

Mecklenburg County Elderly Have Friend In Camp

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

The elderly of Mecklenburg County have a friend in Freida Camp. The VISTA volunteer has been a mainstay of the United Way's Friends of the Elderly program since last September. A major goal of the program is to link Charlotte-Mecklenburg's older residents with whichever agencies are most appropriate for their particular needs. This could involve anything from simply making a referral to providing transportation to advocating for them in some way, such as helping them get into public housing.

"Transportation is one of the biggest problems," Ms. Camp stated. Many older people cannot travel by bus or need someone to



Freida Camp
.....VISTA volunteer accompany them to medical appointments, she explained. Her job is to help in whatever way she can. Although the west side of

Charlotte and the county outside Charlotte city limits are the focal areas for the project, Ms. Camp has responded to calls from all over the city and county. "There's a vast need for a service like this," the volunteer asserted. One problem the program has encountered has been finding those people who need help. "The elderly like to feel independent," Ms. Camp noted. "They don't like to ask for help." Since February, she has been speaking to church and senior citizen groups once or twice a month. Now that word is

getting around, there has been more response to the project, and people are calling to request help. Freida Camp displays a natural affinity for the work she is doing. As of July 1, the VISTA volunteer will become a paid United Way Staff member, but even if this were not so, she would continue doing what she's doing. "I enjoy it and I'd still want to do it," she affirmed. Ms. Camp said she found her present position by accident while laid off from her job as a mail clerk for a printing company. She had never worked with the el-

derly but had always felt comfortable with them. "I've always had a knack with senior citizens," she confessed. Ms. Camp believes the elderly are often shuffled around and not cared for. "Whenever I can stand up in their behalf, I do," she revealed. Freida Camp's family is supportive of her efforts in the Friends of the Elderly program. "They love it and they encourage me," she said. "I really get a lot of satisfaction out of helping people. My reward is when they call and thank me."



Pictured above are some of the members who perform with the Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble. Front row, left to right: Brenda Froneberger, Mary Cannon, Sherry Young, Mary Gill, Faye Harris-Maye, Brenda Porter; second row left to right: Janice Davidson, Shelly

Anderson, Juliette Poe, Joyce Ledbetter, Ted Avery, Nigel Ayton; back row left to right: Michael Porter, Randall Johnson, Andre McClain, Donald Turner, Sam Young, Thero Spears, Frank Williams (conductor).

Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble To Present Concert

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer
According to Randall Johnson, a member of the Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble, the group has spent long hours preparing the best of song and dance for concert-goers. Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble will present its annual summer perfor-

mance Sunday, in C.K. Blake Auditorium, as West Charlotte High School. The concert begins at 6:15 p.m. "We'll feature sacred and secular music, as well as pop and gospel," Johnson pointed out. Selections from Handel and Faure will also be performed. The highlight of the evening will be a

theatrical medley from the Wiz. Johnson didn't give too many clues, but the dedicated practices which he spoke of on behalf of all the members indicated this year's concert is bigger and better.

"We're all singers, but not all of us were dancers," Johnson smiled. Now, with the assistance of choreographer, Barbara Howse-Meadows, the Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble has a Broadway flair. Ms. Howse-Meadows has lived in Charlotte since January, 1983. A native of White Plains, N.Y., she studied dance and choreography at Boston Conservatory of Music and received her BS in dance from State University of New York at Brockport.

Ms. Howse-Meadows is presently teaching at Charlotte School of Ballet; she is choreographer for Central Piedmont Community College's summer theatre. Besides traveling with a Charlotte children's theatre group for two years, Ms. Howse-Meadows directed her own dance company - Meadows Dance Works - in her hometown.

The conductor of the Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble is Frank Williams, a native of Gastonia, N.C. Williams received his BA from Johnson C. Smith University and his MEd from UNC-Charlotte. Additional studies include the Interlochen Arts Academy. He received a fellowship from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. Williams has also studied under Richard Cox at UNC-Greensboro.

Along with directing Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble, he is presently choral director at West Charlotte High School and at Friendship Baptist Church. Tickets for the Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble's summer concert can be purchased at the door, or in advance from Ensemble members. They are also on sale at the Afro-American Cultural Center in Spirit Square. The price is \$6, adults; \$3, children. For more information, telephone 974-1565.

Gantt Opens Upward Bound Summer Program

Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gantt passed along his father's advice to him when first leaving home to the students enrolled in the Upward Bound Program at Johnson C. Smith University last week at the annual banquet on campus.



Harvey Gantt
.....JCSU speaker

"It's important to use this opportunity well as you might not get such a chance again," he offered.

Mayor Gantt reflected on the loss to society of untapped potential because programs like Upward Bound (a college preparatory program for Charlotte-Mecklenburg students) did not exist when he attended high school.

"As mayor I see the absolute cream of society and the absolute bottom, the good and the bad," remarked Gantt. "I am concerned about what we are doing to ourselves, the negativism leads to black self-hatred. We need to develop the leadership to continue to attack the social injustices and problems that face us," he continued. "A program such as Upward Bound is a good place to start."

Upward Bound works with area students who have potential with additional help to be able to succeed in college work. Students attend classes and participate in a wide range of cultural, recreational and social experiences during a summer program. During the school year the program continues in a support role while participants attend their high school classes. Once Upward Bound students graduate from high school, they may become Bridge Students, which is the final

preparation before entering college. Harvey Gantt advised program participants to carry a positive attitude about themselves and to be honest in measuring their capabilities. "Don't be afraid to venture out," stated Gantt. "The lesson of education is not to be afraid to start all over again." "When I first lost in the election (primary vs. Eddie Knox) I felt a sense of satisfaction," added the mayor. "I didn't mope about 'if only I did that.' Your attitude is the difference between success or non-success."

The banquet also honored top achievers from the 1983-84 school year. Plaques for highest academic average were given to Mark Jackson for his sophomore work at Independence, Tanya Taylor for her junior work at Garinger and Pia Townes a senior graduate from West Charlotte who will be attending Johnson C. Smith University this fall.

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New City licenses are due July 1 for all dogs and cats over four months of age in the city of Charlotte

Purchase pet licenses before July 1 at City Hall, 600 East Trade Street, Window 1 on 1st floor/Charlotte-Mecklenburg Animal Shelter, 2700 Toomey Avenue/License fees are \$5 for spayed or neutered cats and dogs and \$20 for fertile animals. Bring written proof of rabies inoculation and spay/neuter surgery. The fine for failing to purchase a license is \$25.

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