



Photo by Art Richardson

## Help, Please

### *'Only A Drop In The Bucket'*

# Housing Authority's Juanita Hills Begun

Work on the 140-unit Juanita Hills housing project was officially begun Wednesday, November 24, when Congressman L. Richardson Preyer of the Sixth District assisted High Point Housing Authority chairman F. Curtis Morehead in groundbreaking ceremonies.

Juanita Hills will consist of one- to five-bedroom units for low-income families. There will be some single-family dwellings, some triplex (three-family) dwellings, and even some four-family buildings on the 33½-acre site on W. Burton Street. A multi-purpose community building will also be erected.

Construction is expected to last approximately 15 months. The target date for completion is February 18, 1973, with some families occupying homes before then.

Contractors for the current project are Allred and Mercer Architects, Inc.;

H. L. Coble Construction Company of Greensboro, who also built J. C. Morgan Courts; Lofin Plumbing and Heating of Jamestown; Purcell Supply Company; and Overcash Electrical Company of Mooresville.

Although Juanita Hills, named for the unpaved Juanita Street which runs through it, is not located within the Model Neighborhood, many of its future residents will come from that area.

To date, there are 1,700 families on the Housing Authority's waiting list, according to its director, Don Hubbard. Of those, a considerable number are Model Neighborhood residents, he said.

There are 810 rental units now occupied under the auspices of the Housing Authority, while there are 150 home ownership units in the Turnkey 3 project. Even with the additional Juanita Hills homes, Hubbard said that the agency's low-income housing

## Model Cities-Working Together For Change

BY EMILY HEDRICK

Model Cities is people working with people for people for change. It came about in 1966 when the federal government realized that America's cities were in trouble.

There were slums, crime, unemployment — and no apparent solutions. With no remedies for its urban ills, Congress decided to experiment, to find some working methods to deal with the problems.

Out of this decision came a bill called the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Act of 1966 — and the birth of Model Cities.

The money, to be distributed among 150 cities throughout the country by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, was to be earmarked over a five-year period for the improvement of life in the worse slum areas in America.

Thus, "Model Cities" in name is a paradox: it is model, or ideal, in no sense of the word. And yet, in these designated areas is the potential for a thriving, healthy community.

It takes people, and dollars, working together to make these miracles happen. That is, in effect, the purpose of the 150 separate Model Cities Commissions.

With the cooperation of City Hall, Model Cities draws HUD funds into a community, plans for its use, attracts matching monies from other sources, and contracts agencies for its implementation.

Model Cities itself does not operate any program. Instead, it brings together agencies such as the local health department, social services department, colleges, and day care corporations to carry out its programs.

The programs are for people — particularly those people in need who live within the designated areas called Model Neighborhoods. Therefore, the programs are designed to cope with the acute and interrelated problems poor people have.

In High Point, there are 15,000 persons in the Model Neighborhood. The majority are black, below average in education level, and live in sub-standard houses.

Before Model Cities was born, their situations looked hopeless — poverty spawning poverty, unemployment perpetuating unemployment, in endless cycles.

With Model Cities, however, they are given a chance.

In its second year of operation, the High Point Model Cities Commission has undertaken some 23 projects to help in the change. They deal with every area of life from employment to culture, health to recreation, crime to housing.

Their goal is simple — to improve the standard of living of Model Neighborhood residents and the community at large.

Model Cities can do that only with the cooperation of the federal government; City Hall; and most important, the people themselves.

Citizen involvement is at the root of change, and of the Model Cities process.

The federal government, City Hall, and Model Cities don't have all the answers; but in working together with people they can make great strides.

provisions were "only a drop in the bucket" compared to the city's needs.

### CRUCIAL SETBACK

The Housing Authority underwent a crucial setback recently when their application for approximately 900 new units was turned down by the area office of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development because of lack of funds.

The projects delayed as a result were a 150-unit high rise project for the elderly on S. Elm Street; a 60-unit project planned for the corner of Leonard and Price Streets; and another 685 units already approved by City Council.

Hubbard said that the local housing authority was among many of the 170 similar agencies in North Carolina which were refused HUD funds at this time. In all, the area office had applications for 50,000 new units; only

2,800 new public housing units were authorized.

A new application will be drawn up, he went on, for the proposed building projects. It is hoped that HUD funds will be available for North Carolina in about six months.

Meanwhile, the waiting list of applicants for public low-rent housing in High Point is growing, and the turnover rate of families moving out of the existing units is only five to eight a month.

Rent on low-income housing, including the Juanita Hills homes, is based roughly on one-fifth of a family's net income for those with less than three minors; and about one-sixth of the net income for those with over three minors.

Applications to the housing may be made by going to the Housing Authority office in Astor Dowdy Towers on E. Green Drive.