

Goodwill Wins An Award For "Outstanding Services"

By Mac Thrower
Post Staff Writer
Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont, Inc. has won the National award for "Outstanding Rehabilitation Service" from Goodwill Industries of America and also the Regional award for the Southeastern United States by submitting the name of JoAnn Miller as Achiever of the Year.

Goodwill received the award for "Outstanding Rehabilitation Service" for their innovative new program designed to serve multiply handicapped hearing impaired individuals. This is a pilot project that was begun in 1981 with special funds provided by the United Way. In the first year, the program placed seven multiply handicapped deaf individuals into competitive employment.

Druid Hills Garden Club News

The May meeting of the Druid Hills Garden Club was held recently at the home of Mrs. Eva J. Wiley.

President Inez Ellis opened the meeting with discussion on the club's annual flower show and group participation. Other items discussed and planned were the participation in the Council Show and a family picnic. Mrs. Ann Williams taught corsage making to the members.

The Druid Hills Garden Club announced the addition of a new member, Mrs. Carnell Holley. Highly regarded by members, Mrs. Holley made many valuable suggestions.

Members were reminded of Garden Club Sunday, on May 23.

The following members enjoyed a delicious repast served by the hostess: Mrs. Inez Ellis, Mrs. Edna Gaston, Mrs. Ann Williams, Mrs. Roberta Lyles, Mrs. Sadie English, Mrs. Saphese Blackmon, Mrs. Emma Wade, Mrs. Della Simmons, Mrs. Dora McGill, Mrs. Hattie McCree, Mrs. Carnell Holley and Rev. Minnie Cornor.

Michael Elder, President of the Charlotte Goodwill remarked, "This is a tremendous achievement considering the severity of the disabilities. Of all the awards presented by Goodwill of America, this is one of the most important because it recognizes the quality and effectiveness of our program."

Ms. Miller, the Achiever of the Year, was diagnosed in 1977 as having multiple sclerosis and was not able to continue in her job as a custodial worker. Confined to a wheelchair, she was unable to care for her two children. Early in 1979 she was referred to Goodwill by the N.C. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services for evaluation. After completing this program, she entered the agency's work adjustment and training program to learn new skills in the clerical vocations. In

October of 1980 she was hired by Goodwill Industries to work in their sheltered employment program. Her duties include microfilming documents and assembling manuals.

Ms. Miller has now learned to walk with the use of a walker, is able to

care for her children and has recently learned how to once again drive a car. Her goal is competitive placement in a clerical position within the community.

This is the third consecutive year that Goodwill in Charlotte has won the award for Regional Achiever of the Year. Ken Miller, Chairman of the Board, commented that "we know we are doing a good job here in Charlotte, but it is especially rewarding to receive national recognition of our efforts to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities."



Rev. Maxie Houston of China Grove AME Zion, located on 8401 Old Pineville Road, held an Appreciation Service Program on Friday, May 14, in honor of Mrs. Lillian Wilson Smith, who joined the church at a relatively young age and has unselfishly rendered her service to her church and mankind. She has served in many capacities throughout the years. In 1957 Mrs. Smith became Financial Secretary-Treasurer of the church under the pastorage of the late Dr. J. S. Nathaniel Tross. At that time the church was in the embryonic stage of its Building Fund Program. She remained in this position with loyalty and proficiency until after the mortgage was

liquidated in October of 1981. Presently, treasurer of the Trustee Board of her local church, Mrs. Smith is also a Deaconess and a Class Leader. A dedicated layperson, she serves as one of the area presidents of the Charlotte District Lay Council and is a member of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference Finance Committee. Prior to her retirement in December 1977, Mrs. Smith was employed with the Carolina Motor Club of Charlotte. Here, she devoted almost 34 years of valuable and loyal service to this company. On the 24th of December, 1938 Mrs. Smith was married to Mr. June Smith.

Susan Green Affirms

Community Has Commitment "To Help Its Own People"

By Mac Thrower
Post Staff Writer
"We expected to find that people are hurting, and they are..." that's the way Government Impact Committee member Susan Green summed up the expectations and findings of the committee in its study of the initial impact of federal cutbacks in Mecklenburg and Union Counties.



Susan Green
...County Commissioner

The report, assembled by the committee and staff members of United Way, has been described as "the best study of its kind done to date in North Carolina." It is, as committee chairman Dr. Richard E. Neel points out, a look only at "factual information"; the report does not attempt to go beyond the facts and figures to reach any subjective conclusions about the "rights or wrongs" of government cutbacks. However, as County Commissioner Green indicated, there are emotional facts involved in this situation too—regardless of one's opinion about the need for federal cuts—these emotional facts assert that "people are hurting," and that this reality will have to be faced, not denied, by federal, state and local leaders.

Mrs. Green affirms that "the community has a commitment to help its own people." She believes that if federal cutbacks continue, volunteer agencies and leaders in the private sector will have to shoulder the "responsibility to help."

Debbie Ringdahl of the Children's Home Society already has seen a hopeful sign of people in the private sector "helping our own" in the form of a contribution being made to the agency by a local firm to help offset the loss of \$130,000 in Title XX federal financing. Ms. Ringdahl adds that the program has been able to successfully

absorb the federal cut, but that "we're hoping for more help." Mrs. Green remarked that "it is too early to tell" if significant help is being received from the private sector by local human service agencies. According to Mrs. Green, the present economic situation, along with the prospect of even deeper federal cuts in the future, makes it unlikely that private donations will amount to much more than a partial remedy for seriously reduced services.

All of the people contacted in connection with the Impact Committee Report echoed Mrs. Green's comment that "we're waiting for the other shoe to drop" in terms of anticipated 1983 fiscal year cuts. Dr. Neel said that there is "a lot of uncertainty...we know that staff reductions have already been made, that some services have already been reduced," but he noted that no one is sure of the amount or possible effects of 1983 cutbacks. He did affirm that the committee "will continue to monitor the situation, and the data will be updated."

Kelly Alexander Jr., vice president of the North



Judge Todd

I am a subscriber to the Charlotte Post as well as my family and sister in Georgia. We enjoy reading the information and learning about local activities. My sister in Georgia especially enjoys it. She feels like she is at home each week when it arrives. I wish you continued success in this endeavor of keeping the Black Press and public so well informed.

Sincerely,
T. Michael Todd
District Court Judge

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