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HEAVNER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

the foundation. But there also is room for discretionary giving, such as the grant to fund the downtown security patrols.

"It's difficult for foundations to be prudent in their decision-making and also to meet immediate needs," Heavner says. "We have an internal agreement that a portion of the foundation money each year is donor-advised. That gives us flexibility."

The foundation's philosophy is to give priority to basic needs and go from there.

"There's a saying that as long as stomachs are empty, we should not

be buying violins," Heavner says.

He doesn't accept the idea that giving by large corporations has fallen off in recent years.

"I find that the companies that were once generous, still are."

Of more pressing concern to Heavner is finding and training the next generation of philanthropic leaders. In Chapel Hill, at least, that challenge is made easier by a strong sense of public service.

"We're short on leaders but we're not short on volunteers," Heavner says. "The people I admire are the people who are giving their sweat. People at established agencies like the United Way are giving a lot of hours. What we do pales by comparison."

How important are corporate donations to municipal government projects?

"I wish they were more important, but it's really a very small percentage," says Town Manager Cal Horton. "That doesn't mean we're not grateful. Those donations make it possible for us to do things we couldn't do at all without them."

Horton notes that in Chapel Hill, The Village Companies is the largest "homegrown business" in the community and most of the group's employees are residents of the immediate area.

"The deep ties with the community give it a special place in our daily business."

For his part, Heavner is impatient

with questions about why his company gives to the community.

"It's interesting that because we are a business, people question why we would do it," he says.

"When I look at the people who are really doing good, they are the people like [Capitol Broadcasting President] Jim Goodmon in Raleigh. He wakes up in the morning and thinks about doing the right thing..."

I think there are a lot more people like that out there than we're aware

here's a saying that as long as stomachs are empty, we should not be buying violins.

JIM HEAVNER
Owner
The Village Companies

of. And I think there is a benefit to trying to find people who are doing the right thing and enlarging the circle."

For information about The Village Companies Foundation, write to: Melvin Rashkis, Board President, P.O. Box 3113, Chapel Hill, N.C., 27514.

HOMELESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

to offer your help."

On a recent Sunday, volunteers at St. Paul's prepare to begin their second rotation as a host congregation.

Beginning early in the morning, they gather at the Cornwallis Road church building to move furniture, set up cots and later, cook dinner for homeless families arriving from Glendale Heights United Methodist.

In the kitchen, Anita Johnson and her daughter, Betty Henshaw, slice apples and oranges to accompany a meal of chicken legs, macaroni and cheese and green beans they have prepared for the families.

While the adult guests get settled in classrooms that volunteers have converted to bedrooms, children run outside to join members of the

church youth group in a game of basketball.

At the dinner table, Doris, a single mother of three who is expecting her fourth "any time now," sits talking with Alice and Anita.

She was referred to the Network after being evicted from her apartment in Durham this past winter.

A few weeks ago, Doris convinced her eldest daughter — who had been staying with relatives — to join the rest of the family at one of the host churches.

"I wanted her to see how nice these people are," she says. "I wanted her to see it's not just her mother who's homeless."

Since the Durham network was launched in January, eight families have been helped, with 14 others on a waiting list, says director Boleyn Willis, the program's sole paid staff member.

Organizers hope to expand the number of churches participating in the network, which costs about \$2,000 a month to run.

"Right now, we're generating families faster than we're generating funds," Willis says. "We have enough money to run for four months, tops. After that, we'll have to go to the foundations."

St. Paul's Pastor Roger Prehn, who was involved in initial "town meetings" to set up the network, is confident the program will find new supporters.

Donations of clothing, furniture and other supplies can be sent to the Durham Interfaith Hospitality Network, P.O. Box 52491, Durham, N.C., 27707.

For information, call Willis at (919) 682-0784, or national IHN headquarters in New Jersey, (908), 273-1100.

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