

Hickey-Freeman Employs Skills Of Catholic-Sponsored DP's

As a result of the exploitation and persecution of helpless peoples by the Nazis and Communists, millions were rendered homeless and stateless in Europe. The free countries of the world, including the United States, have worked together to offer new homes and new opportunities to the people.

Effective July 1, 1948, the Federal Displaced Persons Law made it possible for some of these people to come to the United States. The law requires that both a job and a home be guaranteed by a sponsor without displacing any American. The current law expires June 30, 1951, but a bill before Congress provides for further extension.

750 DP's

Nearly half the displaced persons in Europe were Catholics. Nationally, the Resettlement Division of War Relief Services, National Catholic Welfare Conference, was designated by the hierarchy to work with Catholic displaced persons. Locally, the Diocesan Resettlement Committee secures sponsorship and makes arrangements for the arrival of the newcomers. The Catholic Family Center offers case-work service to assist displaced people adjust to their new way of life. Since the program was initiated, the Committee has secured nearly five hundred job-home assurances. To date, about 750 people have come to the Rochester diocese under the auspices of the Committee.

Active in securing sponsorships and in helping the people after arrival has been the Reverend John Baksys of St. George's Church. Father Baksys' success in assisting some three hundred Lithuanian displaced persons to settle, has attracted wide-spread attention.

Needle Workers

In Rochester, industrial firms, as well as individuals, have acted as sponsors. Among the displaced persons are many possessing skills in great demand, but not available locally. The clothing industry in particular has felt the need for

CHARITY OF CHRIST

I pray that He would grant you to know the charity of Christ, which surpasseth all knowledge. (Ep. 3, 19.)



Ukrainian Polish

Typical of the several hundred displaced persons brought to Rochester by The Catholic Family Center of the Catholic Charities are Mrs. Anna Jena and Andrew Gora whose skill in tailoring found a ready welcome at Hickey-Freeman Clothing Company.

skilled workers. The Hickey-Freeman Company has hired approximately 300 displaced persons since the passage of the Displaced Persons Act in 1948. Several religious institutions have been instrumental in bringing these people from various D. P. Camps in Europe to Rochester.

One of the institutions in the Diocesan Resettlement Committee is cooperation with the Catholic Family Center. According to Mr. Paul Braccia, Labor Relations Director, "Most of the D.P.'s whom the Hickey-Freeman Company has hired are skilled needle workers, and they have been placed in jobs which could not be filled from local employment agencies. There is a shortage of skilled needle workers in Rochester. In fact the Hickey-Freeman Company in 1945, had to open five out-of-town shops to help solve this lack of skilled needle talent in Rochester."

"Not only has the Hickey-Freeman Company afforded these people a chance to earn an independent livelihood, but they in turn have given the company an opportunity to expand activities," said Mr. Braccia. "This expansion in turn has made possible more and more work for all Hickey-Freeman workers and also has created new openings for many Rochesterians who have been hired for various pressing and tailoring jobs."

The ACWA

"The Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America has given full support and cooperation to the efforts of the Hickey-Freeman Company to hire these skilled persons," Mr. Braccia reported. "This is another evidence on the part of the union that they are a forward looking organization, who acts always for the best interest of the men's clothing industry."

try and for the clothing workers."

"For over a half century, the Hickey-Freeman Company has been known throughout the country for its superior men's suits — superior in make, style, and material," stated Mr. Braccia. "The best in quality is synonymous with Hickey-Freeman. The skill of the displaced persons who are now working here will help maintain this fine tradition."

Displaced persons have found job opportunities in many other industries. Many have been placed on farms and in other specialized work in which the demand exceeded the local supply. Represented among the Displaced Persons are — Poles, Ukrainians, Lithuanians, Latvians, Rumanians, and others from behind "The Iron Curtain."

"There are some thirty thousand displaced persons still in camps, and eligible under our law," says Rev. Arthur E. Kalkgan, Associate Resettlement Director. "Many possess skills needed locally. We can keep assurances from prospective employers, or from people who wish to offer housing opportunity. Mr. George Montgomery, Secretary of the Committee, can be reached at the Catholic Family Center to talk with anyone interested in the program. To date, the Rochester Diocese has been able to do its share in helping our fellow Catholics. During the next few months, we must continue our efforts."

Catholic Family Center Services To Families

April 1, 1950 — April 1, 1951

NEW APPLICATIONS

Unemployment or insufficient income	192
Illness or physical disability	104
Marital Counseling	147
Problems of parent-child relations	65
Parent absent from home	27
Personal maladjustment problems	94
Problems relating to Armed Forces induction	2
Alcoholics	17
Unwed Mothers	116
Old Age related problems	91
Housing problems	17
Transients	47
Miscellaneous problems	38
Out-of-town requests for investigation	8

TOTAL NEW APPLICATIONS MADE	965
Cases referred to other agencies	131
Applications voluntarily withdrawn	64

TOTAL NEW APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED	195
FAMILIES RECEIVING SERVICE APR. 1, 1951	752

TOTAL FAMILIES SERVED	1562
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