

# Volunteers: An Important Part Of The Community

By Jon Zillioux

In a society such as ours, there tends to be the belief — and with good reason — that everything that is accomplished is simply the result of monetary incentive; in other words, money makes the world go 'round, so to speak.

Well, this is definitely true: people have to perform services in exchange for money, how else could one survive?

But there's always the flip side of a coin, and in this case, the flip side to the monetary incentive is the volunteer incentive, or personal satisfaction. Both, I think, are equally important.

Look at everything around us that is the result of people volunteering their time and energy into accomplishing something for the betterment of others. Practically every church in this country is composed of various committees whose tasks are accomplished entirely through the aid of volunteers. There are committees which work to improve its particular church, others which raise money to aid the needy. All sorts of committees are doing this and that in order to improve their (and others') condition.

There's a lot of this going on just within the Brevard area. Probably the leading volunteer organization in the county, if not all of Western North Carolina, is the Transylvania County Ministries' Sharing House, which is located across Caldwell Street from the Methodist Church.

The Sharing House is an institution founded and operated solely (with the exception of its leader, Rev. Joe Henry) upon volunteers. This organization is made up of a large network of receptionists, counselors, clothing and food distribution managers, all of whom are working together for those who need help in Transylvania County.

The Sharing House is helping a great many people, people whose condition would be worse if it were not for the efforts of these volunteers.

You may decide to stop in the Sharing House and have a look around; you'd be surprised how busy those volunteers are, and how much they're accomplishing.

Most of Brevard College's organizations are volunteer oriented. These organizations consist of many students and faculty who devote some of their time towards that organization's particular goals.

The CLARION itself is wholly the product of volunteers. The paper's advisor, Mr. Chamlee, gives of his time, and I and my staffers give of ours in order to produce a newspaper which is, hopefully, informative and entertaining.

The CLARION contributes to the college, as does the PERTELOTE, the Student Government Association, Kappa Chi, and practically every other campus organization. These organizations are important to the overall composition of BC as a good school, and that makes its volunteers important, too.

Every person owes something of his time, energy, and talents to the community in which he lives, whether it be a staffer for the CLARION, a club member of Kappa Chi, or a volunteer fireman in a local fire department.

There's an old saying that a person should leave a place (or condition) better off than he found it; I think this makes good sense. Volunteers, I believe, accomplish just that. Perhaps a person who doesn't give of himself is merely cheating himself, and others, in the long run.



Transylvania County's Sharing House, located on Caldwell Street behind the Methodist Church, is itself an establishment run almost entirely by volunteers working to help the needy.

## Handling Housing Hassles

By Jeff Shore

Brevard College is beginning to understand a problem that most other schools across the country have dealt with for many years: the lack of student housing. While other institutions have been forced to go to lottery systems that put unlucky students on their own in finding housing off-campus, Brevard has avoided this problem over the years by staying within its capacities to adequately house the student body. But this year the administration found itself with what appeared as a shortage of housing in mid-summer due to the decision to increase enrollment. By reshuffling the dorms, building the New Complex, and having students drop during the summer, the administration can take a deep breath for they were able to squeeze everyone onto the campus. Even so, several questions remain: Has Brevard overextended itself this year in housing? Has the school reached its maximum student capacity? By having what administration terms as the "perfect system" in housing procedures, it has fortunately avoided overextension. But what the system will not solve is the fact that no more students can be given a bed on Brevard's campus.

Several alternatives are available in helping to alleviate the situation, none of which are inexpensive or easily acceptable. Perhaps the easiest but toughest solution would be for the college to reevaluate their priorities in who receives housing. At the top of the list in this case would be the policy of giving space to students who decide to return for a fifth semester and to local residents in and around the Brevard area.

Brevard is unique in the fact that it allows students the opportunity to return for a fifth semester.

Ordinarily a fifth-semester student would occupy a room for only one semester only to leave school officials with the job of filling the vacancy before the beginning of the spring term. A policy change in this prospective would not discourage the continuance of admitting students for a fifth semester but would increase the chances that rooms could be filled year round and that students will not be turned down by the admissions office because of a lack of housing.

It is interesting to note that while approximately 89% of the total enrollment lives on campus, this number is particularly deceiving since it does not give a total picture of the students from the area on campus. Many local residents live within walking distance of the college but elect to reside on campus for reasons of their own. While area residents should not be discriminated against in their desire to attend Brevard, they represent one of the clearest but understandably hardest routes to make more rooms available.

A second alternative is a need for more involvement from administration. Along with the admissions, ceremonies, leaves and grants, tenure, athletics, academic standards, and continuation committees, it seems the time has come for yet another committee, housing. At present no formal committee exists on the matter but is handled instead through the various administrative offices. By expanding participation in planning and procedures of housing, faculty, students, and the community input could be included in meeting the needs of the college whether they be short or long term goals. Involvement from a housing committee could possibly allow a closer evaluation to take place not only during the summer months but year round.

The last alternative is certainly the most logical way to solve the problem, but upon examination is the most expensive, time consuming, and tedious of all: the building of more housing. This is first time in over seven years that additional housing facilities have been added to the Brevard campus. The lapse of time has shown the college community through the building of the New Complex that this avenue to solving the problem requires careful planning in all respects. If the decision to add more facilities is under consideration, then now is the time to begin if Brevard College wishes to continue its growth and expansion as experienced this year. Regardless of what steps are taken, the situation deserves full attention before another school year passes by.

The CLARION is now accepting letters to the editor.

Letters will not be considered for publication in the CLARION unless they are neatly handwritten and double-spaced, or typed.

The CLARION reserves the right to edit letters to the editor.

Please submit copy to either Mr. Chamlee (M-G 130) or Jon Zillioux (campus box 80).

### The Clarion

September 17, 1982

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