

Young Shows Concern and Displays Leadership

By MAURICE CROCKER
Chronicle Staff Writer

When most people think of community leaders, they tend to think of those who are always in the limelight and on the forefront discussing all the issues. Far too often, those leaders who are behind the scenes working for the good of the community are forgotten. Nancy Neal Young is one of those people.

"I believe in being involved in the community. I did it in high school, and I just believe in giving back," said Young, director of corporate affairs and community relations at Sara Lee Corporation.

Young says she is fortunate to have a job that allows her to work closely with the community and get involved.

"I like to think I have some skills and abilities, and I want to share them with the community," she said.

Young lives in of Blues Creek, a small town in Forsyth County. After moving away and working as a reporter in Shelby and Whiteville, N.C., Young and her family decided to move back to the area.

Upon returning, Young obtained several jobs in the field of public relations. In 1984 Young had the opportunity to serve as press secretary for the Knox '84 Gubernatorial campaign.

"That was something I always wanted to do," Young said. "The only problem I had was finding a candidate whose views I could support."

After the campaign, Young began working at Sara Lee where her experiences there have been most fulfilling.

"Although I've been in public relations for over 20 years this job has been the best job I've ever had, because it involves everything that I'm involved in," Young said.

Young views her involvement in the community as an important part of her life.

"I don't do anything in the community that isn't important. Because if it's not important then I don't do it," she said.

Her community activities include Leadership Winston-Salem, the advisory board for the Winston-Salem Salvation Army, board for the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art.

She has served as chairman on several boards and committees such as The Winston-Salem Urban League, Dixie Classic Fair Commission, and Consumer Credit Counseling Service.

Young says she is most proud of her work with the East Winston Community Development Corporation, where she recently served on the board of directors for six years. During

that time, she learned a lot about the eastern part of the city.

"I've always had a concern for the lack of development in the eastern part of the city," she said.

Young believes there is a need for more African American businesses in East Winston and a need for the community to support those businesses.

"If businesses are going to grow in East Winston then they are going to have to be self sufficient. The more self sufficient they are the stronger they will be," Young said.

Young said one of the problems she sees is that a majority of people who live in West Winston aren't concerned about what happens in East Winston.

"It's natural for us to be concerned with what is most affective to us, but that has to change," she said.

The entire city should work together to make this area what it could be, Young said.

"I remember someone telling me that there is no huge wall with barb wire on the top separating East Winston from West Winston," Young said.

She believes the city is progressing by working together on various issues.

On the other hand Young said she also thinks some things need to be dealt with in the African American community.

"I don't want to sound like a segregationist, but I'm not sure if the two communities should blend all the time," she said.

Young said she has developed a deep appreciation for the African American heritage and culture, and thinks more stress and emphasis should be placed on it.

"I've found a great respect for African American colleges and universities because I think they enlighten the youth on heritage and tradition," she said.

Young realizes that she can't save the whole world, but "if I can help one person then it was all for a reason." She said she has always wanted to make a difference from her marching for civil rights and fighting injustices.

Young said she is most excited about the Children's Olympic ticket fund, where Sara Lee will take under privileged children to the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

"These are the types of programs I enjoy, because it gives children and opportunity and a chance they never would have had. And you never know how that child is going to be inspired," she said.

Young says the children need to develop some form of hope. Unfortunately most children as well as adults base their hope on



Nancy Young

their economic status.

"If I could have one thing for the community it would be to create enough good-paying jobs for everyone in the community," she said.

The government can make as

many laws and pass as many bills, Young says. But without economic equality what good will it do?

"You can't win people's hearts if they're hungry and cold."

Welfare Reform Program May Affect Over 1500 Forsyth County Residents

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

Gov. Jim Hunt, D-N.C., has received the federal waivers he requested to fully implement Work First, a welfare reform program that may affect up to 1,500 Forsyth County residents by July 1.

"The clock will start on

them," said Dan Beerman, the county's director of social work services. "They will have to sign personal responsibility contracts giving them a two-year limit on cash benefits. The rules are going to change because of these waivers. There are some parts that the state is putting together."

Hunt requested the waivers in September and sent a letter to

President Clinton on Jan. 25 urging him to intervene and speed up approval of the waivers. Approval of the waivers had become bogged down because of the federal government shutdown. The waivers allow the state to place a family cap, sending a signal that welfare recipients need to take responsibility for family planning. Food stamps and Medicaid health

coverage for the child would not be affected. The waivers also allow the state to apply sanctions to parents who fail to meet Work First requirements, including reduced benefits for up to 24 months. Work First will eventually affect more than 12,480 people in Forsyth County that receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). The average

monthly payment is \$223.57. There are 20,121 people receiving food stamps totaling \$159.73 per month, according to county statistics. Work First will begin with about 35,000 parents statewide with school-age children, two-parent families and parents who were working at least 30 hours per week.

"People will not be punished

from accumulating wealth," Beerman said. Work First reamps the former Job Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS) program, which focused more on long-term training. In its first five months, Work First has eclipsed the record of JOBS by putting 9,239 welfare recipients into jobs.

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