

SCHOOL VOLUNTEERISM

...a key to your community's future...

by Connee Brayboy
Volunteers have consistently provided essential services in local schools. The State Department of Public Instruction, through the enactment of the North Carolina Community Schools Act, provides a systematic process for implementing school volunteer programs. The Adopt-a-School Program, sponsored by the State Board of Education, in cooperation with the Governor's Office of Citizen Affairs, provides additional support to school volunteerism. Through strong support at the state, regional and local levels, resources are being mobilized to provide the assistance and leadership needed to help volunteers enrich educational experiences for students throughout North Carolina.

One of the most effective volunteer programs is under the direction of the Robeson County School System. It is headed by Archie Oxendine under the title of the Community Schools Program.

On Monday, May 24, more than 200 people gathered at the Red Carpet Inn in Lumberton for a luncheon which honored volunteers in the Robeson County School System. The welcome and introduction was given by Archie Oxendine. Special entertainment was provided by the Pembroke Homemakers Club, Lucy Locklear president. The Kitchen Band of the club thrilled the audience with their renditions of such songs as "Seeing Nellie Home." They accompanied themselves

on various kitchen instruments such as a brown jug, wash board, sifter, etc. The invocation was given by Rev. Frank Bowers, pastor of Parkton Baptist Church. The buffet luncheon was followed by entertainment by Earlie B. Maynor and Willoughby Jones who perform as a part of the Pembroke Homemakers Club. Mr. Jones, 83 years old, introduced their first number, "Better Day After Awhile."

The Pembroke Homemakers Club has performed for more than 3000 students in the Robeson County School System.

Purnell Swett, Superintendent of the Robeson County Schools, spoke to the group on "School Volunteers: Investors in a Brighter Future."

Beth Andrew, Volunteer Specialist for Region 4, presented t-shirts to the persons who had contributed at least 50 hours of service to the county schools. They were Harold Jacobs, Prospect; Douglas Locklear, 105 hours to Deep Branch) JoAnn Dial, 80 hours to Deep Branch; Linda Jacobs, 90 hours, Shirley Alford, 70 hours, and Barbara Melvin, 70 hours to Rex Rennett; Teresa Lowry, 125 hours and Doris Brewington, 55 hours to Union Elementary.

Those at Parkton included Betty Ivey, 885 hours; Annie McDiarmid, 190 hours; and Gloria McVickers, 90 hours. James Fuller Locklear, 80 hours and Carlton Hunt, 150 hours, were honored from Piney Grove. Union Chapel's volunteers were Rudy Locklear, 150 hours and Norma Scott, 55 hours. Oberon Lowry volunteered 120 hours to Pembroke Senior High and Eddie Smith contributed 80 hours to Southside. South Robeson's volunteers were Janice Marie Locklear who contributed 95 hours and Mary Helen Locklear who had 1260 hours.

Others awarded t-shirts included Jessie B. Chavis, 60 hours, Joseph Smith, Kent Williams, James Williamson, Durham Barnes, and Connee Brayboy. Donald Bonner, assistant superintendent, presented Certificates of Appreciation to those agencies who adopted the entire school system: Jo Ann Locklear of the office of the Clerk of Superior Court; Commander Bobby Dean Locklear for VFW Post 2843; Tom Long of Acme Electric Corp.; Geneva Parnell of the Parkton Garden Club; John L. Locklear, Jr. of Nationwide Insurance; Hubert Stone of the Robeson County Sheriff's Department; Ralph Johnson of the Mt. Airy Jaycees; Vernon Oxendine of the Pembroke Police Department; Joe Freeman the Register of Deeds; Mack Locklear of Mack's Construction; Felicia Turner of the PSU Performing Arts Center; Carolyn Rose Locklear of the Union Chapel Community Church Ladies Auxiliary Club; Shirley Moore of the Prospect Fire Department Auxiliary Club; Robert H. Hughes of the 16th District Court Counselors; Rev. Frank Bowers of Parkton Baptist Church; Lucy Locklear of the Pembroke Homemakers Club;

Kathryn Vaughn of the Maxton Youth Development Organization; Lee A. Maynor of Maynor's Texaco; Connee Brayboy of the Carolina Indian Voice; and Charles Oxendine of the Union Civic Club.

Ruth D. Woods, director of the Title IV Indian Education Program, presented awards to Gloria McVickers of Parkton for traveling the longest distance; and Mary Helen Locklear for volunteering the most hours. She has contributed 1260 hours to South Robeson High. Said Ms. Woods, "That totals 32-40 hour work weeks."

T. Sgt. William P. Revels, volunteer, presented a framed Rockwell to Supt. Swett in appreciation of his efforts on behalf of children.

Several of the volunteers gave brief testimonies. Among them was Larry Revels who volunteered over 300 hours to Pembroke Junior High School. Said he, "This program is one of the best things that has happened to the local schools since the elimination of double voting."

ALL PHOTOS TAKEN BY MARCIA LOCKLEAR HUNT



The audience thrilled to the sound of the Kitchen Band of the Pembroke Homemakers Club. These ladies have performed for over 3000 school students. Said one observer

SCHOOL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS BENEFIT EVERYONE

"This has been the most sensational entertainment I've ever seen."



Joann Locklear, representing the Robeson County Clerk of Superior Court's office, receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Donald A. Bonner, assistant superintendent, as Newman Oxendine looks on. Mr. Bonner presented these certificates to every agency who had adopted the entire school system. [Photo by Marcia Locklear Hunt]



Harold Jacobs, school volunteer, gives a word of testimony. Jacobs contributed 52 hours to Prospect School. [A Marcia Locklear Hunt photo]



James McEachin, school volunteer, tells what the program means to him and the students of his area. McEachin has served as president of the local PTA in Maxton for two years. [A Marcia Locklear Hunt photo]



Ruth D. Woods, director of Title IV Indian Education, left, is shown with Mary Helen Locklear. Ms. Locklear holds the distinct honor of most hours contributed to a school. She volunteered 1260 hours to South Robeson High School. [A Marcia Locklear Hunt photo]



T. Sgt. William P. Revels, right, school volunteer who brings history to the classroom by sharing his experiences at Pearl Harbor, is shown making a presentation to Superintendent Purnell Swett. [A Marcia Locklear Hunt photo]



Larry Revels, volunteer expounds on the program.



Norma Scott, school volunteer, explains the reward for tutoring. "It comes from the smile on a student's face," she said. [A Marcia Locklear Hunt photo]



Earlie B. Maynor, right, and Willoughby Jones, are Lend a helping hand in your community. . . .

Adopt-A-School



Purnell Swett, Superintendent of the Robeson County School System, is shown addressing local school volunteers. [Marcia Locklear Hunt photo]

VOLUNTEERISM IS A VITAL ELEMENT OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The North Carolina Community Schools Act focuses on:

- citizen advisory councils
- increased use of public school facilities
- interagency involvement
- community needs and resources
- programs and activities for all ages
- increased communications between schools and the community
- UTILIZATION OF VOLUNTEERS TO ENHANCE THE K-12 AND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PROGRAM

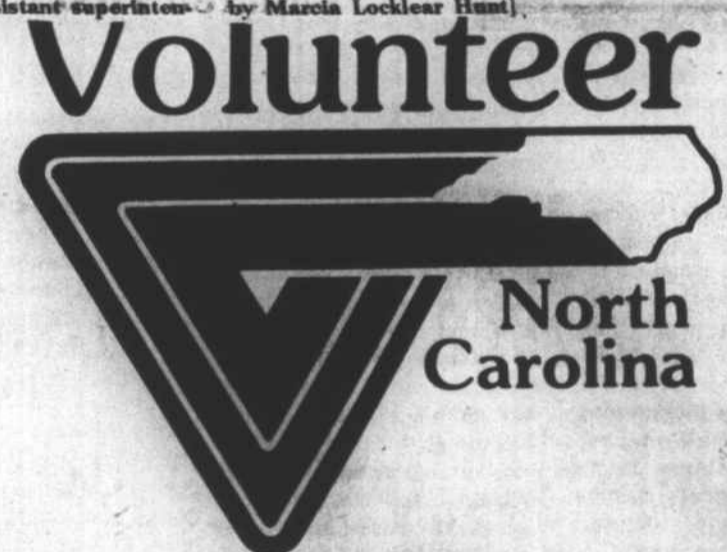
shown regaling the audience with duets on their harmonicas. Maynor also gave his testimony about the volunteer program. Said he, "It is one of the greatest things I have ever done in my life." [A Marcia Locklear Hunt photo]



These T-shirts were given to the volunteers who had contributed as many as 50 hours to the educational process. Every volunteer received a pin. The pin depicted the North Carolina Volunteer Symbol. [A Marcia Locklear Hunt photo]



Archie Oxendine, Director of the Robeson County Community Schools Program is shown addressing the group of volunteers. [A Marcia Locklear Hunt photo]



People serving people. People working without pay to give others the opportunity to achieve, to excel, to learn, to give, to receive, to live in dignity. People giving the most valued gifts of humankind—friendship and time—these are volunteers.

You can find them at every age, at any socio-economic level, in any color, religion or point on the political spectrum. They are performing thousands of needed deeds daily for individuals and just causes.

What they have in common is the belief that just one person can make a difference in this world, in this country, in this state. And they believe that one person can join another and another and another and, as the common pursuit builds, improve life for everyone.

Volunteers are a special kind of necessity in our society. They make up a human backbone to almost every endeavor. They cannot be bought or changed for any amount of money. Certainly, money is a necessity for change too, but money alone cannot alleviate loneliness, comfort a sick child, or compensate for the kind of humane expertise so many institutions depend upon from their volunteers.

To care about others gives meaning to life. And sharing that concern for others—through thoughtful action—brings enrichment to each individual involved.

To be a volunteer for any cause is not easy. It requires commitment and selflessness. But often apathy is the winner over conscience when one debates whether or not to get "involved." Some are too easily discouraged with the problems of society and merely mutter, "Why doesn't someone do something?"

Fortunately, North Carolina is blessed with people who care and who are doing something to effect change, improve the quality of life in the present and to keep our dreams alive for the future.

You, too, are needed as a volunteer!