

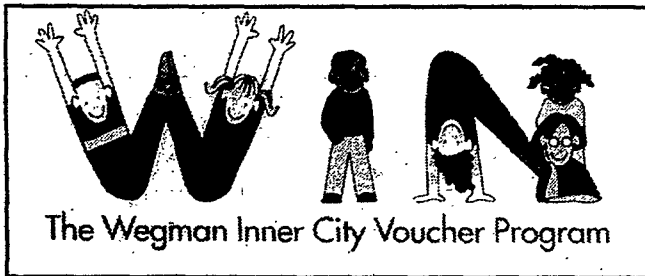
# Wegmans give schools \$25M

By Lee Strong  
Senior staff writer

ROCHESTER — Robert and Peggy Wegman believe their lives were enriched by the education they received in Catholic schools — he at St. Thomas the Apostle School and Aquinas Institute; and she at Blessed Sacrament School at Our Lady of Mercy High School.

"I've been so appreciative of the education I received, that when I had the opportunity to help the children from the inner city, I thought the best thing I could do for the children was to give them the same opportunity I had," observed Robert Wegman, chairman and chief executive officer of Wegmans Food Markets, Inc. "I don't know any way I could use my money any better."

The latest manifestation of the Wegmans' desire to aid



Catholic education in the inner city was the Aug. 22 announcement that they were donating \$25 million for inner-city students over the next decade. The gift — which diocesan officials said is possibly the largest ever made to U.S. Catholic elementary schools — will help students from low- and moderate-income families to attend six

Catholic schools in Rochester's inner city, and graduates of those schools to attend Catholic junior high schools.

The Wegmans joined Bishop Matthew H. Clark; Timothy Dwyer, superintendent of Catholic schools; the principals of the six affected schools; and parents and students of those schools for an Aug. 22 press conference at Holy Rosary School. Together they announced details of the the Wegman Inner City (WIN) Voucher Program, which will go into effect immediately.

The WIN Program will expand the Wegman Early Education Program — also known as the WEE Program — to encompass students in kindergarten through grade six and those moving on to Catholic junior high programs. WEE, had only covered preschool programs.

In addition, diocesan officials hope eventually to ex-  
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# Catholic Courier

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## Rochester diocese was front-runner in efforts to assist rural, urban poor

By Mike Latona, Staff Writer

For many parts of the country, the Campaign for Human Development signaled a landmark call to action.

Yet no such prompting was necessary in the Diocese of Rochester.

By the time CHD was established in 1970, this diocese was already well underway in forming a plan to address concerns for the rural and urban poor.

"I remember the national office saying, 'You have more staff people than we do,'" recalled Father George Wiant, pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Victor.

The diocesan Office of Human Concern had already begun back in 1967 under then-Bishop Fulton J. Sheen. This office consisted of two apostolates — an Urban Ministry and a rural effort known as the Secular Mission.

Renamed the Office of Human Development in 1970 under Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, this effort pooled grant money along with the work of priests, women religious and lay workers in helping the poor create a better life for themselves.

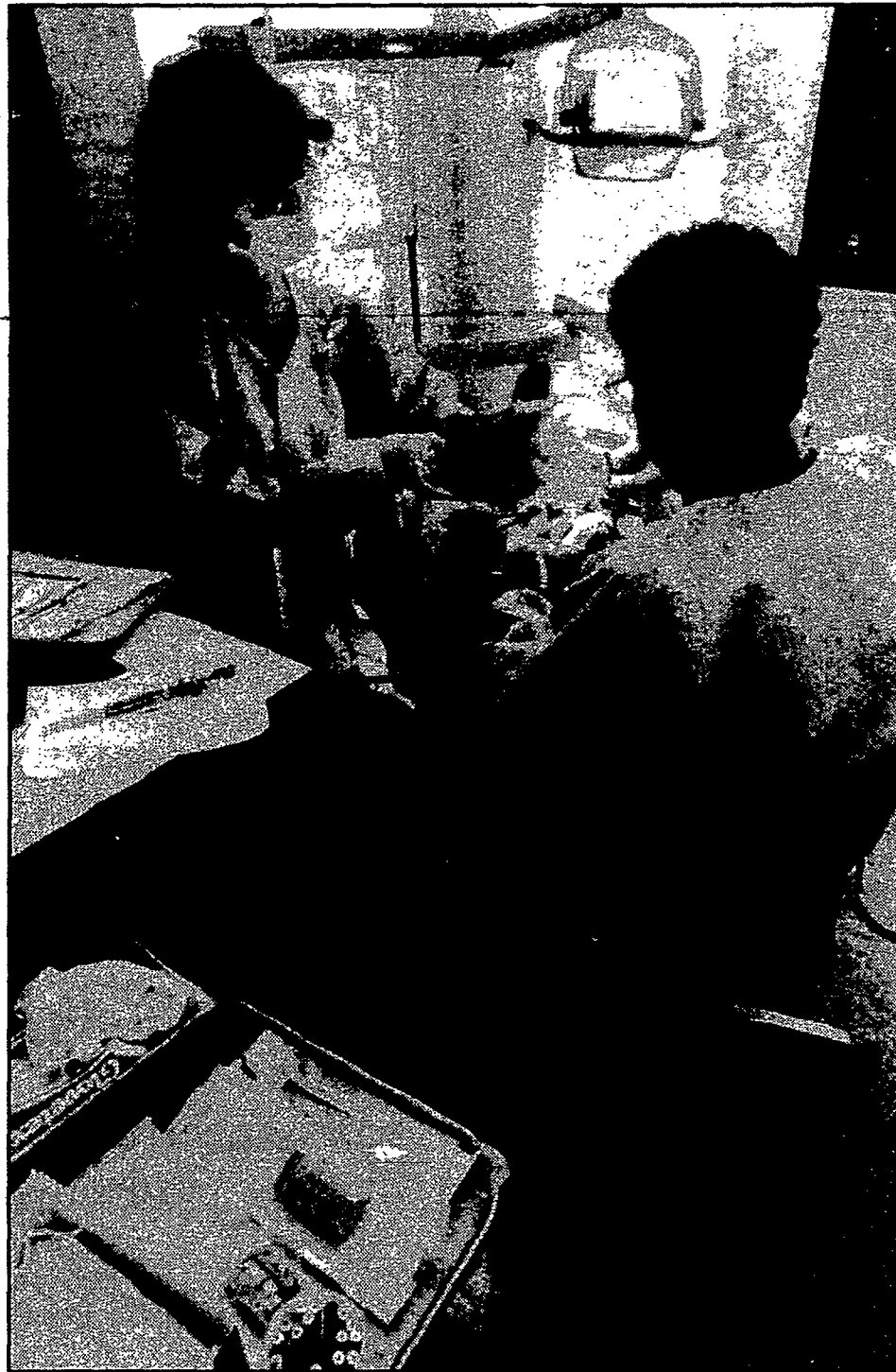
Father Wiant began working for the Office of Human Development in 1971 as a coordinator for migrant-worker relief efforts in Wayne County.

"We were right at the cutting edge," Father Wiant said. "We had staff people in the fields and were able to make on-site evaluations from the very beginning."

Father Charles F. Mulligan, who became the Office of Human Development's director in 1971, noted that despite the grants, this was not strictly a handout system.

"It recognized that people with economic problems have an initiative at the grassroots level. And frequently, a little help can go a long way if you can tie into that initiative," said Father Mulligan, currently co-pastor of St. Michael's Church in Penn Yan.

Indeed, the past 25 years have been marked by a large number of success stories that profited from the "self-help" philosophy of empowerment. One such example is the Rushville Clinic, which in 1970 was a fledgling Office of Human Development-aided operation offering medical and dental assistance to migrants and rural poor in the Yates County area. Bishop Sheen signed a purchase deed for the build-



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Dental hygienist Terri Mueller (left) and Dr. Tony Mendicino work on filling a patient's cavity at the Rushville Health Center. The facility was one of the first to benefit from what was then the diocesan Office of Human Development.

ing in November of 1969.

Today, the facility is known as the Rushville Health Center and has an operating budget in excess of \$2 million, as opposed to \$6,000 in 1970.

Its founding occurred just prior to the renaming of the Office of Human Concern to the Office of Human De-

velopment in November of 1970.

"It was amazing what had already been established," said Father John J. Hempel, who served as director during that transition. "(Bishop) Sheen never got a lot of credit for the things he did in the areas of social justice."

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## CHD adapted to meet needs over 25 years

By Patricia Zapor  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The Campaign for Human Development continues to be successful in accomplishing its goals, shifting its emphasis to keep up with changing times, according to a study sponsored by The Catholic University of America.

CHD-funded projects have helped poor people to change laws and policies in government, banking, business and industry, and generated billions of dollars worth of resources for underprivileged communities, said the report released earlier this year.

"Poor empowerment groups enable the poor to work for middle-class goals, such as safe streets, decent housing, good schools and affordable health care," said the executive summary of the report, written by Catholic University sociology professor John D. McCarthy and independent researcher Jim Castelli.

CHD is the U.S. Catholic bishops' domestic anti-poverty program established in 1970 in response to calls for a church-led crusade against poverty. The organization will celebrate its 25th anniversary at a conference in Chicago Aug. 25-28.

Although CHD is largely commended for the work it has performed during the last quarter century, the anti-poverty program is not without its critics.

For several years the program has come under fire from a charity watchdog group, Capital Research Center, for supporting "liberal advocacy groups" and employing what it sees as an outdated philosophy of creating social change by helping the poor help themselves.

In response to such criticisms, McCarthy and Castelli decided to analyze just who receives funds from CHD, how the funds are spent and who benefits.

They cited a "radical disconnection" between public debate about the causes and solutions to poverty and the reality of "widespread collective efforts of citizens in poor communities to work together to act upon the poverty they confront per-

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