

CHD — Self-Help in the Grass Roots

By Carmen J. Viglucchi

The Judicial Process Commission — Neighborhood Action Project.

The Cayuga County Action Program.

The Meadows Community Corporation of Livingston County.

The Community Food Bank of the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry.

The Spanish Action Coalition of Rochester.

These are some of the agencies which received 1982 local grants from the Campaign for Human Development. And they are just a few of the many self-help organizations which have received monetary assistance from the campaign since it was initiated in 1969. This year's collection will take place this weekend.

Among the criteria for qualifying for CHD assistance are that the project must benefit a poverty group; members of the group must have the dominant voice in the project; funding is not considered for projects that can be funded by monies available from the private or public sectors unless applicants document that they are unable to obtain funds from these sources, and the project activity for which funding is requested must conform to the moral teachings of the Catholic Church.

To understand how the CHD works, two of the 1982 groups which received funding stand as examples.

The Spanish Action Coalition received a local

grant of \$30,000 "to improve the quality of education, housing and economic opportunity within the Hispanic community."

How does that translate into everyday activity? To begin with, without the grant the Spanish Action Coalition would be merely a paper organization. The organization was formed in 1978 "but really did not come into formal existence until last Fall because of the CHD grant," said Luz Martinez, its executive director.

SAC works in four areas — housing, education, economic development and voter registration.

As for housing, "We are working with the Fair Rental Coalition," Ms. Martinez said. "That is a group of agencies which organize tenants. We look at what benefits are available for subsidizing rents which are escalating, make references to service agencies to find housing and work to advocate lower rents and housing for the poor."

Right now the SAC's education program revolves about forming parent groups in the schools. Ms. Martinez said that ten percent of the school population in Rochester is Spanish, which forms the fastest growing minority.

"Our parents voiced the concern that they felt ostracized because of language bias — that they did not have input at parents' meetings — so they just stopped going."

As for economic development, to get federal and state monies channeled to major areas of need, "We work to get a fair share of aid

available," the executive director said. "We are forming a research committee to study all possibilities. This is strictly a voluntary undertaking and has a long way to go — we have to change systems and thinking."

An important part of the improvement of life in the Hispanic community has come through voter registration. "We are convincing people that votes have power. We successfully recruited 500 new Spanish voters and hope to get more this year."

In line with this, SAC has managed to include voter sign-ups and information, etc., in Spanish.

Basically, these are the skin and bones activity of SAC. It works in such other areas as developing media sensitivity and in sponsoring workshops to train Hispanics in a variety of endeavors.

But as Ms. Martinez noted, without the CHD grant, SAC would be struggling for birth.

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Another of the groups aided by the CHD in 1982 is the Neighborhood Action Project, a project initiated by the Judicial Process Commission. It received a grant of \$1,286.

The Judicial Process Commission was established in 1971 under the auspices of the Genesee Ecumenical Council. It furthers educative and advocacy programs around the issues of criminal justice. It has its roots in the race riots in Rochester in the 1960s and widened its involvement into prison conditions as a result of the 1970s Attica Prison riots which coincided with the JPC founding.

The Rev. Virginia Mackey, an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, is the JPC consultant to the Neighborhood Action Project.

NAP, according to a board member Willa Prince, was formed to participate in a given neighborhood, which is the Marketview Heights area in the southwest area of Rochester.

Ms. Prince became involved when as a representative of the New Bethel Church she attended an educational meeting on the project sponsored by JPC.

"The Lewis Street Center," Ms. Prince said, "is the center for all such groups in that area, including NAP."

One of the main projects of NAP is a Hot Line established to address issues concerning youths — "problems with crime, family conflicts, school," said Ms. Prince. The line operates seven days a week, "from noon to 11 p.m. by the center with NAP volunteers on board from 5 on," she said.

The main concern is to help families handle their own problems, by talking them out, or through referrals to agencies active at the center.

Ms. Mackey said, "It works to keep cases out of court — it is an alternative to incarceration. And what is very

important, through such work we can document the kinds of problems this neighborhood faces so as to study the causes of crime."

Ms. Mackey pointed out that similar neighborhoods in other cities often study such programs for adaptation.

As for the hot line, Ms. Prince said that the police cooperate with the program by making referrals. "But the big thing is that we have change the way people think about crime — most crimes result from people who need help."

But she is quick to point that NAP is not only concerned for those in trouble but

also for those are victims of crime: "We want to establish outreach programs to those victimized as well as those arrested."

One of the aims of NAP is to get all people involved in its activities. "It is better to join our activities and work to fight crime than it is to stay holed up behind locked doors in fear."

The program also will be studying the causes of crime. "The area is statistically the highest crime rate in the city," Ms. Prince said, "but a closer look reveals that a third of the crimes take place in a 1,000-foot neighborhood on North Street" where a certain bar is the center of activity.

NAP also is concerned about unemployment, hunger and housing as they relate to crime. As of the present, Ms. Prince said NAP is concerned with three main areas — 1. the hot line, 2. family crisis intervention and 3. learning about existing recreation facilities for young people to develop more creative and effective programs.

To these ends, a project organizer, Dexter Martinez, has been hired. This was made possible through funding efforts by JPC and the Lewis Street Center.

And, through the Campaign for Human Development, Catholics throughout the diocese also played a part.



FATHER MOTTET

CHD Chief Explains Diocese as 'Target'

By John Dash

"The poor are evangelizing the universal Church," Father Marvin Mottet said last week. The poor, he said, "are calling us to a greater faithfulness to the Gospel, and a greater sense of urgency and to a greater sense of justice."

And it is that activity which is shaping the Campaign for Human Development's new program, Target 83.

Father Mottet, executive director of the national CHD, was in Rochester this week, preaching at St. Margaret Mary Church, and watching Target 83 in action here.

The targeting program, he said in an interview, developed over the course of the past couple of years.

"Even though we were staying alive (in CHD collections around the country), inflation was killing us," he said. The national office called in a number of people to devise a program to remedy that situation and targeting was born.

Among the objectives of targeting was to encourage "parishioners to give more of themselves," to broaden the local campaigns' scope from collecting money to a broader educational effort.

"So the educational thing got bigger," he said, "from

raising money to education, to informing parishioners. We are proving that the more people know the more they give."

Once the design was in place, he said, national CHD selected a few dioceses for its targets. In 1982, there were 25 dioceses in the Target 82 program. The average funding increase was 50 percent. The Diocese of Rochester is among 47 dioceses in Target 83.

A further advantage of the targeting program, he said, is that "we're operating on the basis of Church social teaching and we're on good ground."

A major effect is the development of solidarity between parishes, and between parishes and funded groups, Father Mottet said.

The model for the target program, he said, involves "a good word from the pulpit." Such a word can come from the pastor, but it also can come from such diverse sectors as people from diocesan committees, priests from the inner city, and from the funded groups.

The last is the most important, Father Mottet feels. "Get the funded groups to come in. We train the funded groups to speak to the parishes. We train the parishes on how to host such groups."

What the funded group speakers do is "tell their life story. The people in the parish can identify with that, no guilt trip, no sociology. I'm Joe Soandso, and now this is the difference CHD has made in my family, in my life, neighborhood and parish."

Father Mottet said such action on the part of CHD "puts the Church on the side of the poor who are suffering."

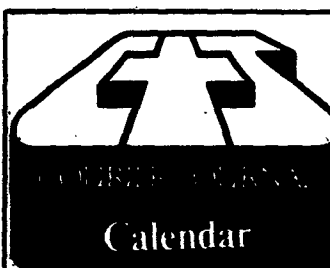
The second technique used by the targeting program is the development of bulletin inserts, explaining the work of CHD, "and that's been very effective," he said.

The priest noted that the diocese produces its own bulletin inserts. The national office also has inserts available to pastors.

The upshot of all is not only an increase in funds, Father Mottet said, but also the movement of "the whole justice agenda to center stage in a parish's life," the generation of parish communities which know a "solidarity" with the poor.

Father Mottet cited a Latin American archbishop who said that once one makes an "option" on behalf of the poor, one experiences two things: suffering, the cross; and renewal.

And, that, Father Mottet said, is what it's all about.



Calendar

SHOW AND SALE — Sponsored by the Genesee Valley Bottle Collectors' Association, Sunday, April 24, Minett Hall, Monroe County Fairgrounds, Rt. 15A, Rochester.

KILBOURN HALL — Collegium Musicum, Paul O'Dette, director, 8 p.m., Thursday, April 12, free.

EASTMAN THEATRE — Eastman Jazz Ensemble and New Jazz Ensemble, 8 p.m. Friday, April 22; Eastman School, Symphony Orchestra, David Effron, conductor, music of Mahler and Haydn, 8 p.m., Monday, April 25; all events free.

CHILDREN'S MINI SERIES — "Musical Tales Captured in Time," suggested for ages 4-10, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., Saturday, April 23, Nazareth College Arts Center. Tickets \$1, on sale one hour before each performance.

CONVOCATION — The 1983 Civic Medal will be awarded to Richard H. Eisenhart at the 44th annual RMSC's Convocation, 8:15

p.m., Monday, April 25, Eisenhart Auditorium.

LECTURE — "The Invasion of Canada (1812-13)" by Canadian author and broadcaster Pierre Berton, 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 27, Eisenhart Auditorium, Rochester Museum and Science Center. Admission \$5 (RMSC members \$4.50).

CLASSIC FILM SERIES — "Rose Marie" starring Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy, 2 and 8 p.m., Tuesday, April 26, Eisenhart Auditorium, Rochester Museum and Science Center. Free with museum admission.

SENIOR MATINEE — "Oh, You Beautiful Doll," starring June Haver, S.Z. Sakall, 1:30 p.m., Thursday, April 21, George Eastman House.

NFP INFORMATIONAL — Session, sponsored by Natural Family Planning Education of Rochester, 7:30-9 p.m., Monday, May 2, Kearney Bldg., St. Mary's Hospital.

GALA — Irish Children's Program Benefit, 7:00 p.m., Saturday, May 7, at Mother of Sorrows Church, corner of Latta Road and Mt. Read Boulevard. Tickets are \$17.50 per person and can be obtained by contacting Mrs. Diane Schlueter at 225-4718.