

Charlotte Group Takes the Lead

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Now, there is a National antirulance stationed north of Kodak Park at all times and many senior citizens of the area are now members of Charlotte Senior Citizens, meeting once a month from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The senior citizens, says Mrs. Reynders, are of a generation that respected, and, therefore, did not question, authority. They kept to themselves, their own family, their own church.

"The whole thrust of the project is to break down barriers," the young woman continued, "to show the seniors they do have a responsibility for their neighborhood, they are able to make themselves heard and they are not useless."

"This group gives them courage. They are working with and for each other. And with confidence they begin using the agencies set up to help them."

At the very first organizational meeting held for the senior citizens, recalls Harriet Leister, another Human Development Committee member, the seniors established their own priorities — community problems, improved transportation and recreation.

Sister Judith Reger, SSI, Office of Human Development staff member who keeps an eye on needs of elderly in the diocese, says Charlotte Senior Citizens is among the few senior citizen neighborhood organizations that is more than social group.

The community problem they have spent most their time on is housing. They have been hearing reports from, and giving input to Urban Development Corporation staff on the two towers being built to house senior citizens.

But short term concerns have cropped up demanding immediate attention of not only the Charlotte Senior Citizens but the whole Charlotte Human Development Committee.

First was the oil tank dispute, finally won by the citizens who worked hard to research the harm the tanks would bring to the community before making protests.

Then, came the battle against Lake Ontario that is damaging many area homes. They plan to adopt and help one of the families hurt by the flooding.

In Charlotte, neighborhood organizing is an ecumenical



Helen Bauman, president of Charlotte Senior Citizens, during last week's business meeting, announced special rates offered to seniors by restaurants and baseball leagues, as well as the public hearing on the rezoning of Boxart St.

venture, motivated by Christian concern, says Mrs. Reynders.

CHDC acts as a resource center for area interests. It is a clearing house for information on social agency programs. It is a safeguard against anything happening in the community until residents have a say in it.



Attend Conference

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and Auxiliary Bishops Dennis W. Hickey and John E. McCafferty are attending the regional meeting of the United States Bishops this week in Syracuse. Christian Marriage and Family Life, Youth and the Church,

and the Supreme Court Decision on Abortion are some of the topics. It marks the first time the U.S. bishops split up in regions for their Spring meeting.

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