. The meetings are open to the public and complaints may be presented there.

The Commission is organized into five standing committees:

Education,  
Youth,  
Housing,  
Employment,  
and Complaints.

*Police & Community Relations*

Each committee works on programs in its area which combat discrimination and create better human relations.

Helping the Commission to institute its programs and policies, undertake its investigations, and conduct its hearings is the Director of Community Relations. His office is in the Municipal Building.

To make Decatur a better city in which to live, it is necessary that all citizens work together to end discrimination and racism.

*Workshop Oct 2, Sat, 9:00-  
Muni. Bldg Conference Rm*

Decatur

Commission

On



**HUMAN  
RELATIONS**

# C

## OMMITTED

to furthering understanding among our people so all may enjoy the benefits of full and equal citizenship in Decatur, the Commission on Human Relations strives for equality and justice.

Among its several tools in this quest are:

INVESTIGATION  
CONCILIATION  
FORMAL HEARINGS  
INFORMED LEADERSHIP

Its success in using these tools depends, not only on the Commission's ability, but also the community's receptivity.

If the community neglects to bring out cases of overt discrimination or refuses to hear Commission suggestions, then the status quo remains intact.

For many years Decatur has been a community in which particular groups have been treated as second class citizens.

Through the Commission's investigations, conciliations, formal hearings, and recommendations, the cancerous sore of discrimination is exposed to you, the public. It is you who must finally decide if that sore is to grow unchecked, or if it shall be removed.

# I

## NVESTIGATION

enables the Commission to determine if there has been an act of discrimination. After ascertaining the facts, the Commissioners and the Director of Community Relations meet with the parties involved and try to conciliate the differences between them.

When reconciliation is not possible, the Commission must decide whether to take the case to a Formal Hearing.

In a Formal Hearing, each side presents its case to an impartial hearing officer. He makes a judgement based on the merits of the case and recommends action to the Commission.

The Commission then has several things it can do. If an ordinance was violated by the discriminatory act, the Commission recommends that court proceedings be initiated.

If the discriminatory act violated no existing law, the Commission may recommend that the City Council enact new legislation which would make such future discriminatory acts illegal.

*"After all, there is but one race  
-----humanity."*

George Moore

# V

## ALID

evidence that discrimination does exist in Decatur forms the basis for Commission recommendations.

Leadership from the Commission shows the community the direction it must take to reach the goal of full and equal citizenship for all.

The Commission works diligently behind the scenes to marshal community resources and agencies in its efforts to combat potentially troublesome situations.

It exercises this leadership role with the City Council, Park Board, Board of Education, Board of Realtors, area business and industry, unions, and various social-welfare agencies.

The citizens of the community also have an opportunity to communicate with the Commission at the Commission's monthly meetings. These meetings are a public forum in which cases of discrimination can be discussed and general conditions affecting human relations in Decatur can be reviewed.

*"Freedom is an indivisible word. If we want to enjoy it, and fight for it, we must be prepared to extend it to everyone, ...no matter what their race or color."*

Wendell L. Willkie

# POVERTY IN

## TORRENCE PARK?

IS THERE POVERTY IN THE TORRENCE PARK COMMUNITY? MANY PEOPLE IN DECATUR REFUSE TO ADMIT THAT THERE ARE POOR PEOPLE IN DECATUR. IN TORRENCE PARK ALONE:

31% of the households have a family income of less than \$3000 a year

56% of the households have a family income of less than \$4800 a year

80% of the households have a family income of less than \$7200 a year

MANY PEOPLE IN DECATUR SAY WHY DON'T THESE POOR PEOPLE GO OUT AND GET A JOB:

61% of the households have at least one member of the family in a full-time job or job that provides the family income.

21% of the households are elderly people who are attempting to survive on the meager social security allowance.

IS THERE A CRITICAL HOUSING SITUATION IN DECATUR? IN TORRENCE PARK:

Excluding the east end of Longview, there are only 15 units of sound housing in the entire 35 square-block area.

72% of the housing units are in either poor or very poor condition, ie. not fit for human habitation.

WILL THE DECATUR COMMUNITY RESPOND TO THE ABOVE NEEDS OR WILL THEY CONTINUE TO IGNORE OBVIOUS POVERTY IN AN AFFLUENT SOCIETY?

THESE PEOPLE MUST BE PROVIDED  
FOR - THEY TOO ARE SOMEBODY!!

"NEW DIMENSIONS IN HUMAN FREEDOMS"

and

THE TORRENCE PARK CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE, INC.

The TORRENCE PARK CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE is working for New Dimensions in Human Freedoms by striving for the residents of the community to be given the opportunity to be involved in the decisions that will affect their lives for the next few decades. Most of this revolves around the process of planning and executing an Urban Renewal Project, however, through the work of the organization, the community is becoming more and more involved in everyday decision-making regarding different affairs of the community. Community residents have organized, planned, formulated, and executed a wide range of community activities. They have hired, through their own funds, a staff coordinator to serve as an urban renewal and housing counselor and coordinator of community affairs. A recent editorial in the Decatur Herald states, "...the community spirit and organization continues to progress...this is a community within a community working to help itself, to make itself a better community even without the greater benefits which will eventually be realized through urban renewal...this is in the American tradition, and it is a VALUABLE and WORTHWHILE movement for Decatur." The Torrence Park Citizen's Committee is working for new dimensions in human freedoms everyday. Won't you help?

For further information contact: Fred Spannaus  
Staff Coordinator  
Torrence Park Citizen's Committee, Inc.  
1250 E. Orchard Street  
Decatur, Illinois 62521  
Phone: 217/428-1558

THE...

1250 E. Orchard  
Phone: 428-1558

# TORRENCE PARK CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE

... IS WORKING FOR YOU!

Since the reorganization of the TPCC on June 29th, the Torrence Park Neighborhood Center, 1250 E. Orchard, and the Staff Coordinator, Fred Spannaus, have:

1. Been providing social services in the areas of emergency food needs, emergency clothing needs, transportation assistance, legal aid referrals, welfare problems, housing needs, employment assistance and referrals, medical assistance, and numerous other things that come up.
2. Set up a Youth Recreation Program that has been organized and run by two Youth Coordinators hired by the TPCC. This program includes weekly dances for 25¢ as well as recreation nights at the site office.
3. Set up an Adult Activity Program, administered by Mrs. Mary Jennings. This involves weekly activity nights of the "Chat & Chew Club" at the site office.
4. Worked with the OEO office to get a Federally funded Emergency Food and Medical Program in the community.
5. Worked with other interested groups to get the Decatur School Board to establish a state funded Free Breakfast for Children Program in Decatur.
6. Worked with the Council of Community Services in taking a survey of the area to determine the need for a Day-care Center.
7. Set up a Food Cooperative and Buying Club whereby volunteers from the community redistribute non-perishable goods at a wholesale price to low-income consumers.
8. Trained its staff coordinator about the rules and regulations of urban renewal so he is available to offer sound, reliable advice.
9. Stayed in close communications with the city so as to insure that citizens rights are not violated and that urban renewal works for people.

Sponsoring the programs and seeing that all activities get coordinated takes money. Our Staff Coordinator is getting paid \$150 a month. This is all he gets paid and he works from 40 to 60 hours a week. We need at least another \$50 a month to stay above water. This means that we need pledges from the community equal to \$200 a month. Now that's only about 40¢ per family. We need monthly pledges from everyone. \$1, 2, 5, or 10. Anything you can afford will greatly be appreciated. Contributions are tax-deductable (we are a non-profit organization). Please do what you can to keep us going.

TORRENCE PARK PEOPLE'S FOOD COOPERATIVE AND

BUYING CLUB

The Torrence Park People's Food Cooperative and Buying Club has been formed to meet some of the food needs of the poor in Torrence Park. While the cooperative is set up in the Torrence Park community and is aimed primarily at residents of this community, it's cash savings are also available to poor people throughout the city.

Funded through a grant allocated by the Black Central Coordinating Committee (BCCC), the Food Programs Coordinator of the Torrence Park Citizen's Committee purchases staple foodstuffs at wholesale prices and then redistributes them on a non-profit basis to the poor who shop at the cooperative. The Food Programs Coordinator also recruits and trains volunteers from the community in the technical aspect of the operation, ie. operating the adding machine, figuring out sales tax, taking inventory, reordering commodities, etc.

The cooperative is open on the 15th and 16th of every month and on the last day and the first day of every month, from 6:30 to 9:00 P.M. It operates from the Torrence Park Neighborhood Center at 1250 E. Orchard Street (428-1558).

Surveys taken have indicated that the Torrence Park Peoples Food Cooperative and Buying Club offers savings that average 22 to 25% less than retail food stores.

The philosophy of cooperative buying is very important. Through cooperative buying families with limited income can make their dollar stretch. With sufficient community involvement and participation on this small operation, it is conceivable that in time the idea of cooperative buying can be expanded to include large cooperatives in the proposed shopping center of the urban renewal plan. One can easily see the advantage of this to a poor community.

Attached is a list of the items that the Torrence Park People's Food Cooperative and Buying Club carry in stock along with the price of the item. At this time we carry 20 items in stock and depending on our financial resources and demand we plan to expand. The prices quoted can vary a penny or two, up or down, from week to week depending on special sales that can be taken advantage of or changing prices by the wholesaler. Compare these prices with what you pay wherever you shop. Participate in the Torrence Park People's Food Cooperative and Buying Club and save money while working to build a better community.

Any inquiries or questions should be made to either:

Mr. Curt Hoffman  
Food Programs Coordinator  
Torrence Park Citizen's Comm.  
1250 E. Orchard St.  
Decatur, Illinois 62521

Phone: 217/428-1558

Mr. Fred Spannaus  
Staff Coordinator  
Torrence Park Citizen's Comm.  
1250 E. Orchard St.  
Decatur, Illinois 62521

Phone: 217/428-1558

TORRENCE PARK PEOPLE'S FOOD COOPERATIVE AND  
BUYING CLUB

Sample Inventory-Items Stocked

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Bush's Showboat Pork & Beans (14½ oz.)	.11
Bush's Showboat Pork & Beans (31 oz.)	.23
Campbell's Chicken Noodle Soup (10½ oz.)	.15
Heinz's Tomato Soup (10½ oz.)	.11
Campbell's Vegatable Soup (10½ oz.)	.14
Chef Boy-ar-dee Meatballs and Spaghetti (42 oz.)	.64
Dinty Moore Beef Stew (1½ lb.)	.55
Dinty Moore Beef Stew (2½ lb.)	.97
Family Fair Canned Corn (16 oz.)	.16
Family Fair Canned Green Beans (17oz.)	.14
Joan of Arc Green Peas (17 oz.)	.16
Kellogg's Corn Flakes (12 oz.)	.27
Kellogg's Rice Crispies (10 oz.)	.35
Milnot (11½ oz.)	.13
O'sage canned Peaches (29 oz.)	.25
Quick Quaker Grits (24 oz.)	.25
Quick Quaker Oatmeal (42 oz.)	.57
Swift'ning Shortening (3 lb.)	.63
Van Camp's Tuna (6¼ oz.)	.26
Vista Pak Saltine Crackers (16 oz.)	.19

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All prices are subject to change without notice due to flucuation in the wholesalers price to the Torrence Park Citizen's Committee.

!!! SHOP AND SAVE AND SAVE !!!

## 1.1 THE HOUSING PROBLEMS OF DECATUR

Andrew Burrows

Housing problems are really not problems of faulty and deteriorated structures, but are the problems generated for the people who must live in them.

### I. Present Problems.

#### A. Age of structure.

1. 20% of the housing is now 60 years old or more
2. 50% is 40 years old or more.

*within city limits*

#### B. Low income occupancy.

#### C. Elderly owners.

#### D. Effect of discrimination in housing selection.

### II. The Future of Housing in Decatur.

#### A. Additional housing needs, 1978-1993.

1. In 1973, <sup>2,790</sup> 27,790 additional units will be required to house the population.
  - a. Nine hundred ten rental units.
  - b. One thousand eight hundred eighty owner occupied units.
2. By 1993 a total of 17,580 units will have to be added to the inventory.

*for city of Decatur  
based on  
pop. growth to  
net housing  
big increase  
5% a year  
wage rate*

#### B. Who will provide the additional units.

1. Private sector.
2. Public sector.
  - a. Governmental.
  - b. Semi-public.

The questions which are presented are:

1. "What are the issues and problems which are presented?"
2. "Are they issues and problems which you want to meet?"



Proposed Statement on Plan #19

The Decatur League of Women Voters recognizes that it is desirable for the City of Decatur to have a comprehensive plan for providing housing which is needed for low and moderate income families as well as elderly people. We feel that any plan adopted by the City Council should be on a scale sufficient to meet the needs.

We would like to stress the personal aspects which are involved in any renewal plan. The feelings and wishes of the people who may be forced to move to another location should receive every reasonable consideration. <sup>①</sup> A real effort should be made by the city staff to acquaint residents of the affected areas with the proposals and to hear their opinions on the subject.

~~Because of prior commitments, the League has not been able to make a detailed study of Plan #19 in order to give our unqualified support at this time. However, it is our feeling that the City Council should give serious consideration to all aspects of this proposal.~~

Mrs. Keith Westenhaver

President, Decatur LWV

The League is currently studying Plan #19, and it is our hope that the City Council will give serious consideration to all aspects of the proposal.

from Jane Dill

MEMO to Human Resources Committee:

Coming meetings: Thurs, Feb 4, 9:15, Sarah Kessler's (1405 W Sunset)

Thurs, Feb 18, 8:00 PM, Art Center upstairs, Unemployment debate

Below is a tentative outline of the way we will perform at the April Units. After an introduction on poverty, each chairman will present a picture of the situation as pertains to her area in such a way as to point up the seriousness of the problem (see #1, pgh, leader guide). [The notes I have made for each area are not meant to be your outline, won't cover all you will want to include and may even be inappropriate in some instances, but were just meant to indicate what I have in mind. Note improvements that can be made and pass them on. After a presentation of the existing situation we will go around again to tell of measures being taken to solve the problem. (See #2, pg 4, leaders guide)

Intro.

POVERTY - Myra Becker, Barbara Redford definition of poverty; description of its effects on individuals and effects on nation as a whole; extent of poverty; who, where, why

I

EDUCATION 1. special programs for culturally handicapped - Mary Donner what makes for inequality of opportunity in education; who is affected by this inequality; how many are; what is the result of inequality

2. Drop Outs - Marilyn Galhoun who drops out, why, how many, effects of this move on the individual and on rest of society (what happens to the drop out.

EMPLOYMENT - Jan Vandercar factors making for inequality of opportunity in employment; who, where, why; extent of unemployment

AUTOMATION - Viola Reeder what industries hit hardest by automation already; where automation has just begun to make inroads, figures on job elimination as a result of automation; who is affected first and who ~~will~~ eventually will be affected by automation; evidence from some that it is not a serious problem

THE SPECIAL SITUATION OF THE NEGRO (and other non-white) IN SEEKING EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY Jo Lessells give information that would indicate that these groups have added difficulty in achieving equality of opportunity in education and employment and in taking advantage of it where equality may exist; mention should be made of other groups in certain localities facing same problem

II

Education 1. - Mary Programs for culturally handicapped; characteristics of these programs goals; how wide spread; for preschoolers, adolescents, any for adults; source of aid and sponsorship of these programs.

Education 2. - Marilyn What is being done to rehabilitate drop outs; programs of study and training available; how financed and by whom sponsored; drop out prevention

Employment - Jan What is being and has been done to assure equal opportunity in employment (attempts made through contacts with welfare programs, perhaps) federal, state local measures to decrease unemployment

Automation - Viola measures to counteract the effects of automation

Negro - Jo and Barbara Tilley laws to assure non-white equal opportunity (school desegregation - progress report; FEPC - merit hiring; Civil Rights Act)

Programs in effect and proposed - Elaine Frost and Nancy Shober Any programs not already covered for abatement of poverty, remedial training for under educated and under skilled, for making employable the unemployed, etc.

It is the desire of the Decatur League of Women Voters that the five-year plan for our city should include some funds to improve the living conditions of our less fortunate citizens.

At the present time there is a serious shortage of good low-income housing available in Decatur. It is difficult, if not impossible, for persons in the lower income brackets to locate homes in even reasonably good condition. Therefore, we request that the five-year plan should include funds for additional public housing. This should include any matching funds necessary to take advantage of Federal programs which may be available.

The League of Women Voters feel that additional low-income housing is one of the very most urgent needs of this city and we strongly urge the Mayor and City Council to include funds in the five-year plan for this purpose.

Mrs. Keith Westenhaver,

President, Decatur L.W.V.

P R O P O S A L

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

CITY OF DECATUR

APPLICANT: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CONTACT PERSON: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \_\_\_\_\_

PROJECT TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

STATEMENT OF NEED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

LONG TERM GOALS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TERM GOALS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATE: # 1: \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATE : # 2: \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDS:

PRESENT:

POSSIBLE:

<u>PRESENT:</u>	<u>POSSIBLE:</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

PLEASE ATTACH ANY INFORMATION THAT MAY BE HELPFUL TO US.

DECATUR-MACON COUNTY OPPORTUNITIES CORPORATION  
204 West Main Street  
Decatur, Illinois 62523  
"A COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY"

REV. MARSHALL HUGHES  
PRESIDENT-BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WAYNE D. SHIPLEY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A/C 217-428-2193  
428-0155

## INTRODUCTION

We find as a whole that our staff is made up of dedicated individuals who are more interested in helping individuals and families rise from the mire of poverty than seeking individual and personal gain or fame.

The Administration staff is basically here to assist the workers out in the community. The staff does the majority of typing, book-keeping, filing and seeking of information necessary for those out in the community, and the community relations. Program organization for the entire agency is also a function of the administration.

This booklet gives only a very brief description of our programs and is meant to be used as a basic reference guide for those who might need our help. We are very happy for the cooperation we have received from the various State, County, Township, and local organizations who are also attempting to solve the economic strain brought about by inadequate jobs, inferior housing and unemployment.

One area that we are attempting to concentrate on at this time is the area of communications. We feel that so far communications from this office to the rest of the community has been inadequate. We hope that these inadequacies will be eliminated and a smooth and productive flow of communications will result.

Gail Childs - Deputy Director  
Gloria Boykin - Executive Secretary and Administrative Asst.  
Cozette Cliff - Master File and Property Officer  
Helen Ayd - Receptionist  
Darlene Thomas - Accountant and Purchasing Agent  
Sondra Cole - Payroll Clerk

AID AND ACTION  
(SENIOR OPPORTUNITIES SERVICES)

One of the most significant low-income groups in Decatur and the United States is the group of Senior Citizens that we try to serve. Many Senior Citizens are extremely lonely. Many that we try to serve are trying to maintain their own identity by not going into a nursing home or becoming dependent on another person or their family. Quite often they do not have transportation, adequate food, and a great many of them have inadequate incomes.

Some of the things we would like to do with Senior Citizens are:

1. Involve many more elderly people in programs and activities that will add other interest to their lives.
2. Provide educational field trips to places like the City Council meetings, Macon County Board meetings, library trips, nutritional educational trips and sometimes shopping trips.
3. We would also like to have some craft classes and other interest classes that Senior Citizens may be interested in working with.

One area that we are now looking at is the possibility of Shelter Care for Senior Citizens in the home. This is a new program that is opening up and we are investigating the possibilities of including the Decatur Macon Area in a program like this. Short forms, dinners, and other activities also interest Senior Citizens and we try to accommodate them by having these events and helping to make sure that they work very well.

There is an Advisory Council which prefers to be called a Policy Council for the Senior Citizens. This group is working well and a list of officers will be available soon. We hope that this group can help to coordinate the activities of the low-income Senior Citizens with other Senior Citizens throughout Macon County. One of the most important aspects of our program is one that cannot be measured. That aspect is the fact that the personnel we have in the Senior Citizens Area are people who really care. The Senior Citizens know they care and because of this the elderly look upon the staff members as friends and people to be trusted.

Gertrude Embrey - Coordinator

Pearl Burns - Out-Reach Worker



## ANNA WATERS HEAD START CENTER

The Anna Waters Head Start Center is currently located at the First United Methodist Church, Decatur, Illinois. There a staff of 17 provide a child development program five days a week to 75 children from homes of poverty-level income.

Children living in poverty are subject to serious risks to their health, education, and welfare. Poverty has its impact on a child from the time of conception. During the pre-school years the toll becomes more apparent. Health services are usually inadequate, immunizations are frequently incomplete, and physical problems may go uncorrected, thus handicapping the child when he enters school. Children of the poor often show learning and adjustment difficulties as they approach school age. Because their experiences have been limited, they are often handicapped in their ability to communicate--especially through speech. They may be lacking in knowledge of the world about them. Motivation for learning is often limited.

Because of these factors, the Head Start program tries to meet the following goals:

1. improve the child's health
2. help the child's emotional and social development
3. improve and expand the child's ability to think, reason, and speak
4. help the children to get wider and more varied experiences
5. give the child frequent chances to succeed
6. develop a climate of confidence which will make the child want to learn
7. increase the child's ability to get along with others in his family and help the family to understand him and his problems.
8. develop in the child and his family a responsible attitude toward society
9. plan activities which allow persons from every social, ethnic, and economic level to join with the poor in solving problems
10. offer a chance for the child to meet and see authority figures
11. give the child a chance to meet with older children, teenagers, and adults who can serve as "models"
12. help the child and his family to a greater confidence, self-respect and dignity

Glenna Apsley - Director  
Georgia Caldwell - Assisland H.S. Coordinator  
Ellen Bates - Teacher  
Eugenia Davies - Teachers Aide & Bus Aide  
Nancy Giesey - Teacher  
Lessie Hart - Teachers Aide  
Mary Jelks - Teachers Aide  
Olivia Macklin - Cook  
Yovonne McSpadden - Teachers Aide  
Jan Meridith - H.S. Secretary  
Mary Nolte - Nurse  
Essie Rix - Teacher  
Cordia Robinson - Cooks Aide  
Amanda Teamer - Teacher  
Viola Thomas - Teachers Aide  
Ana Travernicht - Teachers Aide  
Bettie Witherspoon - Teacher

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

There are several objectives of the Decatur Macon County Opportunities Corporation Community Services Program:

1. To provide a neighborhood location for community organization meetings and activities.....
2. To provide low-income communities with information and / or referral to available resources and services...
3. To perpetuate self-help efforts; to help implement neighborhood self-development activities; to assist in mobilization of resources toward institutional changes, oriented to the needs and priorities of low-income people.....

### Location and Hours of Outreach Centers:

There are six (6) Neighborhood Outreach Centers, four (4) in the city and two (2) in the country. All centers are open from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Southside Center  
610 E. Marion  
Mattie Towles - Neighborhood Aide  
Larry Taylor - Neighborhood Youth Corps

Church of Brethren  
1306 N. Warren  
Pearl Burns - Neighborhood Aide  
Tommie Hayes - Neighborhood Youth Corps

Wyckles Center  
4433 E. Main  
Madlain Whitney - Neighborhood Aide

St. Paul's - Brush College Center  
1305 E. Prairie  
Jack Farrell - Neighborhood Youth Corps  
Mary Sheets - Neighborhood Aide

Northeast Center  
1167 E. Condit  
Diane Wilkes - Neighborhood Aide  
Lorena Woods - Neighborhood Youth Corps

Mt. Zion Center  
First Presbyterian Church  
Lois Sowa - Neighborhood Aide

Activities and Available Services:

Crafts Classes

Sewing Classes

Clothing Room & Furniture ...Northeast Center

\* \* Referral Services \* \*

Child Development ...Head Start, Self-Start

Senior Citizens Activities ...Aid-In-Action

Health Care (Testing and Transportation) ...C.H.I.C.  
County Health Department

Mental Health (Counseling & Screening) ...Mental Health Clinic  
Progress School

Home Economic ...Cooperative Ext. (U. of I.)

Home Making ...Child & Family Services

Family Planning & Health ...Planned Parenthood  
D.M.C.O.C. EF&M Program

Emergency Needs ...D.A.R.E., Prince of Peace,  
Salvation Army, D.O.V.E.

Job Opportunities and Related Counseling ...D.M.C.O.C. Manpower & NYC  
Staff (in conjunction with W.I.N., State Employment)

Transportation for emergencies or Advisory Group Functions can be provided thru Neighborhood Aides.

Neighborhood Advisory Councils, Block Clubs and Community Groups:

Chairman

Community Council of Block Clubs ...Leonard Scarlett

Southside

Seeds-of-Kindness ...Artis Vinson

Less-Talk-More Work ...Mary Plato

Southside Advisory Council ...Shirley Perkins

Northeast

Willing Workers	...Lizzie Bond
Northside Block Club	...Susie Wells
Torrence Improvement Club	...Bertha Taylor
Torrence Park Citizens Committee	...Rudy Dreschel

Church of Brethren

Longview Tenant Council	...Shirley Jones
Self-Help Club	...Alma Lowry

Brush College

Brush College Block Club	...Mary Etherton
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Wyckle's Corner

Maroa Block Club	...Norma Lee
Do-Something Block Club	...Madleain Whitney

## EMERGENCY FOOD AND MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAM

Emergency Food and Medical Services (EF&MS) are provided to anyone who needs assistance for the first time as an emergency by self-declaration. Most ADC recipients who have a money deficit because of utilities, rent, or emergency need can qualify. This should include some people on fixed incomes.

EF&MS is a program that provides services only on an emergency basis. Therefore, staff members on EF&MS work closely with other agencies such as the Department of Public Aid, Township, the Home Economics Extension and schools in order to refer the client to the agency that can best meet their need.

The EF&MS staff also acts as a liaison or advocate between clients and agencies in trying to solve problems relating to the welfare of the client. They help represent low-income people at "fair hearings" when the client believes that they have been unjustly or unfairly denied certain benefits such as Food Stamps, School Lunches, Aid to Dependent Children, Aid to the Disabled, social security benefits or other similar programs.

Currently our program is set up as an information and consulting component on the Food Stamp and School Lunch programs. Clients are referred to the Department of Public Aid for food stamp certification or the public school for the school lunch program after helping to determine its eligibility.

The goal of EF&MS is to help eliminate hunger and malnutrition among the poor.

### EF&MS staff members

Mary Brown - Coordinator  
Sondra Cole - Aide  
Fannie Stewart - Aide

## DEPARTMENT OF MANPOWER & JOB DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Manpower and Job Development handles all employment functions of the agency (youth & adult), as well as Affirmative Action related matters.

In the area of youth employment, the major thrust is administration of a 40 slot Neighborhood Youth Corps In-School program and a 20 slot NYC Out-of-School program. These programs, for low-income teenagers, provide work experience, job-training, counseling, and supportive services. Participants are paid \$1.60 an hour with In-School enrollees working 8 hours a week and Out-of-School enrollees working 29 hours a week. These programs are funded by the U.S. Department of Labor.

In the area of adult employment, our emphasis is twofold. First, from our applications we ascertain who is qualified for a particular job and who, according to their own estimation needs a training program. For those qualified for employment, we attempt to place them in jobs by working through the Illinois State Employment Service and through private enterprise. For those needing training programs, we attempt to place them in an existing training program, or attempt to place them in a training related position in private industry.

In all areas of employment our success is determined by the resources available to us; sometimes quite scarce.

In the area of Affirmative Action, our main goal is to develop and implement our in house Affirmative Action Plan. We will attempt to develop the expertise to assist others who can use our help in most areas of Affirmative Action.

Director - Scott Umbreit  
Administrative Assistant - Bev Marbut  
NYC Coordinator - Bobby Smith  
NYC Assistant Coordinator - Verneta Seaton  
NYC Secretary - Debra Whitley  
Employment Assistant - Janice Meredith

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Youth Development consists of economic development and youth services for low-income youth in Macon County. Age limits are 15 and 25. Now there are eight youth councils in Macon County and there can be more. Any low-income youth wanting to develop an economic base or needing one can join our program. We coordinate ideas with economic development from youth themselves in forms of co-operatives and business ventures. In these efforts we have available media workshops as career development tools in radio, television, and videotape. These can be used as training ends in themselves or they can be used to aid an economic development project such as a co-operative or business enterprise.

Youth Services is another arm of Youth Development. Low-income youth in Macon County, are affected by the system in many ways through the courts, schools, and mental health facilities. We counsel in these areas individually and on a group basis. How courts and schools affect low-income youth is different than how more affluent youth are affected. We deal with pattern recognition to help youth in these vital areas. Any low-income youth with a problem or problems in the areas of court or school can get help from our program. This involves clarifying where problems actually locate themselves and once locating them dealing with them.

Youth development is open to serve low-income youth in Macon County in the areas of economic development and youth services. If you need help or have an idea and no money we can help.

George Jordan  
Director Youth Development Program

Joel Holloway  
Assistant Director Youth Development Program





## CURRENT STATUS OF HEAD START

THE CURRENT BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES INCLUDES HEAD START FUNDING UNTIL AT LEAST JUNE 30, 1974. HEAD STARTS WILL BE IMPROVED DURING THE NEXT YEAR. IT IS NOT CERTAIN WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HEAD START FUNDING AFTER THAT DATE.

THE LOCAL HEAD START PROGRAM, THE ANNA WATERS HEAD START CENTER, WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE. ITS PROGRAM WILL, AS USUAL, RUN FROM SEPTEMBER THROUGH APRIL NEXT YEAR. CHILDREN WILL ATTEND THE CENTER FOUR DAYS PER WEEK, AND THE FIFTH DAY WILL BE USED FOR STAFF TRAINING AND PARENT ACTIVITIES. PARENTS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO VISIT THE CENTER TWO OF THOSE DAYS PER MONTH FOR ACTIVITIES, AND STAFF WILL VISIT IN THE HOMES OF THE CHILDREN TWO OF THOSE DAYS PER MONTH. TRANSPORTATION WILL BE PROVIDED FOR PARENTS TO COME TO THE CENTER. PARENTS MAY BEGIN TO ENROLL THEIR FOUR YEAR-OLDS FOR NEXT YEAR THIS MAY.

THE CRUCIAL POINT FOR THE LOCAL HEAD START PROGRAM WILL BE ITS SPONSORSHIP. IT HAS IN THE PAST ENJOYED A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH DECATUR MACON COUNTY OPPORTUNITIES CORPORATION. IF THAT CORPORATION CEASES TO EXIST, THEN A NEW SPONSER WILL HAVE TO BE FOUND WHO CAN PROVIDE FULL ACCOUNTING SERVICE AND THE KIND OF EXPERT GUIDANCE WHICH DECATUR MACON COUNTY OPPORTUNITIES CORPORATION HAS PROVIDED IN THE PAST. IF NO SUCH SPONSER CAN BE FOUND, THEN THE LOCAL HEAD START PROGRAM IS IN DANGER, EVEN THOUGH NATIONALLY HEAD START HAS BEEN FUNDED FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER YEAR.

E. Local - Chamber of Commerce of Decatur

Increased efforts by Decatur's Chamber to meet social needs include the following:

1. distribution in 1965 of a suggested merit employment policy .  
urging companies to hire without discrimination because of race or creed
2. Decatur companies conduct training programs for employees
3. suggested cooperation with city police and county sheriff's office to work with juvenile delinquents
4. a pilot program to help parolees obtain jobs

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Some attempt has been made to get reactions from people who have been affected in some way by programs associated with Decatur's Community Action Program. The following brief reports come from employers of Neighborhood Youth Corps, from Head Start, from Self Start parents, and the Neighborhood Workers (Counseling and Comm. program).

Neighborhood Youth Corps

School principals who employed NYC generally felt last summer's experience was not too satisfactory. This was partly because of insufficient work to keep the number employed busy (4-5 per school), partly because of insufficient counseling and supervision of workers. Use of boys for janitor work was quite unsatisfactory, but some other workers did very well in other jobs. There will be only 2 NYC assigned to each school during the summer 1967.

The two youth employed by the library did shelving and clerical type work and have continued these jobs in the In-School NYC program during the year. The Acting Librarian, who had supervision of these workers, was well satisfied with their progress and with their relationship to the DMCOC staff. She felt the youth benefited from the experience in that behavior improved, they gained skills, apparently have done better in school and have more confidence, motivation and ambition. She indicated also that working with these poverty level youth was of value to the library staff as well.

The two NYC working in the City Planning Department are considered very effective in their jobs and have developed to the extent that they have been urged to consider going on to college.

In the opinion of the Executive Director, the NYC employed by the Red Cross developed some skills from the experience, including ability to work with other people, a better mental outlook about work in general. Most have shown some improvement in their school work this year. After development of a feeling of responsibility and of being respected in the job, the youth seemed to enjoy the work. At the beginning, they resented being clocked and supervised. The boys seemed to work into jobs better than the girls did, though two boys of the seven never did work out and were dismissed.

Of the boys employed in the parks only a couple seemed to derive much benefit from the experience. The others mainly "goofed off". The nature of the jobs available (picking up debris on the grounds) may have had something to do with their irresponsible attitude.

Recommendations from NYC employers:

1. more supervision and closer continuing contacts and counseling by the DMCOC staff would be an improvement
2. the more complete job descriptions now available for the NYC openings should help to improve the chances for matching applicant to job
3. a week of training and education before starting the job would be desirable so that the employer would not have to give so much of his time breaking the youth into the idea of work expected and responsibilities they would assume. This week could include aptitude tests for placement, better screening to match interests and skills to particular jobs, help in handling money, instruction in how to work with others and with employers.

Head Start

The merits of Head Start have received such ample publicity that little needs to be said here. The importance of continuing this type of compensatory education throughout the school program in order not to lose the momentum gained by Head Start has been stressed. Decatur's program of compensatory education will do much to assure the gains will be retained. Children from Durfee School who participated in the pilot Head Start program in 1964, now in second grade, are still showing the effects of their Head Start experience. Generally it has been observed that these children need less help as they advance in school.

Self Start

In February 1967, when Self Start was in danger of closing, the Council of Churches office received 16 letters, unsolicited, from Self Start families indicating their gratitude for the program, giving examples of how this experience had benefited their children, comparing the development of their Self Start children with their older children who had not had such an experience. One was a mother's transcription of her child's words of concern that the Center would be closed and she wouldn't be able to go back and play with the toys and her friends there. Another letter indicated that the mother could contribute a nickel a visit per child and she thought that other families could do this to if it would help keep the centers open.

Indications are that there has been a steady increase in attendance each month from December 1966, with 74 children having made a total of 337 visits at the three centers, to April 1967, with 125 children making a total of 858 visits. During April, children were having to be turned away from the Broadway Center in order to keep the enrollment to 20 as the state license requires. The director has limited the length of time of the visits and number of days per week per child at this center so as to give all children an opportunity to come. The centers will be closed for the summer while the Self Start board of directors explores every avenue for future funding.

### Neighborhood Workers

The neighborhood workers interviewed felt that their jobs have real value and that having been poor themselves was a definite advantage in their work, as they could meet the people as one of them, not with "my head high." Informing the people of the help available and referring to specific agencies was the most important aspect of the job, as the majority of the people contacted were not aware that so much help could be had and many were under the impression that it cost money to go to any agency. Not all such visits resulted in action but some of the visits changed peoples' lives by getting them the help they needed.

The workers would like to have additional training after they have been in the field. After several months of uncertainty while the DMCOC re-staffed and reorganized the neighborhood workers are looking forward to a clear cut job description and definition of their responsibilities. They would like to see improved communication between the Board, the administrative staff, and the workers.

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### Neighborhood Center and Neighborhood Worker Plans

The Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corporation hired a deputy director in May, 1967. The duties of this director, Miss Marilyn Gibson, will be to prepare grant applications, develop neighborhood center services and supervise the activities coordinator (who is yet to be hired) and neighborhood workers. Miss Gibson has an intensive two week training program for the neighborhood workers to start May 24, 1967.

Neighborhood Worker Training Program - Some of the topics to be discussed will include (1) understanding the Economic Opportunity Act, (2) understanding poverty and its by-products, (3) the concept of the neighborhood center, (4) the duties of the neighborhood worker, (5) the importance of good record keeping, (6) community organization and involvement, (7) coordination of services of already existing agencies, (8) the role of volunteers in the center, (9) potential problems and how to cope with them, (10) outreach, referral, and follow through as essential components of a neighborhood center, (11) the center and the community, (12) the center and the DMCOC, (13) the center and the target area population.

An essential aspect of the training is the exchange of ideas and services between agencies and the workers. The workers will meet with representatives of several of the major social service and welfare agencies in Decatur in order to find out what services are available in the particular agency, what limitations of eligibility are placed on those services, and what assistance the workers may offer to the agency as outreach personnel in order to refer, escort, and transport the subject individual to the agency, to job interviews, to clinics or hospitals, or schools etc.

In-service training of the workers will continue throughout the year with weekly meetings of the staff (at least at the beginning) and with conferences with agencies that were not included in the intensive training schedule. This will enable the workers to compare experiences with their co-workers as well as continue learning of the number of services available to those who need them.

Neighborhood Center - There are eleven neighborhood workers who will be placed in five or six neighborhood centers. Their initial assignment will be to make available to the area residents the information concerning the programs and services already existing. Other specific services will be to serve as the liaison between residents of the community and the DMCOC, assist in conducting surveys of residents needs, assist in the formation and operation of rural neighborhood organizations, work with local agencies in community improvement projects, make known to residents the services available in the centers and encourage citizens to participate, and to provide support and assistance to persons participating in unfamiliar programs. Outreach, referral, and follow through are key words in the effort. An important measure of success lies with the workers' ability to convey concern, display perseverance, and to become the person with whom the community can identify as the one who is there to help them help themselves.

Neighborhood involvement is a vital goal of the project. Through the center, with its limited but willing services, it is hoped that regular neighborhood meetings can be established and that a sense of identity can be developed. With this sense of cohesion, the neighborhood group can itself begin to identify its own problems and seek answers for them.

What the centers can become depends largely upon what the community can give to them- of their time in volunteer services, of their ideas in planning, and of their resources in equipment and space. An ideal center can offer a warm and welcoming atmosphere with magazines, ash trays, games, a place for meetings and parties as well as offering a location for personnel from various agencies placed there to answer the needs of the neighborhood as adequately as possible. It is hoped that the centers can provide the necessary setting for the beginning of self-help and group action.

(Taken from the project paper and schedule for the neighborhood workers' training session written by Miss Marilyn Gibson, deputy director DMCOC).

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The following questions have been asked which would seem to be of general interest.

1. How are teachers recruited for Decatur's compensatory education programs in Title I schools and what is the status of these teachers?

Many teachers in the Title I programs were already teaching in the system and volunteered to work in this program. Some are people who applied after learning about the Title I programs from various

sources, such as hearing school personnel speak. Some teaching aides were recruited from the substitute teacher list. The fact that Title I makes more use of part-time teachers than does the regular system may have been a factor in case of getting personnel.

All contracts have the statement "subject to funds" but Title I teachers have tenure and regular benefits, and are paid on the same scale as all other teachers in the system. The system is so short of teachers it could absorb all of these teachers into the regular program.

2. If local social service agencies set up programs in poverty neighborhoods in cooperation with DMCOG are they restricted to serving only those persons from the neighborhoods whose income falls within poverty guidelines?

Except for Head Start, the federal or regional offices of OEO do not dictate restrictions such as this but leave it to the discretion of the Local Community Action Agency (DMCOG). Probably unless severe imbalances occurred in which many more non-poverty than poverty families were being served there would be no attempt even to define limits in the DMCOG and the programs could serve all who came.

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#### Additions and Corrections

see page 2 - Job Corps men:

From June 1965 to March 1967, twenty-eight men were enrolled in centers. Eight stayed less than 3 months, seven less than 6 months, one joined the army after 9 months. One is now back in Decatur working after staying at the center for a year. Whether or not the remaining eleven are still in the centers is not known at this time as the Decatur Office of the Employment Service does not maintain regular contact with the trainees.

Mrs. Keith Westenhaver  
3420 N. University  
Decatur, Il. 62526

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
DECATUR, ILLINOIS

DECATUR, ILL.





ILLINOIS HUMANITIES COUNCIL  
LWV RELATED GRANTS

513-0974  
Andrea Bowen  
League of Women Voters of  
McDonough County  
Macomb, Illinois

"A County in Search of Cooperation"  
\$1,030.00 with a conditional grant  
supplement of \$2,000

The program will consist of three separate forums in each of five communities within the county over a three-month period. The overall theme will deal with the barrier created within ourselves between one's individual rights and one's public responsibilities. The first program common to each community will chronicle local history which provided a setting for the confrontation between these two attitudes.

514-0975  
Rosemary Kurtz  
League of Women Voters of the  
Crystal Lake-Cary Area  
Crystal Lake, Illinois

"Can We Keep Private and Public  
Rights in Balance?"  
\$4,857.00

McHenry County, a semi-rural county on the fringe of the Chicago Metropolitan Area and part of the six-county region, is the target area for growth and development. There are barriers in the county between proponents of orderly growth and development, haphazard growth and development, and opponents to any change whatsoever in the rural aspects of McHenry County. There is a great need to bring different interest groups together. The efforts of such organizations as the League of Women Voters is not enough. Teaching scholars in the humanities are the missing link in the efforts to reach the public, to engage it in discussion, and to break barriers between groups. The forum for airing this public policy issue on land-use will take place in three centers of population in McHenry County.

518-0175  
Betty Willhoite  
Citizens Information Service  
Chicago, Illinois

"Leadership Classes with the Perspectives  
of the Humanist"  
\$6,655.00

The object of this program is to develop and test, within the Citizens Information Service Leadership Classes, the perspective of the humanist, and to compare the performance of these classes, where value orientation and conflicts are emphasized, with other Leadership Class performances, in which content is limited to practical skills and information, and evaluate the results. Academic humanists with background in historical and cultural disciplines will work with class groups as group leaders, sharing their expertise, and giving their perspective to other concerns--housing, street crime, information on electoral process--that the group may wish to investigate. Evaluation may determine that CIS should design all of community leadership classes to include the humanistic background and materials developed in this pilot.

ILLINOIS HUMANITIES COUNCIL

LWV RELATED GRANTS

Page 2

519-0175  
Marjorie Trahern  
AAUW  
LWV  
Junior League  
Champaign - Urbana, Illinois

"A Tale of Two Cities"  
\$2,880.00

A Tale of Two Cities--an exploration of the origins and history of Champaign-Urbana, Illinois: how its present circumstances are reflected in its past; how, in turn, an awareness of its heritage can inform us about its future. At its center, straddling Urbana's western and Champaign's eastern limits, stands the largest campus of the University of Illinois. Up against the sidewalks of several of its major streets press the corn and soy bean fields which radiate in all directions to the borders of the county. The physical barriers are all but invisible and unmarked, but real, which affect our lives as citizens of the larger community. What are they? Which should be strengthened? Which should come down? This program will examine local history and culture, in conjunction with county and community efforts for the bicentennial celebration, to identify the ties which bind various elements of our community together and the barriers which separate us. A television program on the community's past, present, and future, utilizing the facilities of the university's educational television station and the expertise of the academic humanists who support the project will be presented in early May. This will be followed by a Town Meeting in which the academic humanists and the general public interact in an effort to reach a better understanding of how we should live together--and live well together--in the future.