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hhra NEWSLETTER

VOL. IV. No. 4 P. O. BOX 1062 La Mesa Phone: 460-7744 December, 1972

CHRISTMAS GIVING

A letter from Jane Schimoff, Chairman, Volunteers in Probation, Christmas Giving, has come to the HHRA office. Its message is, in brief:

Among troubled people, the holiday season means loneliness, depression and anger--which can lead to renewed conflicts with authority. Volunteers in Probation hopes to alleviate some of this despair with Christmas gifts. The San Diego County Probation Department supervises 13,000 troubled delinquents and adult offenders. Many face a dismal holiday season unless you help. WHAT CAN YOU PROVIDE? You may meet the needs of one person or of many. Among these needs are:

Troubled Adolescents: Many come from deprived families or are ostracized because of their delinquency. A gift can renew their hope. What kind of gifts? Records, transistor radios, cosmetics--any gifts suitable for teenagers.

Adult Probationers: Thousands are struggling toward rehabilitation. Many are unemployed. Food and gifts for them and their families can assure them that the community has faith in their ability to become productive members of the community. A check mailed payable to Volunteers in Probation, Christmas Giving, will produce a prompt and grateful reply, telling how the donation was used. Please contact: Volunteers in Probation, 279-4100, P.O. Box 23096, San Diego, Calif. 92123, for further suggestions or information.

A CALL FOR ACTION

Last Christmas several HHRA families contributed toys and clothing to families in need. One family has expressed its particular thanks for HHRA's involvement at a time of crisis. If you can help this year with toys and clothing for other families, please call the HHRA office, 460-2744, or contact Connie Kuhn, 466-3526.

COMMISSION CHOSES NEW CHAIRMAN

Congratulations to Altha Coleman Williams who has been elected chairman of the La Mesa Community Relations Advisory Commission. Mrs. Williams replaces Virginia Mitchell as chairman.

Councilman Paul Fordem has appointed Mildred Ruth to the Commission, thus completing the full Commission.

Over the objection of Mayor J. Robert Holland, the Commission has set its REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING for 4:30 p.m. the third Monday of each month. The meetings are held in the city council conference room and are open to the public.

HHRA commends Mr. Fordem for making his appointment of Mrs. Ruth. We are confident that the Commission under the leadership of Mrs. Williams will now actively carry on the urgent business which comes under its jurisdiction.

INTRODUCING:

Jan Dunbar, graduate student in the School of Social Work at California State University at San Diego (formerly San Diego State College). Jan is working with HHRA on our Affirmative Action and Education Committees.

Jan has been placed with HHRA until June as a part of her required graduate field work; each grad student must spend 20 hours per week working with community organizations. Previously she worked on an Indian reservation and as a field placement counselor in a psychiatric clinic. One of Jan's HHRA assignments has been to help write a proposal for funding a pilot project designed to prepare teachers and students in a Heartland school district for cross-cultural experiences at the sixth grade city-county camps. We are pleased and very fortunate to welcome you, Jan, to HHRA.

NOTES

A developer is asking for a zone variance in order to build 154 town houses on 17 acres adjacent to Lemon Grove. This area is served by the San Miguel School of the Lemon Grove District, a school which is ethnically balanced with approximately 15% black, 10% Mexican-American, and 75% Anglo in its student body. If this development were allowed in the path of minority migration, the San Miguel School population certainly would suffer ethnic imbalance. Also, the resulting population density would be undesirable.

The HHRA executive board will be expressing these concerns to the San Diego City Council. Lemon Grove sorely needs park and recreation space--the 17 acres in question would be ideal for this use!

The Lemon Grove Library is continuing its efforts to serve the Mexican-American community. Dual-language books of all kinds are available: there are numerous ongoing programs of great variety and interest. The people in charge of these programs have expressed thanks to us for the help we were able to give in publicizing their efforts.

CONGRATULATIONS: to Lars Hellberg who recently was honored for his work with Joint Action in Community Services (JACS).

If you have information you wish publicized in the HHRA NEWSLETTER, call: Editors--
Carol Perkins (463-5290)
or
Len Collis (465-8031)

LOCAL GIRL SCOUTS SEEK ASSISTANCE

Our local Girl Scouts are beginning a study of minorities in our county. They would appreciate offers from minority persons who would be willing to serve as resource people for this study program.

Please call our office--(460-2744) if you are interested.

THANKS:

To Attorney Gayle Anderson of the law firm of Hinchy, Witte, Wood and Anderson, for his generous help in filing our application with IRS. We were granted tax exemption status, and, thus, all contributions to HHRA are tax deductible.

HHRA OFFICE
6267 Lemon Ave., La Mesa
P.O. Box 1062, L.M.
460-2744
Hours: 10-1, Mon.-Fri.

HHRA HOUSING TASK FORCE

The members of the Housing Task Force have visited 42 Heartland realtors to determine the extent to which minorities are seeking housing in our area, how realtors view the situation, and whether or not HUD open housing posters are displayed in accordance with the law.

Thirty-eight of the real estate offices have their HUD Equal Opportunities posters visible. Realtors estimated that minority inquiries regarding housing run from none to about 15% of all inquiries.

Twenty-seven of the 42 interviewed displayed negative attitudes toward the HHRA visitors; some were markedly hostile. The most sympathetic and open realtors were those in the large offices that deal mainly in new housing in developing areas. The survey is about completed now; when the remaining realtors have been visited, the committee will evaluate the results and prepare strategy for creating a more open climate in the real estate industry.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

Rita Morgan reports that she is working with other community people to formulate an Affirmative Action Program for Grossmont College. If many HHRA members will support this program when it is presented to the Grossmont College School Board in January, it will have a good chance of passing. Write letters and be at the meeting when the program is presented!

(We will call the HHRA membership with an exact date.)

MEMBERSHIP

Our fiscal year begins in January. Help us get off to the best start ever!

Send in your membership renewal--NOW!

(See the last page of the NEWSLETTER for details!)

COALITION FOR A BALANCED COMMUNITY

The League of Women Voters has asked for HHRA support in seeking from the San Diego City Council adoption of a policy for a balanced community.

Although HHRA is a county-based organization, the concept of a balanced community is compatible with our objectives. Despite State and Federal fair-housing laws, a city policy on non-discrimination, and a strong statement of goals in the San Diego General Plan, community development in the city has consisted of the proliferation of racially and economically segregated communities.

Comparison of 1960 and 1970 census data clearly reveals this growing trend of isolation and segregation. It is obvious that good laws and policies alone are inadequate to create a truly open community where every person can choose which part of the city he or she wishes to live. Nothing short of positive, affirmative, consistently dedicated action on the part of the city can change trends.

The City Planning Commission has passed a weak balanced community policy, much to the dismay of many community groups which had been individually supporting a broad policy during two years of Planning Commission sessions. These groups feel that a coalition will give them strength to pass a strong policy at the City Council level.

On November 21, a member of the newly formed Coalition appeared before the Council to ask that a balanced community policy be set for public hearing on December 21. The HHRA executive board voted at its November meeting to be a part of the Coalition. Barbara Collis is our representative to the Balanced Community Coalition in San Diego. She will speak for HHRA at the December Council hearing. If you are interested in the aims and goals of the Coalition, arrange to attend that important meeting. What happens in the city of San Diego may well serve as the model for what happens in the county.

Welcome to New Member, Neil Voigt!

Heartland Human Relations Assn., Inc.
P. O. Box 1062 La Mesa CA 92041

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date: _____

YES, I / WE WANT TO JOIN HHRA:

___ $2, Individual (Student) ___ $8, Family

___ $5, Individual (Regular) ___ $10, Minimum for Organization

"Dues Plus" contribution in the amount of $ _____

_____
Name of Individual or Organization Phone

_____
Number Street City Zip Code

Please indicate your interest in the following specific task forces:

Housing___ Education___ Speakers' Bureau___ Inter-ethnic Dialogue___

Police-Community Relations___ or Office Staff___ Publicity___

HHRA
P.O. Box 1062
La Mesa, CA. 92041

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YOUR PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT INVENTORY

I. YOUR THOUGHTS, YOUR IDEAS FOR ACTION: IN YOUR WORDS!

- What do you think ought to be done first here in the Heartland Area in terms of Human Relations?
- Generally speaking, what are your concerns in the area of Human Relations?

TELL IT LIKE IT IS FOR YOU ....
SO WE CAN BUILD TOGETHER!

(On the following page are some thought-starters!)
AND CHECK YOUR PIECES OF THE ACTION THERE! (p. 2)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Place of Employment _____

MEMBER OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS _____

II. Perhaps some of the following can be
YOUR PIECES OF THE ACTION! CHECK!

Neighbors for Understanding (relief of tension areas)

____Help conduct fact-finding survey in tension areas.
____Make home visits, answer questions, distribute educational materials.
____Organize meetings to promote understanding.

Neighbors for Understanding (Your own Neighborhood)

____Interest neighbors in HHuRA and equal opportunities.
____Offer your home for interracial gatherings.
____Report available open occupancy housing in your area.
____Telephone at home. (HHuRA Telephone Tree Network)
____Solicit membership for HHuRA

Community Contacts

____Contact employers to seek commitment to fair employment.
____Contact realtors and apt. owners to get open occupancy commitment.
____Contact clergy to enlist support.
____Seek out attorneys sympathetic to minorities.
____Work to involve other community groups in human relations activities.
____Act as HHuRA contact person for your organization_____
Name of Group
____Work with educators and/or local officials to further HR undrstanding.

Communications

____Help prepare human relations educational materials.
____Publicize HHuRA activities through mass media.
____Help secure program materials and/or speakers list.
____Be a speaker for human relations.
____Man the information center
phone____; type____; file____; keep records____.

General

____Accompany minority persons seeking housing.
____Help plan and conduct fund-raising events.
____Special talents available to HHuRA: ____art; ____writing; ____drama.