

Jewish Family Services

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HERE

Up and Coming...

Jewish Family Services has established four task force groups to explore needs within the Jewish community. The outcome will be recommendations for future steps to be taken to ensure that certain segments of our community are included. These task forces include groups for the physically disabled, interfaith couples, singles, and those who are pained by substance abuse in their family. If anyone wants to volunteer to be included in one of these groups, please contact Adrienne Rosenberg, 366-5007.

WTVI To Broadcast Two Programs On Poverty

Two WTVI/42 productions, both to be broadcast on Wednesday, Jan. 17, will examine the poverty issue in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

Airing at 9:30 p.m., FALLING ON HARD TIMES, part of the FYI series of programs, reviews the services Mecklenburg County makes available to the poor. The 30-minute special will feature a young mother who depends on Aid for Dependent Children for support, an elderly woman on Medicaid, and a working mother with three children.

Also scheduled to appear in the program are Ed Chapin, department of social services; Phyllis Lynch, executive director of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council; Caroline Myers, director of the

Crisis Assistance Ministries; and Marie Shook, assistant county manager for human services.

At 10 p.m., MECKLENBURG ON-LINE, moderated by Al Pruitt, will feature County Manager Gerald Fox; Ed Chapin, director of the department of social services; and Dr. Warren Nance, director of the United Way's Information and Referral Service, all of whom will also discuss the poverty issue in the county. The 60-minute program will be broadcast live, giving viewers the opportunity to phone-in their questions at 704/372-2442.

MECKLENBURG ON-LINE airs quarterly on WTVI/42 and is directed by Stuart Grasberg.

Thoughts From Adrienne

By Adrienne Rosenberg
JFS Director

In March of this past year, I wrote my monthly article on the fact that we all needed to recognize that living under one roof at Shalom Park would take on ebbs and flows as we adjusted. To quote three paragraphs in that article I stated as follows:

"Social Service and counseling agencies frequently work with the blended family today. This is a family that involves the marriage of two persons who already have children — his and hers. On paper it may seem to be a good idea; in reality it takes time for all the family members to adjust to each other. So it will be, too, when the entire Jewish community components will be blended under one roof.

"As members of the community, we must remember that the expressions 'Rome wasn't built in a day' and 'No pain, no gain' are applicable. None of us should be naive enough to assume that now being housed in one facility will conquer all; it will only be through effort, the process of living through the traditional period, and understanding that it will take two years before all is 'normal', that Shalom Park will be successful.

"Personally, I am excited about being in Charlotte at this time in the life of the community. But, we must not assume it will be easy for everyone, or that everyone shares my excitement. Some people will turn on to being part of a campus Jewish Center; others will back away. But, none of us should want to change the process or the questioning of reasons or the strong feelings that will occur. For if we halt the process, Charlotte's Jewish community will not grow to its fullest potential."

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Ten months later, it is apparent that the impact of Shalom Park has not only caused stress and adjustment for the temples, agencies, institutions and organizations, but has also strongly impacted on the members of the Jewish community itself. There are those who have found the presence of Shalom Park an opportunity and have pleasantly found their "dreams" realized for everything Jewish under one roof. There are others who feel they would like to partake as a Jewish person in all Shalom Park offers as well as be part of a temple or synagogue but feel in a very short time "being Jewish is getting to be expensive." And there are others, especially those who may have moved from larger communities, who found that there is pressure to live in a

small community where every member counts and is invited to participate and to pay the cost of joining both financially and emotionally.

All three of the above groupings have strong feelings about Shalom Park and what it represents to them emotionally. All three are "right." And all three groups need to be listened to and responded to by the major Foundation institutions. Hopefully, a balance can be achieved for all three groups whereby no one is turned off or away. The planning and opening of buildings was one phase for this community; the actual making it possible for every Jew to participate is a harder task.



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Caring Community Committee

Temple Beth El V'Shalom

Wed., Jan. 7

7:30 p.m.

Please come.....

- If you have dealt with divorce, death, family crisis, hospitalization, long term illness and can help someone else.....
- If you know these problems exist and want to help...
- If you can answer or make phone calls...
- If you can shop for someone else...
- If you want to give a little time...
- If you want to be involved with our caring community...
- If you want to share in this mitzvah, please attend the meeting.
- If you can not attend, but would like to participate, please call volunteer coordinator Jane MacEntee, 332-6925 or the Temple, 366-1948.

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