

African-Americans Needed To Befriend New Mothers

By SHERIDAN HILL
Chronicle Assistant Editor

Having a baby is one of the most exhilarating and frustrating experiences in a woman's life: either way, it's emotion-packed. The Welcome Baby program helps first-time mothers adjust to their new role. Donna Hunt, who directs the program, is concerned because all of the current volunteers are white. Welcome Baby, which is part of Exchange/SCAN, is looking for African-American volunteers.

Ashley Doughton, who coordinates all of the volunteers for Exchange/SCAN, says it's one of the most pleasant volunteer jobs in the county. Each month, volunteers spend two hours visiting new mothers at Forsyth Memorial Hospital.

"It's entirely up to the volunteer to choose which new mothers she visits," Doughton said. "But we ask them to see teenage or unwed mothers first, assuming they need our support the most."

Volunteers commit to eight hours per month, including hospital

visits, telephone contact, possible home visits and filling out a brief assessment form.

Welcome Baby worked with 406 new mothers in 1992. The year before, they served 413. Of those, 124 were teenagers, 175 had incomes below the poverty level, and 147 were African-Americans.

Of the 12 active volunteers, none are black, although there have been black volunteers in the past.

Donna Hunt, who directs the program, said, "We want to provide young black girls with role models from their own race." "The white volunteers have served well, but it always helps to have someone you can really relate to."

The program actually started in June 1990, after a year of planning. Winston-Salem Junior League provided Welcome Baby with initial funding and volunteer resources for the past three and one-half years.

"It would be wonderful if a black community organization could adopt us," Hunt said. "We need that support, and so do the mothers."

These days people don't seem to have the family support they used to, and if they've got one more person to turn to, it helps them through the experience."

Doughton stresses that volunteers don't need to be mothers; more than anything, they need a warm, supportive attitude. "Many times, you're just going in and squealing about the baby and telling the mother, 'if there's anything you don't know, we'll get you a book about it.'"

Sometimes, new mothers just need to talk awhile, Doughton said. They need someone to ease the difficulty and share the joys of becoming a mother.

Exchange/SCAN, which sponsors the program, offers treatment programs for parents who abuse or neglect their children.

Welcome Baby volunteers receive 12 hours of training (four night sessions running three hours each).

The next training session is scheduled to begin Tuesday, Jan. 26.



As a volunteer for the Welcome Baby program, Kim Greig visits young mothers. The program has no African-American volunteers.

Salvation Army Feels Right At Home In New Building

By KAREN M. HANNON
Community News Reporter

After last year's neighborhood controversy, disagreements among city aldermen, and opposition from a homeless advocacy group, the Salvation Army's homeless shelter is resting comfortably in its new Northwest Boulevard and Trade Street location.

The Salvation Army opened its doors in early November, despite

At the time of all the ruckus, Homeless But Not Helpless didn't want the shelter moved. Kay Vives, who worked with the homeless before her death, strongly opposed the move. She said the shelter should have been left where it was.

And the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen, was stuck in the middle.

The aldermen first considered the Trade Street site in March 1991.

ested parties.

Today, each group seems to be at least partially content.

Mary Beth Yates, public relations advisor for Homeless But Not Helpless, said this week, "HB&H does not have a stated position about the Salvation Army facility. However, we are still concerned about the lack of space for single, homeless women in Winston-Salem."

Alderman Virginia K. Neweß, of the East Ward, voiced one of the strongest concerns because the new shelter is in her district.

"We wanted all the groups to be satisfied — Kimberly Park, Salvation Army, and Homeless But Not Helpless," she said. "I feel the mayor has done an outstanding job

in bringing the groups together."

Now that the new shelter is open, Newell said things have quieted down.

"Maybe we can put our feelings behind us," she said. "We do not want anymore crying. We've got too much now. We do not want anymore violence. We've got too much of that now."

Warren Coppedge, administrative assistant at Salvation Army, said the non-profit agency is happy with the new site.

"The area is easily accessible for us and for our clients. This was the largest of the sites," Coppedge said. "We're in the middle of an industrial area, surrounded by a residential area. But we're not bound by

a lot of property, so we have room for expansion. We wouldn't have the extra room with the other locations.

Coppedge said the single-story, 23,000 square-foot shelter sits on 3.14 acres of land donated by the city.

The Salvation Army gave W. David Shannon, a local developer, \$650,000 and the old property on South Marshall Street, worth \$450,000, in exchange for the new \$1.2 million facility.

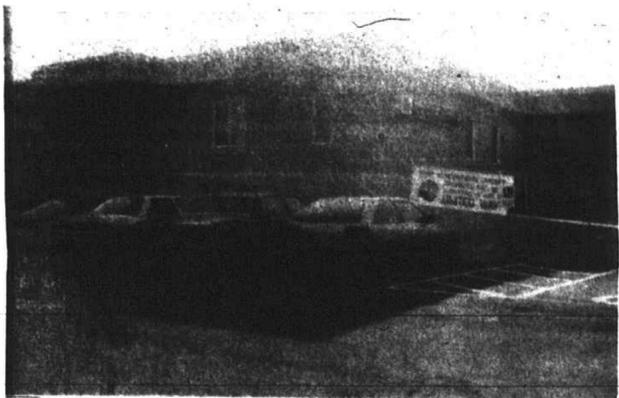
Coppedge said the Salvation Army's clients are also happy with the new location.

"It's like a child having a new piece of candy," he said. "We have private rooms for families that we

didn't have in our old location. We have a twenty-four-hour shelter for women with children and families. This new shelter is nothing but pluses."

Coppedge said there are plans in the works to provide more services.

"The ministry we would like to see in the future is one where we're not simply a band-aid, providing a place to stay and a meal," Coppedge said. "We want to design a program to help our clientele develop some self-sufficiency and provide job-training and drug and alcohol rehabilitation, and give them those things to enhance their chances of getting into permanent housing. We have the design, but we need funding and resources."



The Salvation Army's new location on Trade Street and Northwest Boulevard offers room for expansion.

more than a year's worth of grumbling from Kimberly Park Terrace residents and Homeless But Not Helpless.

Residents worried that moving the shelter from its old location on South Marshall Street to Trade Street would add to the crime in their neighborhood.

but delayed their vote until August 1991 because of disgruntled residents and the homeless. The aldermen's 5-3 vote, which came after two other sites were proposed, finally ended months of debate for the site. Mayor Martha S. Wood was forced to call in a professional mediator to help satisfy all the inter-

Delta Sigma Honors "Sigma Man of the Year"

The Delta Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. celebrated its Founders' Day program on Sunday, Jan. 17, at 2 p.m. at the Wayne's Lounge Restaurant.

As part of the celebration, the chapter honored "Sigma Man of the Year." In choosing an individual for this award, such criteria was achieved: create an environment that respects the dignity and worth of each brother; exhibit integrity and ethical behavior in conducting the fraternity's business; commitment and demonstrate the ability to lead; and maintain and improve the fraternity's technological literacy in order to better service its members and the community at large.

The "Sigma Man of the Year" award was given to John H. Alexander. Alexander has worked countless hours of dedication and commitment to insure that the programs and projects of Phi Beta Sigma are established throughout the community.

John H. Alexander is a native of Winston-Salem. He graduated from Atkins High School. Alexander attended Winston-Salem Teachers' College from 1936 to 1940, where he earned his bachelor of science degree in elementary education. He became a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. in 1938. He attended the Chapter of Winston-Salem Teachers' College undergraduate. After graduating, he joined the graduate chapter, Delta Sigma.



John H. Alexander

Throughout his tenure, Alexander has served as secretary, president, and treasurer. He is presently employed at Russell Funeral Home as a funeral director. He is a member of Goler Metropolitan AME Zion Church, where he serves as chairman of the Trustee Board.

He is a veteran of World War II, where he served in the medical department of the third Army. He is a 32nd degree mason and pass master of Salem Lodge #139 Prince Hall, pass illustrious potentate of Sethos Temple #170 Shriners, pass imperial deputy of the Oasis in Winston-Salem, and pass imperial deputy of Shriners Transportation of the AEAO of the MS Inc.

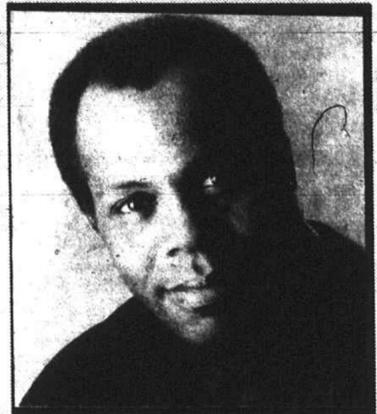
"If you put the best of yourself in whatever you're doing, put God first and you'll be victorious," said Alexander.

"An Evening With Langston and Martin"

starring

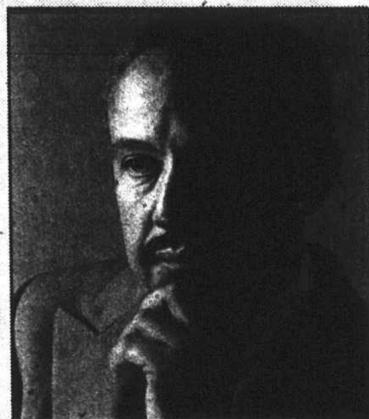
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