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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Diego Urban League, Inc.
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A new Special Services Unit of the San Diego Urban League was opened up to service the Southeast San Diego area. The purpose of this project is to provide a bridge between the community and the many agencies already set up and in use. Primarily, Special Services offers information and referrals to anyone in need of information. The program also provides short term Social Service.

Special Services Unit is under the direction of Anne Carter. Two community resource specialists, a social worker and a secretary-receptionist, make up the rest of the staff. This team, composed of people from various areas of social service, can pool ideas and expertise to better meet the needs of clients.

As the program gets under way, it is hoped that Special Services will provide a bridge for disseminating information and effectively using various social agencies now in existence. Anyone living in the Southeast San Diego area is eligible to use the unit. A person having a complaint on a social problematic nature contacting Special Services would be referred to the proper agency handling the matter. Such complaints as job discrimination and problems with welfare or police would be directed to the proper channels.

In Special Services great emphasis is being placed on youth. The program hopes to aid youth of the community by identifying and assisting youth groups in structuring their organizations around constructive community service programs. The program will also provide groups with skilled technical assistance and connect them with adult organizations.

The Special Services Unit hopes to build up a large information bank of social services available in the community. Besides making this information

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available to people with problems, the information will be conveniently available to other social agencies. The unit could help these social agencies answer problems pertaining to the black community. Social clubs, churches and schools will provide resource material for the information bank.

There are several ways in which Special Services has helped direct people to proper agencies or individuals. For example, a social club raised money for a scholarship but had no one in mind to receive it. Special Services connected the club to the E.O.P. on the San Diego State campus and found a deserving recipient. Special Services helped a family with a child having congenital heart problems find an agency to help pay for medical care because they were ineligible for welfare.

As an agency providing information and referrals for the community on social problems, Special Services should help streamline the effectiveness and efficiency of community social agencies under the auspices of the Urban League.