

# NAACP

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Fifteen Wake Forest students and 12 WSSU students are currently tutors. About 18 professional people or people with college degrees also serve as tutors, Mrs. Allen said.

More college students and more colleges will be getting involved next year, Mrs. Allen said. Salem College, for example, has promised to provide some tutors.

More professionals, however, are still needed, she said.

"Our weakest point is professional help," Mrs. Allen said. "We didn't get as many retired teachers as we had hoped."

Another weak point in the program is the problem of reaching all the children that need help, Mrs. Allen said. "We need more centers," she said. "The NAACP wants to be sure that we're reaching more of those children in the poorer areas."

Mrs. Allen said that a center is needed to reach residents of the housing project on Cleveland Avenue. "I was hoping they would go up to Shiloh, but a precious few are doing so."

Some centers are not serving the number of children that really need the help, Mrs. Allen said. "They have 25 children at the Kimberly Park Terrace center," she said. "You could triple that and still not reach all the children."

Mrs. Allen said that she has prospects for two additional centers, one at Waughtown Baptist Church on Waughtown Street and the other at Union Bethel AME Church on Trade Street.

In their first three months, the centers have served about 200 to 250 children, Mrs. Allen said. The NAACP had hoped that they would serve 600.

"But with the professionals we have and the student tutors we have, we're satisfied because we really could not serve 600 students without more help," she said. "We could be serving more, but we don't feel we're equipped."

One of the goals of the centers

was to increase parental involvement in children's education. To do this, the NAACP sponsored several activities.

In September an education conference was held that served as an introduction to the learning centers, and in November a parents' workshop was held for parents who had children participating at the learning centers.

"We didn't get as much response as we had hoped to get, but we said that it was a beginning," Mrs. Allen said.

About 30 parents attended that meeting, after which the centers' organizers decided that meetings at the individual centers would be more accessible for parents.

The learning centers are also trying to accomplish their goal of promoting awareness of black history and culture, and the individual centers will have some type of program observing Martin Luther King's birthday.

During Black History Month in February, a program will be held at the Winston Lake Family YMCA for the students. Mrs. Allen said that Larry Leon Hamlin, director of the North Carolina Black Repertory Company, will present the program and will involve some of the students from the learning centers.

## Push

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instead to a new road or highway, such as the new U.S. Highway 45 bypass, McCarty said.

But Grayson said Green Street means more to the black community than other roads.

"We felt like it's the main street of the black community," he said.

Mrs. Allen said that community response to the learning centers has been positive.

The Baptist Ministers Conference and Associates has set up a committee to work with the NAACP in maintaining the centers, Mrs. Allen said.

"They're going to take a more active role in supporting the centers," she said.

Donations from groups and organizations have also helped.

For example, with a donation from the Book of Today Club, the NAACP was able to purchase dictionaries. Local fraternities and sororities, as well as churches,

have also made donations, and the city/county school system donated some of the books and materials that are used

in the centers.

Individual response to the learning centers has also been positive, Mrs. Allen said. "I've

had people come up to me and say, 'I'm so happy that the NAACP has this program because our kids really need it.' "

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