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Low Income Housing Is Not Affordable For Some Families

Many Housing Problems Face Low Income Families

By Susan Ellsworth
Post Staff Writer

An inadequate number of housing units, insufficient funds to subsidize them and burdening rent costs continue to present housing problems for low income residents.

"There's a nationwide shortage of housing for low to moderate income families," according to Hoyle Martin, housing director in the Charlotte mayor's office.

He defined low income people as those receiving up to 50 percent of the medium income. Martin described moderate income households as having earnings that are 51-80 percent of the medium income.

Charlotte's medium income is \$17,300 and the 80 percent of \$13,840; must not be exceeded to qualify, according to the Area Housing Opportunity Plan prepared by the Centralina Council of Government.

The cost of low income housing is still not affordable for some households. Many low income families are so poor they can't afford housing, Martin said.

Scattered site housing fosters a problem of racial prejudice since 80 percent of low income residents are black.

Economics play a major role in creating bias against low income residents.

"People believe low income housing will affect property values," Martin said. "There's a tendency to resist construction of low income housing in many areas," he continued.

Martin maintained that the housing situation was



Hoyle Martin
Housing Director

He emphasized while the number of housing units has increased over a period of time, the proportion of available housing units is growing slower than the number of low income families in need of housing.

Demolishing low income housing for urban renewal reduced the number of units available.

Although 800 vacant buildings in need of rehabilitation exist in Charlotte, there are "never adequate funds for rehabilitation," Martin said.

In 1960, there were 58,400 units of occupied housing. Only 1,420 units were available to the city's 2.4 percent low income households, he pointed out.

This number rose to 76,992 units of housing where 4,048 units were available to the 5.2 percent low-income population.

Wachovia

Donates \$50,000

To J. C. Smith

Wachovia Bank and Trust Company made a \$50,000 donation to Johnson C. Smith University on Jan. 7.

The \$50,000 check was presented to university officials at the campus by Harold G. Hoak, regional vice-president at Wachovia.

Hoak said Wachovia has made gifts to the United Negro College Fund and many other civic organizations over the years. Hoak added that he is happy to make the contribution on behalf of Wachovia and was complimentary of University president, Dr. Wilbert Greenfield and his administration at Johnson C. Smith.

Hoak stated that he was pleased that the bank was able to make the donation in a lump sum. "A commitment of this size is generally payable in equal annual installments."

However, "This has been a good year for Wachovia and we are happy to make a lump sum gift at this time," Hoak explained.

In making the larger single donation, Hoak said it should enhance the value of the gift since the funds will be available for investment.

"The University will have the benefit of its total income earning power much earlier than anticipated," he said.

The money will go toward the 10-year, \$20-million capital funds campaign that was launched by Johnson C. Smith in November.

Plaza Road Park To Get \$580,000

Charlotte Mayor Eddie Knox announced Tuesday that Governor James B. Hunt has approved a \$580,000 grant for land acquisition at the Plaza Road Nature Preserve. When Federal approval is obtained, the funds will be used to help purchase 440-acres in the vicinity of Plaza Road Extension and Plott Road.

The City of Charlotte already owns two separate parcels of land for the preserve including a 112-acre tract south of Grier and Rocky River Roads and a 200-acre parcel north of Plaza Road Extension. The addition of the 440-acre tract will tie together the existing property owned by the City; it will become the heart of the 750-acre preserve.

Mayor Knox commented that, "The City of Charlotte is pleased that Governor Hunt has approved this grant. When we obtain final approval from the Federal government, it will enable us to make a major acquisition for this important nature preserve. All Charlotte-Mecklenburg citizens will benefit from the preservation of this beautiful natural area."

Possible development of the preserve includes nature and horse trails, a manmade lake, picnic areas and camping facilities. It is anticipated that two-thirds of the park will remain in an undeveloped state. All developed areas will stay as natural as possible.

In November, 1978, Charlotte voters approved \$1,000,000 in park bonds for nature preserve land acquisition.



Mrs. Elizabeth Surles of Durham calls toll-free number in a TV spot now airing on Charlotte stations. (Duke Univ. photo)

Blacks Have Tremendous Interest In Cancer

Special To The Post

DURHAM - When should my daughter begin getting Pap tests? Can you help me quit smoking? What are the symptoms of prostate cancer?

These are some of the 40 to 80 questions answered every weekday without charge at the Cancer Information Service at Duke. Anyone in North Carolina can reach the service toll-free by dialing 1-800-672-0943.

Since the service began in 1976, more than 22,000 people have called, including hundreds and perhaps thousands of the state's minority citizens.

"Black people in North Carolina seem to have a tremendous interest in cancer," said Dr. Diane McGrath, director of cancer control at the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. McGrath was the first director of the Cancer Information Service and she still super-

vises it.

"A poll we commissioned showed us that 66 percent of blacks surveyed said they were very interested in cancer information. The figure for whites was 58 percent. That's very interesting, not just somewhat interested."

Staff information specialists and trained volunteers answer the phones from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. At other times, a caller can leave his name and phone number and someone from the service will call back without charge.

Cancer specialists or other health professionals approve all answers before they're given out over the phone.

How to quit smoking tops the list of topics concerning callers, Dr. McGrath said.

"This is because of the attention focused on the new Surgeon General's Report," she said. "We send callers some excellent

booklets with tips on how to quit smoking. We also tell them about quit-smoking clinics in their area."

Other topics mentioned often by callers include cancers of the breast, skin, colon and cervix, in that order.

About half of all callers want to know cancer symptoms, but staff members and volunteers don't diagnose problems over the phone, the director said. They do tell a caller the more common symptoms of the type of cancer worrying the caller. Then they encourage the person to contact his doctor. If the person doesn't have a doctor, the service will refer him to one close to his home.

Many people think the service only answers questions, Dr. McGrath said. "We do much more than that," she said. "We also send out thousands of free booklets to callers and to agencies, such as health departments. We've sent out more than 62,000 copies of one booklet alone - 'What Black Americans should Know About Cancer' - in the last 10 months."

Other examples of free booklets offered are: "What You Need to Know About Cancer of the Breast," "Breast Self-Examination," "What You Need to Know About Cancer of the Prostate" and "What You Need to Know About Cancer of the Testis."

File cabinets and loose-leaf notebooks at the service are filled with information about government agencies and private groups that help cancer patients and their families in each of North Carolina's 100 counties.

"People could be using these services to ease their situations if they knew the services existed," said Dr. McGrath. "We can help them get in touch with services near their homes, such as clubs for ostomy patients or speech therapists for those who've lost their vocal chords to cancer."

If the Duke Cancer Information Service could accomplish just one goal, said Dr. McGrath, it would be this: "to destroy the widely-held notion that cancer means death. We know that some cancers are chronic diseases.



ATTRACTIVE PAMELA YOUNG
Johnson C. Smith freshman

Pamela Young Is Beauty Of Week

By Teresa Burns
Post Staff Writer

It takes longer for some to have the courage to be what they really are. Our 19-year-old beauty, Pamela Young, has already realized that each person should live by her heart.

"You should live strictly by what you believe - while at the same time listen and consider the thoughts and feelings of other people. Take God with you everywhere you go and with everything you do," she said.

This is not the only thing our Johnson C. Smith freshman has realized. She knows that her goal in life is to help others.

"I plan to open up a tutorial service available to the community," Ms. Young began. "I used to work at Greenville Center where a lot of people were telling the children that they were dumb and slow. I want to take out the time to show them they aren't dumb and slow, and show them that someone cares. I want to show them that I can help them to learn, that I don't mind helping, and that I'll give them the attention they need."

In addition to extending her hand in the arena of learning, our Capricorn beauty loves to sing. "I would like to sing part-time."

"In the past I've sung with the band called 'High Voltage' from January '79 to December '79. I enjoy singing, reading and working with people," she concluded.

It seems Ms. Young is too busy to watch a lot of television. But when she does watch the tube, it's usually tuned to the "White Shadow."

"The 'White Shadow' is close to real high school situations. They deal with problems that high school people really run into, and they usually have a good theme - something can be learned and gained from it," she noted.

As a high school graduate, Ms. Young left her mark of excellence at

South Mecklenburg. She was named Outstanding Senior and 2nd runner-up in the school's renown pageant.

As a freshman at JCSU she is leaning toward an Education major. In addition to making the dean's list for her first semester with a 3.47 average, she was also crowned Miss Phi Beta Sigma.

Popularity comes easily for Ms. Young. Maybe it is because she lives by what she believes.

Whatever the case may be, the above is one reason she holds Reginald B. Taylor in high esteem.

"Reginald is my favorite person because he is one of mind and one of heart. I can see his love for people. I can see how important it is to love people in his relations to other people," she explained.

Ms. Young, the daughter of Etheleen Young of 3774 Seaman Dr., and Wylie Harris, a professor at JCSU, would like to see more people care more about each other.

"It seems that countries are in total uproar. I think if everyone got down on their knees just one day and prayed, it would change the world."

Local Civil Rights Groups To Support Anti-Klan Demonstration

By Eileen Hanson
Special To The Post

Charlotte civil rights groups announced plans this week to support the national anti-Klan demonstration in Greensboro on Feb. 2. The march, called by the National Anti-Klan Network, will protest the Nov. 3 killing of 5 anti-Klan demonstrators, and commemorate the 20th anniversary of the first sit-ins in 1960.

Speaking at the Jan. 15 Martin Luther King commemoration in Charlotte, the Rev. James Barnett announced plans for a local mobilization to go to Greensboro. People United for Justice and the Charlotte Equal Rights Council will sponsor a bus on Saturday, Feb. 2. The fare is \$7 per person round trip. The bus will leave at 8 a.m. from the corner of McDowell and Independence. To reserve space, phone 332-2250, 374-0554, or 333-1925.

Rev. Barnett said, "If Dr. King was alive he



Ted Quant

would have been in Greensboro the next day. We cannot stand idly by. Injustice in Greensboro is a threat to justice in Charlotte."

Dr. James Palmer rallied the people with the memory of Dr. King. He told the story of his life and explained how Dr. King had dedicated his life to the struggle for justice. Dr. Palmer said, "It has been a long struggle from the back of the bus to the front of the bus."

Ted Quant, field organizer for the Equal Rights Congress spoke about the tasks ahead for the 1980's. He said, "Not since the defeat of Reconstruction have the forces of reaction joined together to launch such an all-out offensive on the movement for equality. The decade of the 1980's will require more from us than any previous time. We won't go back."

The march was announced last month by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and by the inter-Faith Foundation for Community Organization. Over 400 people, representing religious, civil rights, and political groups attended the Atlanta conference where the plans were made.

In its call the conference said, "This massacre marked a new level of terror in the recent nationwide Klan-Nazi upsurge and stands as a forewarning of a rising racist tide in the 1980's."

The call also warned that the gains of the 1960's civil rights movement are under increasing attack. "In the face of deepening economic crisis, Black people are being made scapegoats and white people are being urged to fight them instead of the real causes of the problems."

Rev. Joseph Lowery, President of SCLC announced last week that his organization would support the march, stressing that the march would be peaceful and non-violent.

Lowery and his wife were themselves targets for Klan bullets in Decatur, Ala. last May when someone shot into an SCLC demonstration. Two blacks were injured, but no arrests were made.

Endorsements for the Feb. 2 march are being sought from labor and religious groups. The Greensboro NAACP has given its endorsement, and mobilization committees are being formed in the Triangle area and in Greensboro.

TURTLE-TALK



Only an intelligent man has sense enough to recognize his own limitations.