



LITTLE BUDDIES AND BIG BUDDIES
...Of JCSU's Project I.M.P.A.C.T.

With Community

Johnson C. Smith Students Develop "Stronger Ties"

By Loretta Manago
Post Staff Writer
For quite some time Anise Brown, sociology instructor at Johnson C. Smith University, sensed that the students at the university should have a more direct role in the community.

That need for stronger ties between Smith students and the neighboring communities grew into what is now known as Project I.M.P.A.C.T. (Instilling Motivation and Progress Among Community Teenagers).

Through Project I.M.P.A.C.T. the students at Smith have a profound input concerning the image of the community in which they live.

"The program is designed to match 10 Smith students (five male, five female) with 10 junior or senior high school students (five male, five female) who reside in the vicinity of the school. Once the match has been completed, the 'big buddies and little buddies' as they are called, begin to develop a relationship with each other," commented Ms. Brown.

As "big buddies" the Smith students serve as role models, responding and relating to the special needs of the teenagers. By being positive examples for them, Ms. Brown asserted that Smith students could have an influence and impact upon these youngsters for the rest of their lives.

This is not a concept that is taken lightly. Before the program was implemented the director, Ms. Brown took special steps to carefully chart the program's direction. Already the program has been copyrighted and has received the endorsement of community leaders like Charles Dannelly and Phyllis Lynch.

In the future, Ms. Brown stated that she would like to see Project I.M.P.A.C.T. spread to other black universities that are located in black communities. "From the short time since Project I.M.P.A.C.T. has begun we have had other colleges to contact us and express an interest in our program," acknowledged Mrs. Brown.

Since I.M.P.A.C.T. started in March, the "little buddies" have been enlightened through seminars about "the operations of the juvenile justice system," "police-teenager relationship," "sex education," "social etiquette," and "health and personal hy-

giene." They have had their cultural horizons expanded through trips to Discovery Place, the Nature Museum, and the Mint Museum. Socially, the little buddies have gone roller skating, bowling, and to the movies. Still another phase of Project I.M.P.A.C.T. includes tutorial assistance.

Those are just a few of the activities that have solidified the relationship between the students at Smith and the CMS students.

Having accomplished so much in just a couple of months tends to reinforce the need for a project of this caliber. Even Mrs. Brown has had to marvel at the program's immediate and overwhelming success. "It's tremendous. Everytime I leave a session I leave totally elated. The big buddies and little buddies are very much drawn to each other and will often meet in addition to the regular scheduled sessions. Although I thought the program was needed I never dreamed that the participants would be so enthused."

Not every student can qualify for Project I.M.P.A.C.T. Smith students who want to be big buddies must be a junior or senior, have full-time status, live on campus, maintain a 2.8 grade point average and be recommended by a faculty member. To qualify as a little buddy the teenager has to be between the ages of 13-16, live in the Biddleville-Five Points area, be enrolled in the CMS system and have the approval of his or her parent-guardian.

Beth Swann

To Speak To

JRAPS Group

Beth Swann, R.N., Arthritis Teaching Nurse, will be the featured speaker at the next Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis Parent Support Group meeting, Sunday, May 6, 2 p.m., at the Community Health Services Building, 1401 East Seventh St.

Mrs. Swann will speak concerning "Medications for the Child With JRA." If you are a family member or caring adult friend of a child with JRA, please plan to attend this most important meeting. For further details, call DeLilah Allsbrook, R.N., Arthritis Patient Services.

J.C. Smith Friends Mount Membership Drive

The newly-chartered Friends of Johnson C. Smith University will kick off its initial membership drive May 1, according to association President, Dr. Elizabeth Randolph. The purpose of the organization is to bring the Charlotte and University communities together in meaningful ways for the enrichment of each.

"The special Events and the Executive Committees have been busy at work focusing on specific projects for the coming year," remarked Dr. Randolph.

One such effort will be to establish an Elderhostel program on campus during the summer.

"It would be an opportunity for older citizens to live on campus in the residence halls and take classes for a week or two," cited Friends Vice President, Dr. Gerson Stroud. "Many people are interested in courses in art, literature, politics and many other fields just for the enjoyment and stimulation of such offerings."

Other goals call for Johnson C. Smith University serving as host for a series of non-credit, continuing education programs. Seminars in investment opportunities, establishing effective neighborhood associations, changing housing patterns, and "everyday law" will become available.

Friends of JCSU also looks to be active in addressing area needs.

"We look to coordinate efforts in which Smith students may 'adopt' a senior citizen for reading sessions or to form a tutoring service for area stu-



Dr. Elizabeth Randolph
...Association president

dents in need of help," pointed out Dr. Stroud.

"We envision a two-way sharing of services," furthered Dr. Randolph. "We'd like to organize retired teachers who could help tutor Smith students or lead community study groups on campus."

Other projects envisioned are neighborhood clean-up campaigns, basketball camps for area youngsters, and a neighborhood spruce-up effort by local garden clubs.

"We are looking to increase the number of cultural events for the community to attend with students on campus," pointed out JCSU President Robert L. Albright.

"We are putting together a package of benefits to encourage the community to join us."

The Friends of JCSU benefit package will include library privileges, admission to campus theatre and cultural events, receiving University publications, a discount rate for season tickets for football and basketball games with reserved seating included at Brayboy Gym and an annual President's Champagne reception.

"The most important benefit will be the opportunity to become involved in some exciting and certainly meaningful projects," cited Dr. Stroud.

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by Jean Ford

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