



Catholic Family Center officials review reports of caseworkers. George Montgomery, Center's executive secretary, left, Father Donald J. Mulcahy, director, and Catherine Wobus, caseworker director.

Center Aids Families, Finds Foster Homes

A total of 2,968 families were served by the Rochester Catholic Family Center during the year ending March 30, according to the annual report of the agency.

Catholic Family Center is the casework agency of Catholic Charities which gives counseling and continued casework service to families and individuals having problems threatening the stability of the home.

This includes marital and pre-marital counseling, counseling on parent-child relationships, counseling for youths and adolescents, counseling on personal problems, service to unwed parents, adoptions, service to the aging, temporary financial assistance, and placement of children in St. Joseph's Villa or certified boarding homes.

During the year, care was provided for 492 children away from their own homes. Seventy-two children were placed in adoption homes and 58 adoptions were legally completed. Service was provided for 125 unmarried mothers.

A steady increase in requests for service is noted in the report. "It is gratifying to report," the Rev. Donald J. Mulcahy, director, said, "that more and more families seek professional help early, and avoid family breakup. Everyone is better off when we are able to use our skills to keep a family happy together."

Typical of problems solved through the Center's counseling staff are the following (names, obviously, are fictitious):

Marriage — Sue and Tom argued about everything — the children, the budget and their relatives. They grew to feel unwanted and unloved by each other. Unable to find a solution themselves, they consulted a caseworker at the Catholic Family Center where they talked over their frustration and hurt feelings. After learning to understand their problem and themselves, they began to work together.

Growing Up — Johnny grew more taciturn as he grew older. Discipline and punishment only seemed to make him worse. Beginning with mischievous acts, Johnny finally stole from neighbors. His parents were bewildered. They had always bought him everything he wanted. They knew they loved him. They could not think of what was lacking. But something was and the caseworker helped them fit the pieces together. Johnny lacked self-confidence, and self-esteem. By being incorrigible, he gained recognition in a negative way. With help to the parents and Johnny, positive ways of bolstering his confidence were discovered.

Adulthood — Mary Jane, age 23, was unmarried. She drifted from job to job — her bosses were too hard on her. She had few friends. They did not understand her. After using counseling services, Mary Jane learned it was not her boss or her friends — but herself. She slowly learned to change some of her attitudes and expectations. She became a happier person.

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Back Yard Clean Up

The Richard Circle Neighborhood Improvement Council was first organized in September of 1958 under the leadership of Sam Lacagnina with the assistance of the staffs of Charles House and the City of Rochester Rehabilitation Commission.

A non-political group, it is composed of interested neighbors residing in the vicinity of Campbell, Rosslyn, and Broad Streets. They are dedicated to the improvement of housing and general living conditions in this area with the end of preventing the neighborhood from deteriorating.

A Spring Clean-Up Drive is planned for Saturday, May 2. Flyers will be distributed to the neighborhood by members of the Council, who hope the drive will be given the full cooperation of the entire area.

In the future it is hoped to expand the Council to other streets and form other groups for neighborhood improvement.

Retarded Enjoy Day Camp

The Genesee Settlement is the only neighborhood house in the Western New York area which offers, on an integrated basis, programs which serve severely retarded and the emotionally disturbed child — needing Day Camp experience.

Experimental projects serving both these groups were offered in the summer of 1958. Facilities of a local State institution were used to set up a campsite for ten aged emotionally disturbed girls. The program was felt to be of such value that inquiries have been received from other institutions interested in trying a similar plan.

IN ADDITION to the usual Day Camp activities a program offering training in specialized skills was developed. Lessons in modern dance, in playing the Auto Harp and in water color painting were given in an effort to improve the self confidence of these young people.

Forty-four mentally retarded children between the ages of thirteen to eighteen were served within the framework of the regular Day Camp. Included in this group was an experimental program for re-

tarded pre-schoolers aged three to five. For most of this group this was their first experience with adults outside of their home. Noticeable improvements in speech, behavior and self care were apparent.

FOR THE retarded children above age six, the most rewarding experience of their

life has been the friendships developed with the normal Day Camp youngsters attending the program. Riding on buses together, practicing for plays, participating in morning assembly and planning for parent's night together, allowed the normal youngster to learn more about the problems of the handicapped.

Parents of retarded children have repeatedly expressed their appreciation at having their children attend a normal facility which does not carry the label of an agency for the "handicapped." The program in 1958 culminated the fourth year the Genesee Settlement House has offered this program.

George

Louisville, Ky. — (NC) — An apathetic "let George do it" attitude is endangering the field of charity, Msgr. Raymond J. Gallagher, Cleveland charity worker, declared here.

Msgr. Gallagher, director of youth services in Catholic Charities of the Cleveland diocese, outlined the deterioration of individual acts of charity in today's urbanized society.

He said that spiritually "we remain unfulfilled souls unless we develop our potential for practicing the most fundamental of all virtues, the love of God and of our neighbor for the sake of God."

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St. Mary's Hospital

St. Mary's Hospital, directed and supervised by the Sisters of Charity, cared for over 26,857 patients during the past year at a total cost of \$3,130,101.36, according to a statement made by Sister Theresa, hospital administrator.

Rochester Community Chest contributed \$25,140.00 toward the operating expenses of the hospital, Sister Theresa said.

A staff of 220 doctors plus 32 resident and intern doctors and 12 sisters, aided by 672 nurses and hospital employees, provides the most modern scientific care and treatment for the sick.

The Center's caseworkers keep touch with foster parents to aid in any needs which may develop.

Couples desiring to serve as foster parents may contact the Catholic Family Center by visiting or phoning a staff member, Columbus Building, Hamilton 6-3400.

Prospective foster homes are thoroughly investigated by the Family Center's social workers before a child is placed in them.

"We look for stable and secure people to take the role of foster parents," a Center spokesman said. "A foster child often comes from a home that has vastly different standards than the foster home, so there is urgent need for long patience."

Foster parents have a "rewarding life," the spokesman pointed out, because they see a child develop into a happy, better-balanced citizen.

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