

Close Up

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tend the LIFT program and continue their studies in classrooms housed in LIFT's offices in the Art-Is building on Seventh Street. Students receive credit for work done while enrolled in the LIFT program.

LIFT also provides one-on-one counseling for the youth in the project. Group counseling is also provided, allowing students time for gripe sessions to air their grievances and, Mrs. Parmon says, "just to let off a little steam."

The LIFT concept is designed to prevent and combat some alarming statistics concerning today's youth. For example:

- There are 68,956 young people under the age of 19 in Forsyth County, which has the highest rate of suicide among youth under 20 of any county in the state.

- During the 1984-85 school year, 1,704 middle school (sixth, seventh and eighth grade) students were suspended, and 80 students in middle school were excluded for the entire year.

- In 1985, 1,398 youth 17 years old and under were arrested and charged with crimes ranging from armed robbery to DWI (Driving While Impaired), and 305 young people arrested were under the age of 16.

The heart of LIFT's plan of action, Mrs. Parmon says, is to try and instill new feelings of self-worth in the youth.

"We want to try and change their attitudes just a little," she says. "We want to help them stand up and say, 'Hey, I do have some responsibilities, and it's up to me to effect changes.' We try to motivate them to think in terms of careers."

"We establish right from the

very beginning that we want them here and we want to know what they want LIFT to do. We let them know that we're not going to send the police or their probation officers looking for them. We don't judge any of them or what they've done. We just try to help."

LIFT is still growing, Mrs.

UL: Following in 'father's' footsteps

By CHERYL WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

The Winston-Salem Urban League is following in its father organization's footsteps by emphasizing education and the problem of teen pregnancy.

These same issues were stressed in July during the National Urban League's convention in San Francisco.

The two issues are related, said local League President Thomas J. Elijah Jr., who attended the convention.

"The educational process, particularly for black kids, and teen pregnancy are two of the things that are going to impact on our total society," he said. "We are creating fast an underclass of people who lack education -- mainly quality education."

"If you don't get an education and you can't read or write, then you suffer economically," Elijah said. "As a result of not getting a job, you will fall into the cracks. And I think this has an impact on teen pregnancy."

"Babies raising babies is not the way it is. It's not a bright future at all for the problems that teen pregnancy causes."

At the national convention, a new educational initiative was announced. This is a focus on improving the educational and

Parmon says, and the program doesn't have all the answers. But she is encouraged by how far the program has come, by its dedicated staff and by what LIFT can still do.

"We don't say we are a cure-all, but we can make recommendations and referrals when we recognize a problem," she says.

vocational skills of poor children.

Elijah said that the educational initiative will be a communitywide program and that his staff is still making plans for the program.

He said that the Urban League Guild will play a major role in the local effort and that plans are being made to set up a tutorial program at the Urban League.

Elijah said that many of the members of the Guild are retired teachers.

"We want to make sure black kids are achieving," he said. "It has not been worked out yet. But it's on the drawing board."


"We don't have any problem with working with any group in the community interested in the problem. Let's stop this nonsense."

Elijah said that whatever program is developed will emphasize parental involvement in the child's education.

"We feel that's one of the keys," he said. "Today's society almost dictates that both parents work, so very little time is left for


"A lot of people like to see numbers to prove success, but you can't measure what you do with a human with what you do with widgets."

"If it takes one year to get a child to feel good about himself and what he can do, it's immeasurable. If you can help one somebody, then it's all worth it."



CME CHURCH

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Pastor-Bobby Simmons
1992 Bloomfield Drive
(Off Stadium Drive — Behind Boys' Club)




Bobby Simmons, Pastor

Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Prayer Service: Wed. 7:00 p.m.

Services: Church Van
Evangelistic
Pastor Visitation

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CCPB

The CITY-COUNTY PLANNING BOARD thinks your ideas are important in deciding how our community GROWS!

Drop in at the following meetings to review the draft county-wide COMPREHENSIVE PLAN & THOROUGHFARE PLAN

| | | |
|----------|---|---------------|
| SEPT. 29 | EAST WINSTON Library | 4 P.M.-8 P.M. |
| OCT. 1 | KERNERSVILLE Library | 4 P.M.-8 P.M. |
| OCT. 3 | THRUWAY SHOPPING CENTER | 4 P.M.-8 P.M. |
| OCT. 6 | WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIV. Student Union | 4 P.M.-8 P.M. |

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