

William Hoey Provides "Helping Hand" For Youth

By Lori Grier
Post Staff Writer

If our youth of America ever need a helping hand or someone to turn to in times of trouble, William Hoey, our 52 year-old achiever, is ready and willing to assist. In fact, he is Director of Partners, a program which provides opportunities for troubled youth (ages 10-17) to become responsible and productive community citizens, and has been a member for seven years. He attends meetings every six months at Partners' National Headquarters, Denver, Colorado. His basic philosophy is "All youth, regardless of whether or not they are in trouble or are so called 'good kids' are the future of our country. They are the product of their environment. Most adults see kids as the problem, but I see it as the reverse. In order to have good sheep, you must have a good shepherd."

Although Hoey knows what the problem of youth is, he can offer no solution. "The problem is lack of effective communication between the child and guardian. Adults have the problem of not listening, because they usually know what's best for their child. Communication is not just talking but transmitting and receiving. Adults start out with the wrong approach by not setting the proper stage for kids to be receptive," he analyzed.

The retired Air Force Master Sergeant, who has degrees in Sociology, Psychology, Probation Parole and Applied Science in Law Enforcement, has been honored and awarded as 1969 Operations Noncommissioned Officer of the Year by the European Theater; 3 Oak Leaf Clusters and bowling and golf organizations. The professional achievements Hoey is proud of are seen within the 7th Street Detoxification Center, where he was former supervisor, and Partners. "I'm seeing some of the street people who come through the Detoxification Center turn their lives around and become productive citizens of the community. I'm also seeing this every day with Partners which is the most fulfilling of all the jobs I've ever had. I get the most satisfaction out of working with youths and training volunteers who work with them," he beamed. The other achievements he is proud of are winning bowling and golf trophies.

There are not many blacks today on the level Hoey is in his profession compared to 20 years ago. He was the first black director of Partners in 1983, but there is a black



William "Bill" Hoey
.....Director of Partners

director in Denver now. Those on his level are doing very well, especially those in the national level of the National Association of Volunteers in Criminal Justice. "The few directors we have who are involved in the same type of work I am, appear to be doing an outstanding job. Degree programs are being set up at universities for Volunteer Administrators which is a very rewarding career. You not only give but receive the realization that you have helped someone enrich his-her life. Our program is enriching," he emphasized.

Hoey explains why Black History Month is important to him. "It helps you understand the past so that you can be more effective

in the future and recognize the mistakes that have been made, because a wise person profits from mistakes instead of repeating them. We are slowly beginning to recognize that we need each other, and blacks, especially, need to recognize this. So many blacks have been guilty of not being willing to work effectively with one another. Everybody can't be in charge. We have moved so far in time that we've developed the philosophy that good management is the answer to all problems, and we've left the most important ingredient, which is leadership, out. You can't manage people you can lead people and manage resources."

The son of Taylor Hoey

has one sister, Mrs. Doris Polk. He and Barbara are the parents of five-Alphonsor, 31; Barbara, 29; Denna, 27; William, Jr., 25 and Monique, 16, and attend Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church, pastored by Rev. William White. He is former member of Steward Board No. 2 where he was chairman. Hoey is co-owner of Romany Motel, North Tryon Street; owner of Hidden Valley Country Club; co-owner of Weekenders International Social Club, North Tryon Street; owner of Bill's Discount Furniture Store, East Trade Street and co-owner of the Grier Heights Community Shopping Center. He is also a member of the Retired Seniors

Volunteer Program; City County Certified Development Company; past state parliamentarian and present chairman of the State Recognition Community of the North Carolina Association of Volunteer Administrators; Political Advisor; Grier Heights Community Development Corporation; former president of the Inter-Agency Council for Human Services; Mecklenburg County Association of Volunteer Administrators; National Association of Volunteers in Criminal Justice; former treasurer of Par Busters Golf Group and former vice president and treasurer of the PTA at J.T. Williams Junior High School.

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