

# Four Organizations Seek Sponsorship Of Head Start

By Karen Payer  
Post Staff Writer

The Head Start program in Charlotte, defunct since October, 1982, is at a few weeks away from being revived by a new sponsor.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Urban League, Greater Gethsemane AME Zion Church's Enrichment Center, Bethlehem Center and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte are seeking appointment as sponsors of the head start program. An announcement by a five-person screening committee is expected to be made by the end of January clarifying the new sponsor.

Each institution submitted an application to the Department of Health and Human Services in Atlanta. Once the federal officials have chosen a sponsor, about 40 poor and handicapped children will be able to reap the benefits of the Head Start Program once again. Charlotte Area Fund operated Head Start previously, but voted to drop the program in September.

Robert Alton, director of the Mecklenburg Urban League, would like to see not only children but the members of the children's families enjoying services of the Head Start Program.

"If Urban League is selected to sponsor the program we will work to help the entire family," stated Alton. He would like to see a program that provides high school education courses, social service advice and more parental involvement. According to Alton, many people who

## Exhibit To

## Focus On

## Black Heritage

The Mint Museum of History, 3500 Shamrock Drive, announces the opening of the exhibition, "Place and Spaces: Afro-American Architects and Architecture, on Sunday, January 9, at 2 p.m. The museum continues to focus on the Black heritage of America by exhibiting this traveling exhibition consisting of approximately 100 photographs which reflect the contributions, aspirations, esthetic values and cultural heritage of Afro-America as seen in architecture by Afro-American architects and builders.

Organized by the former head of the Department of Architecture at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, the exhibit is accompanied by a brochure-exhibit guide and a poster. Photographs of local landmarks of black architecture will also be included in the exhibition: Little Rock AME Zion Church; street scenes of Cherry; several views of Brooklyn; and other structures important in the history of the Black community in Charlotte.

This exhibit will continue through February 6th.

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are unemployed are also in need of career and educational development assistance. "We want to be able to provide that assistance as a part of our Head Start Program," Alston stated.

Also looking forward to getting the Head Start Program operable again is Doug Boyd, director of the Bethlehem Center. Boyd can't say for certain what changes will be made in the Head Start Program if the Bethlehem Center is chosen as the new sponsor. "If we are selected I feel certain the Department of Health and Human Services will make available data kept previously by the Charlotte Area Fund. "After we evaluate the present facilities and equipment and supplies, we will be able to reflect more accurately on any changes or improvements expected to take place within the program should we be chosen," Boyd noted.

He revealed transportation, food, parental and community involvement will be primary concerns at the Bethlehem Center if it's chosen as the sponsor. "We want parents to participate in the program and we will also seek the assistance and involvement of other community agencies," promised Boyd.

He continued, "Even if the Bethlehem Center is not chosen, any of the other institutions which may be chosen will probably seek community support. Boyd cited the Health and Social Service Departments as two of the agencies which will hopefully get involved with the sponsors of the Head Start Program.

Some of the concerns Boyd feels are important to keep the Head Start Program safe from some of its past problems are shared by Chancellor Jim Wertz at UNC-Charlotte. The university is also in running for sponsoring Char-

lotte's Head Start Program.

"As potential sponsors, UNCC officials are interested in the amount of space available in the public school system," Wertz stated. He feels the head start centers should be scattered in areas most convenient for the participants of the program. "It wouldn't make sense to even consider moving the Head Start classes to the college campus because of a lack of space and the inconvenience that would be created in transporting the children," he continued.

Wertz explained UNCC applied for the sponsorship because the staff viewed the opportunity as an excellent way to join ties with the school system. We have provided training during the summer for Head Start personnel and have conducted research that justifies the existence of Head Start. We also submitted a proposal because UNCC officials wanted to make sure that Head Start remained in Charlotte. Wertz noted how delighted he was that three other Charlotte institutions were also interested in the survival of Head Start.

Mrs. Adelaide Hunt, spokesperson for the Gethsemane Enrichment Program, would not provide any comment on the center's plans should it be chosen as the sponsor of the head start program.

While it is not certain what depth the staff would pursue as head start coordinators, the Gethsemane Enrichment Program is already comprised of cultural and educational programs designed for children.

Alston, Boyd and Wertz agreed they will support Charlotte Head Start Program, regardless of the chosen sponsor.



Special agents for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are seeking the two males above who robbed First Citizens Bank & Trust Company on December 29, 1982. The bank, 2480 Wilkinson Blvd., was entered by the robbers at approximately 11:40 a.m., according to a spokesman for the FBI. The man on the left was described as being 6'2" and about 25-28 years of age. He was dressed in an Army fatigue jacket and wore a woman's stocking as a mask. He carried a shotgun or rifle. His accomplice on the right was described as 5'9", stocky and wearing a

khakki waist jacket. He also wore a scarf around his head and carried a brown leather satchel. The FBI and the Charlotte Police Department are offering up to \$2,000 for information leading to the arrest and indictment of these robbers. Though they escaped on foot with an undetermined amount of money no one was hurt during the incident. All information reported to legal authorities will be held confidential. Anyone wishing to contact the FBI should call 372-5485; the Charlotte Police Department can be reached by telephoning 374-2311.

## CRC Accepting Nominations

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee is accepting nominations for the fourth annual Police Community Relations Awards Program. The program recognizes city and county police officers who have made outstanding contributions to the improvement of police-community relations in their assigned neighborhoods. To nominate an officer, you may

write to the committee at 623 East Trade Street, Suite 410, Charlotte, N.C. 28202, or call 374-2424. The deadline for submitting nominations is February 14. Recipients of the awards will be announced at a

ceremony in April.

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