

New work aid program started for teens

By RUDY ANDERSON
Chronicle Managing Editor

Young teenagers eager to work are often shunned by potential employers because of their age. But because of a new program initiated this week by the Citizen's Coalition for a Better Tomorrow, area youths are being given an opportunity to earn money and perhaps start their own business this summer.

The Hire-A-Teen or HAT program was developed by the coalition after recognizing the critical need to provide teenagers with positive summertime experiences and an opportunity to make money as well as develop a solid work ethic.

Teens from age 13 through 18 can sign up now at the coalition's office in the basement of the Golden State Mutual Building (the Old Winston Mutual Building) at 225 E. 5th Street. While anyone in that age group can sign up to participate, the coalition is targeting youth in the city's four public housing projects, Lakeside, and the Forest Ridge Apartments (formerly known as the Goler Apartments).

HAT is a kind of odd jobs clearinghouse employment program that not only provides young people with an opportunity to earn money, but when they are not working, the program is designed to teach them how to manage their money as well as expose them to educational and cultural activities.

Khalid Fattah Griggs, community outreach coordinator for the coalition, said HAT, its most ambitious undertaking so far, is more than just a program to give kids a chance to make money. He said the program is also designed to keep kids off the street.

"This program will go a long way toward changing the perception that there are literally hundreds of inner-city kids doing nothing but getting into trouble and being

involved in drugs," Griggs said. He said it also takes away a ready-made workforce for drug dealers who target young people for employment in the drug trade.

For Ann Brown, a member of the coalition and the resource monitor at Cleveland Avenue Homes Resource Center, the program is a welcomed sight. "The age group we're trying to reach aren't out there with the drug dealers yet. And we want to get to them before they get out there," Brown said. "When other kids see these kids working and doing positive things they'll know about honest work for honest money."

Griggs said the 13 to 15 year old age group was the age group toughest to find employment for. "They get locked out of the job for two reasons, a lack of jobs in general and the fact they are so young," Griggs said.

So far, about 100 youths have signed up for the program but coalition officials hope to recruit up to 250 teens. Most will be recruited at the resource or community centers in their neighborhoods or can call the coalition office if they are interested at 761-0346.

The Chamber of Commerce Task Forces, Retail Merchants Association, the Winston-Salem Housing Authority, and the city's Youth Employment Services/Workforce Development have all endorsed the program. Bob Neil Pontiac, a local car dealership, will provide HAT participants with some "hands-on" training in the proper car washing techniques.

"It's a win, win, situation for us," said Chuck Lott, a vice president of Retail Merchants Association, in reference to HAT's car washing proposal. He said at least 54 employees have agreed to have their cars washed. "The kids learn to develop a good work ethic, to save money, and people get their cars washed at a reasonable price."

But customers won't pay the young people they employ directly. They will instead pay HAT, which will then pay the workers at the end of each week. Ten per-

cent of their earnings will automatically be deducted and put into a savings account in the name of each participant.

Other area businesses and organizations are giving classes in such areas as baby-sitting techniques and lawn mower training, as part of the program's orientation for HAT participants.

The jobs include not only lawn mowing, car washing and babysitting, but painting, cleaning out garages, or other home care projects.

"This is the chance I've been looking for," said 13-year-old Titcus Pettigrew, "this will give me a chance to make some money and get what I want. I want to save up for school and give some to my parents and my brother. Sometimes, you get tired of asking your parents for money all the time."

"This is better than spending time at home just sitting around," according to 13-year-old Kewanee Ballard. Her older sister, 21-year-old Le Verne Hart, who came with her to the coalition office, said she wished there had been a program like this available when she was growing up because she could have avoided a lot of trouble. "I hope this will be good for my sister," she said.

HAT orientations begin next week starting Monday



Photo by Mike Cunningham
Ihsan Abdul Haqq is busy painting the sundeck of Alderman Vivain Burke. He is one of more than 100 youths between 13 and 18 to sign up for the Hire-A-Teen program.

from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Kimberly Park Community Center. HAT participants will be given physicals Saturday June 15 at the coalition office.

Upward Bound starts summer program with most students ever

Chronicle Staff Report

For the first time since its beginning, the Upward Bound program at Winston-Salem State University will have the most students it has ever had in its six week summer residential program.

Upward Bound officials attribute the increase in the number of students to be served by the program to not only a continuation grant award from the Department of Education but also to local funding support from the university, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, the Winston-Salem Journal, and the city/county school system. That support allowed for 25 additional students to participate.

"I think its good we are able to serve more students this time," said Upward Bound assistant director/counselor Sandra Bennett. "Usually we have been able to serve just 60."

Right now there are more than 100 students on waiting lists to get into the program. The students come from either economically disadvantaged homes or from families where the student would become the first from his or her family to

attend college or both.

On Sunday, June 16, a total of 85 rising 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students in the city/county

ing hours will include communications skills (in English, reading, and speech), mathematics (general math, pre-algebra, algebra 1,2, and

two preselected interest workshops career seminars. The academic and enrichment courses meet for 50 minutes each day Monday through

The six week program which runs from June 16 through July 19 will end with an Awards Program which recognizes those students who have achieved the highest academic performance in each academic class. The program includes an instructional staff, residence counselors and special interest workshop

coordinators from the educational community and the city at large.

Addie Hymes is the director of the program. For more information about the Upward Bound program students and their parents are encouraged to call the Upward Bound office at (919) 750-2670 or (919) 750-2671.

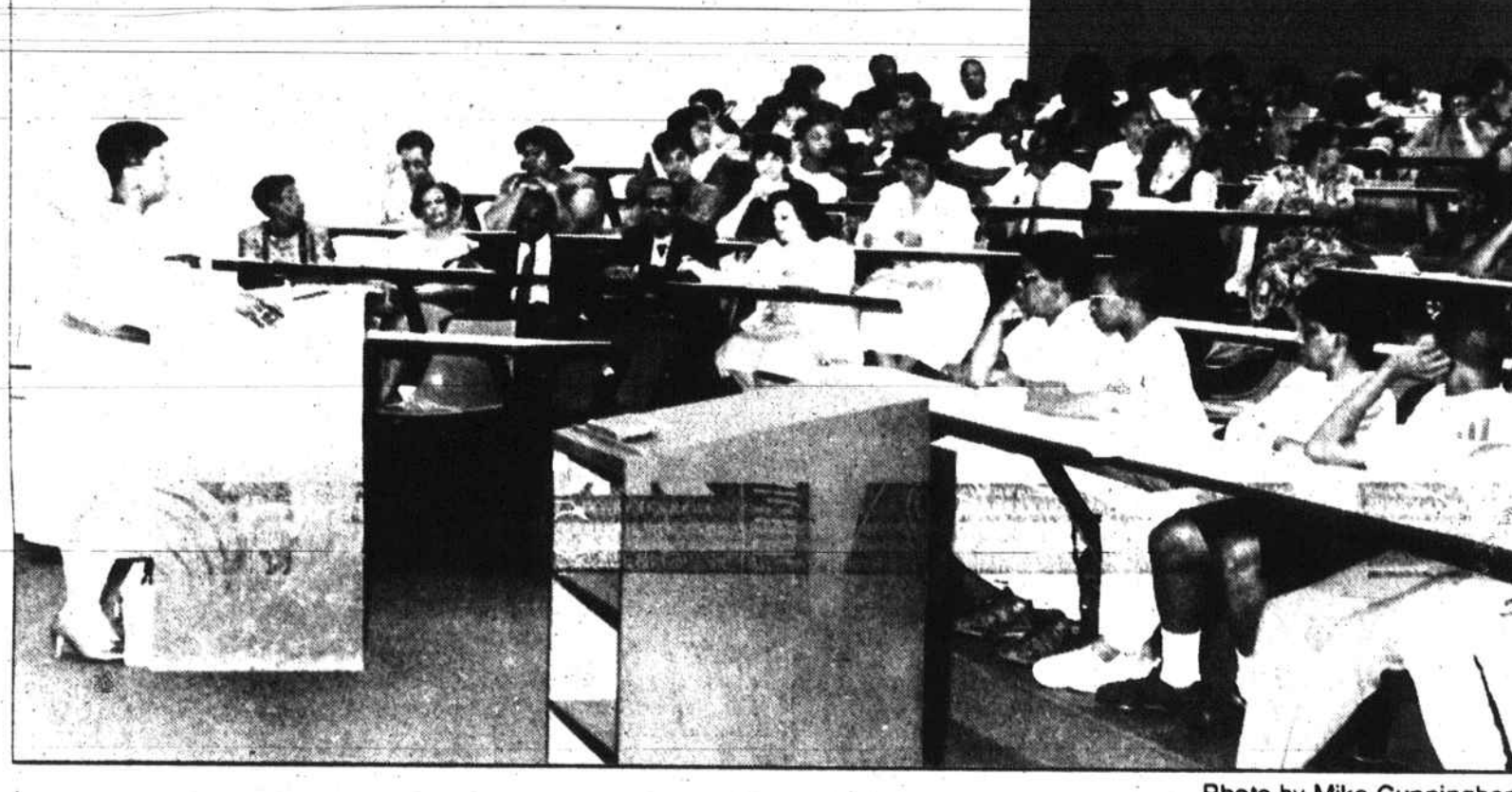


Photo by Mike Cunningham
Upward Bound director Addie Hymes addresses the students and their parents who are participating in the six-week summer session being held at WSSU.

school system begin their residency on the campus at Colson Hall.

The students will be enrolled in academic courses during the morn-

ing hours (in English, reading, and speech), mathematics (general science.

During the afternoon hours Upward Bound students are offered

Friday. The group's daily schedule also includes an hour and a half of required study and a two hour enrichment/social period.

Mayor's office hires mediator to find solutions for shelter dilemma

By RUDY ANDERSON
Chronicle Managing Editor

The mayor's office announced last week that a Greensboro-based mediation consultant had been named to try and find a solution in the dispute over the placement of a proposed Salvation Army shelter for the homeless.

John Stewart Jr., director of Public Policy Mediation of Mediation Services of Guilford County, agreed to lead the mediation process to resolve the dispute. Stewart and his associate, Betty Young, will identify other trained mediators to assist in the project.

And based on a preliminary canvass of the opposing parties in the dispute, the mediators will need every bit of skill they can muster to find an accommodation that will be acceptable to those who oppose moving the present Salvation Army location at 717 South Marshall Street to the proposed site at the corner of Trade Street and Northwest Boulevard.

"I don't understand what a mediator can do because from our point of view, we're not changing our position," said Kay Vives, a member of Homeless but Not Helpless, one of the organization's opposed to the site location. "The site is unsafe, it would not be a good place for women and their children, or for men in the federal prisoner program which would be housed to be across the street from crack dealers."

She said people in that program with drug problems need a reentry isolated from the streets.

Homeless people staged a week long vigil, on the steps of City Hall, and had a march and rally to draw attention to their concerns about the shelter's placement.

Johnnie Mae Ingram has led the fight for residents in the Kimberly Park community, who say they don't want the shelter in their community because it is already saturated with programs for the indigent. They have also made it clear through their alderman, Nelson Malloy, that they don't believe enough attention has been paid to alternative sites for the shelter.

As for Mayor Martha Wood, all she says she wants

to see is a resolution to the conflict. It was Wood's vote that passed a motion two weeks ago to seek the help of a mediator.

"I just wasn't satisfied with all that I had heard about this issue. We had not explored all the possibilities. However, I felt there was some movement on both sides and a chance for the two sides to come together," said Wood. "If I hadn't felt that way I wouldn't have voted the way I did."

Developer David Shannon, who made the offer to the Salvation Army to build the shelter, says the whole issue is perplexing. "I've heard why the opposition opposes the shelter but I still don't understand it," said Shannon. "We just made an offer to help the Salvation Army to try to help people, that's all."

Asked if he thought a mediator would help resolve the dispute Shannon said, "I'm just going to wait and see what happens." He said he really couldn't say how long his offer to the Salvation Army would last.

But West Ward Alderman, Robert Northington, who voted against bringing in a mediator is as adamant about the issue now as he was then. He voted along with four other members of the board in favor of putting the shelter at the proposed Trade Street site. "I think bringing in a mediator is a complete abdication of responsibility by an elected board. I think its a waste of time," Northington said.

But Warren Coppedge, Salvation Army administrative assistant, is hoping for the best. "Anything can work. All things are possible. We would like to see it happen," said Coppedge. But he said the people he was concerned with were those opposed to the project. He said the Salvation Army was prepared to make some concessions to residents in the Kimberly Park community as well as to the Homeless But Not Helpless organization prior to the Board of Aldermen's last meeting.

"But they refused to talk to us. In mediation all things are possible but if they refuse to budge then we are right back where we started," said Coppedge.

The board will consider the shelter site at its next meeting on Monday. A report from Stewart about the mediation process is expected.

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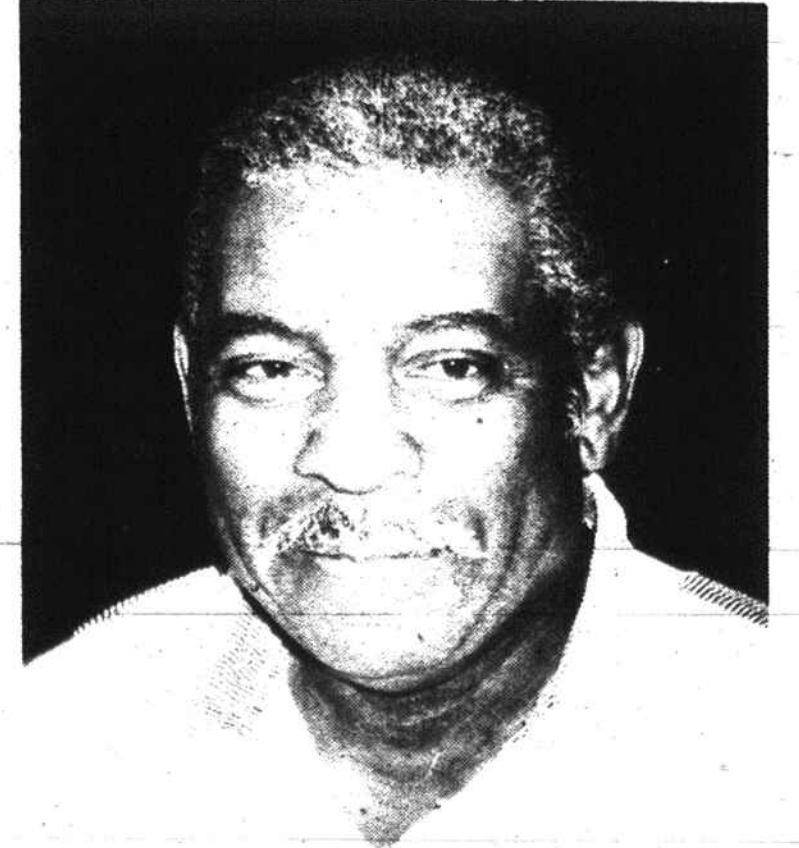
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