



Catholic Family

Catholic Youth Organization Recreation for All Ages

Mr. Howard Meath
Catholic Youth Organization
Dear Mr. Meath,

As President of the Board of Directors of the Catholic Youth Organization, and, therefore, closely associated with the operation of the agency, I have been greatly impressed by the quality and dedication of the staff and the other board members. I know much of this can be attributed to the inspiration and leadership which you provide. I would like personally to express appreciation to you and all those who join with you in making the C.Y.O. an effective force in our community.

To me the C.Y.O. represents "opportunity"—opportunity for the youth of our community in terms of personal achievements and learning new skills; opportunity for the youth to grow and develop not only physically but socially, culturally and in any other way in which we can be of help; opportunity finally to help the youth of today to become mature and responsible citizens of tomorrow.

In this light, I look forward to the second year of my term as your president. I hope that it will be as productive as last year. If possible even more so.

Sincerely,
Mr. Richard C. Scott



CYO Membership Drive

The Catholic Youth Organization provides facilities not only for children but for adults, male and female. These people benefit from the many recreational activities, membership dues, incorporated in the CYO budget is an annual income figure of some \$50,000 realized from these dues. Of course, no child is ever excluded from being a member because he is not financially able to pay the dues.

It is a goal of the CYO to compensate for this, however, there are people in our city who are unable to participate in the CYO programs.

This past year, the Catholic Youth Organization has reached out more and more to the deprived children of the inner city. This means that there will be less "paying" members, hopefully, however, there will be more sponsoring members.

The actual campaign is launched in the autumn of the year.

If the picture at the right features Joseph F. D'Avanzo, Asst. Director of Catholic Charities, and plans with Howard Meath, executive secretary of CYO and Andrew Donovan, assistant secretary of the East.



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| 1) Family | \$80.00 |
| 2) Business Men | 40.00 |
| 3) Business Women | 24.00 |
| 4) Student's | 15.00 |
- Perhaps, YOU would be interested in joining or sponsoring a member.

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For those who need counsel



Because the emphasis of Catholic Family Center is to keep existing families intact, the main approach or method will be in the area of providing counseling services. It is through the professional knowledge, experience and dedication of the counselors that people are able to understand their problems, face up to their real

ly, explore possible solutions and meaningfully follow through with their decisions. Throughout this process, the counselor plays a vital part. On the one hand he cannot impose his own solutions; for the client very often will not accept this. On the other hand he must be skillful enough to direct the client to make decisions that will

An Out-Reach to Inner City

Just what is the "out-reach" program of the Catholic Family Center?

The Out-Reach program brings social work service to people in the inner-city, makes the services more available to those who might not otherwise be about coming in for help. Basically, problems in the inner-city are the same as elsewhere, but they are intensified by poor housing and unemployment.

The people we work with are struggling to stand on their own feet—but they often reach a crisis situation in their efforts. We try to help before they reach this crucial point. Would you clarify what you mean by "social work"?

The main idea is to help people to solve their own problems. This includes problems related to other people, to their jobs and to their social environment. What kind of problems do you offer services for?

Our services cover such areas as: marriage counseling; parent-child problems; individual and family home care; adoptions (which have increased in the inner-city area); counseling in the application of financial aid; juvenile delinquency; school drop outs and illegitimacy.

When did the "out-reach" program come into existence?

Our first effort back in 1951 was in the Hanover Houses (public housing) project in the East-Corona area of Rochester. Two years ago, we began working in the Immaculate Conception parish. Just two years ago in Mt. Airy, we began these neighborhood-centered programs. In addition a full-time social worker began a school-oriented program last

help him. In essence the role of the counselor is to help the client to help himself. Marital problems, child-parent relationship conflicts and individual personality adjustment difficulties comprise pretty much the total work load of the Family Center's Counseling Service.

But because each individual or family is different, the case-worker must be flexible enough to adapt himself and his approach to the problem. Sometimes the individual interview may be the best technique (such as Robert Biel is employing in the picture on the right). Other times, especially in some marital situations, it would

be fruitful to see the couple together (as John Pucci is doing in the picture on the left). In recent years the group method has been used successfully. Very often clients with similar problems feel freer to talk about them in a group situation. (In the center picture, Miss Alice Attridge is meeting with her weekly group.)

As a means of clarifying the Catholic Family Center's "out-reach" program, the Courier-Journal recorded an interview between one of the Out-Reach case-workers, John Rice, and a St. John Fisher College senior, Frederick Curran, who is a Sociology major. In addition to the interview, Rice took Curran on a tour of one of the inner-city areas in which he works. (See accompanying picture.)

September, 1965), in St. Bridget St. Michael's area.

Do you sometimes make referrals of people to other agencies?

Yes, we try to coordinate our work, and avoid duplication of service. Besides, we are not set up to handle all problems. For example, we do not give long-term financial aid—this is a function of the Monroe County Department of Social Welfare. Public Assistance Division is an emergency financial help but if it seems to be a long-range need, we refer them to Monroe County for this. If there is tension due to financial strain, we may offer some supplemental help as part of a treatment plan.

How do you make contact with the people you help?

In the past, most of our referrals came from parish priests, parish schools and other agencies. Recently, in increasing numbers, many people with whom we are already working.

This doesn't mean that the person or agency making the referral is not helping. For example, the priest may continue to parish the person, or family he has referred to us for additional help.

Do you insist that people come to your office for help?

No, we realize that some hesitate to come to a downtown office, so we give them a choice of office or at-home appointments. Sometimes it's a combination of both, convenient for the person, and convenient for a mother who would have trouble getting a baby-sitter. On the

other hand many prefer the office situation, where they have the advantage of quiet and privacy in which to talk.

How frequent are your contacts with the people you help?

This varies, according to the need. Initially, we plan on weekly contacts. If there is a crucial situation, it will be more often. I saw one family every day for a week because of several crises they were facing at the time.

Can you see any positive results from the "out-reach" program at this point?

One noticeable result has been the increased number of inner-city families to take advantage of our services. We have increased

Having the Out-Reach workers in their own neighborhood, seeing him about frequently, we are able to refer to us, or come to him for help. And as people have responded to our services, we have increased them.

A number of people who formerly felt their helplessness with their problems, now show increasing independence and ability. Some are displaying leadership in helping others. For example, one woman we've been working with, recently heard of a need for volunteers to sort clothes at Immaculate Conception parish. She not only came to help, she organized several of her neighbors into a volunteer team to join the work.

How many people or families does the agency work with at one time?

Right now, we are working with 200 different individuals or families.

How did you happen to get into the "out-reach" work?

I was assigned to the Hanover House program eight years ago, still spend part of my time there, and the rest in the Immaculate Conception area.

This has always been my concept of social work—you spend as much time as possible with the people you are working



John Rice and Robert Curran pause at Plymouth Circle in the area in which Rice works.

with you get to be part of the neighborhood picture. I find my greatest satisfaction in this.

Has the "out-reach" program helped underline the concern of the Catholic Church for inner-city residents?

Yes, I feel that the people of the inner-city are more aware of the concern of the Church in general, because of the Out-Reach program.