WHAT'S A HAPPENING

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Model Cities Paving Way For Community Development

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In High Point, specifically, citizens have come together more than ever before to discuss problems such as housing, employment and health since the beginning of the local Model City

A 'First' In The State Day Care For Elderly Open

Mrs. Helen Spencer of 706 Tate Street has a "first" in her home.

Hers is the first day care center for the elderly not only in High Point, but in North Carolina.

Day care for the elderly is a project of Concentrated Social Services, a Model Cities agency. The idea grew out of a need to take care of older people during the day.

Many elderly persons, it was found, live with a married son or daughter and can take care of themselves to a certain extent. But they just need someone around to see that they eat properly, take their medicine, stay busy, and so forth.

In other cases, older people stay by themselves at night, but need some attention during the day.

All of these people are alert and are not bedridden; they simply need company and at least some part-time special care from an able-bodied adult.

When Mrs. Spencer read about the agency's proposed project in this newspaper, she called them and asked to be considered as an operator of such a center.

women begin to arrive. Their day ends around 4:30 p.m.

MONTHLY ALLOWANCE

For each of Mrs. Spencer's wards, she is paid a monthly allowance by Concentrated Social Services. Out of that she buys food for their snacks and noon meal, and materials for their handiwork, on which they spend many contented hours.

Mrs. Spencer's front bedroom is filled with potholders, pillows, slippers, aprons and other items the women have sewn. One important factor in the day care concept is to keep these older people busy and productive.

The happiest element in bringing these women together every day, however, is the comfort of having company, and not having to be alone.

"I told them one day that if they wanted to take a nap, there was plenty of room and maybe it would refresh them," said Mrs. Spencer. "And do you know what? They all said no, they wanted to stay up, might miss something!