

If It's Good For
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SECTION

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Your Government At Work

Social Services Spends \$1,400,000 On 19 Programs

County Taxpayers Provide \$104,000

BY DOROTHY OSBORNE
Times Staff Writer

Transylvania County Department of Social Services spends about \$1,400,000 annually in 19 different programs that include aid to dependent children, food stamps, medicaid, services to young people, public housing, and activities for retired persons.

Local funds provide about \$104,000. The federal government supplies 75 per cent and the state government about 12½ per cent.

The remaining 12½ per cent comes from the Transylvania tax payer.

Actually, the local tax payer's cost is less than that, according to Don Morrison, director of the department of social services, because of the food stamp program, in which the federal government has what he terms "a very, very favorable match."

Food stamps in September cost \$22,000, he said. In October, it jumped to \$65,000 and climbed to \$68,000 in November. In December, it dipped to \$50,000. January is expected to reach about \$60,000, he stated.

He attributed the October jump to the Olin strike. By the end of November, the influence of the strike had passed, but unemployment was on the rise in other industries.

"We expect the program for 1975 to cost \$750,000. The total cost to the county after all revenues is less than \$5,000," he said.

The amount spent in October represented aid to 2,080 persons. In December, 1,410 persons making up 519 families purchased stamps, paying about one-third of the purchase amount of the stamps.

EFFICIENCY

The barometer of efficiency in social services departments is traditionally rated by the welfare checks, he said. In October, 1974, Transylvania County paid an average of \$45.71 to 155 women and children. That amount, he said, is the third highest in the state, one penny less than the second highest average amount he said.

That number of people receiving checks is slightly more than 7 per cent of the total population.

He cited figures for a neighboring county with a similar economic situation and population, which paid an average of \$39.11 to 386 persons, more than double the number receiving aid in Transylvania County.

"Our biggest line item is medicaid payments," he said, "the financial support of people seeking medical help." Payments amounting to about \$360,000 are made to medical facilities and professionals, he said, with the county's portion amounting to about \$17,000.

While medicaid is the most expensive item in the budget, it takes fewer man hours by the department staff because the person-to-person contact is with the medical personnel, he said.

ELDERLY

The department is one of seven agencies involved with the day activities program for the elderly.

One of three agencies involved in persons moving into

the low-income housing and the support of these people.

One of three agencies involved directly with the program Cope.

That program will open a residence for nine youngsters in February, he said.

In the Cope program, he said, "We teach children why the world is the way it is and why they are the way they are."

"They learn such assumed things as how to shop in stores, how to read bus schedules, experience plane and train trips—all the things that adults assume as common knowledge."

They also learn how to apply for jobs, about local government and law "in such a way that they can see law being beneficial and protective of their rights; how to get along with authority figures; how to be authority figures and take responsibility for themselves and others; to face the unknown and deal with it."

During the past 14 months, he said, the department has been focusing on the 14 to 16 year-old age group "because the problems in this age group, if not handled, will be the welfare mothers of two years from now and the deserted fathers two years from now."

"These are candidates most likely for training schools and

statistics say of those entering training schools, 90 per cent will go on to adult prisons."

TRAINING SCHOOL

During this period, only one child from the county has entered a training school for the first time, he said. That one stayed one month and is now in a boarding school. "Two have been incarcerated in Hendersonville Juvenile Center for less than a total of 48 hours. We intend to improve on this, if possible."

"This is not just the work of this department," Mr. Morrison said. "We share the responsibility of working with youth with many agencies—

schools, courts, court counselors, judges, public health, mental health, youth services board—in fact, every possible agency at some time has been involved either in referral counseling or follow-up. The Department of Social Services has been, in fact, grateful to share this responsibility."

PERSONNEL

The department's staff numbers nine, including the director.

"The entire staff is dedicated to a single goal—to maintain and improve the social stability of this particular county. We see our work as problem solving and

ourselves as people problem solvers.

"The cost that these programs represent are not seen by us as a form of charity but investment tools to make a difference in our clients' coping ability. We invest in people and do it in such a way that we nurture or support the personal individual and avoid cost for them to be dependent on this department."

"Theoretically, we would like to put ourselves out of business. This can never happen, but in following this goal structure, we are handling to the best of our ability problems as they come, and avoid piling problems on top of problems and necessitating expanding the department."

CHARLEY'S AUNT—(left to right) Kim Crow is Klitty, Danny Kelly is Babberly in disguise as Charley's Aunt, and Christi Warnick is Amy in the National Players production of this English comedy which will appear at Brevard College on Saturday, Jan. 25, at 2 p.m. at Dunham Auditorium.

Two Performances At College Jan. 25

The internationally famous theatrical company, National Players, will appear at Brevard College in two performances on Jan. 25.

The matinee performance, Charley's Aunt, is scheduled for 2 p.m. in Dunham Auditorium.

Admission is \$2 adult, \$1 junior high and senior high student, and \$.50 elementary student.

The evening performance, Henry IV, Part I, is part of the Lyceum series, and members will be admitted on their season tickets.

Tickets will be available at the door for nonmembers at \$4 adult, \$2 public students or \$12 for a family.

The performance is scheduled for 8 p.m.

With this 26th Tour, National Players begins its second quarter-century as a touring theatre repertory company in the most enviable position of all companies touring in the United States today.

For years National Players was the only theatre company touring—a pioneer in a field where today touring groups

are springing up in practically every state.

But Player's success is notable for the high quality of its productions and for its international as well as national tours: its 25 previous companies have played in over 40 states and in such varied countries as Korea, Japan, France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Canada and the Arctic Circle.

And Players still dominates a now highly competitive field because of its original and long-lasting dedication: a determination to bring the magic and excitement that is theatre to the stages of as many cities, towns and universities as possible.

No other single company can boast of off-Broadway, network television or White House appearances, or invitations from the U.S. Defense Department or Department of State to visit other countries on behalf of our country.

Beginning as an outgrowth of the Speech and Drama Department of the Catholic University of America, Players has been the fountainhead of numerous directing, acting and designing talents now well-

known on the Broadway stage, in films and television.

Each year a company of 15 young men and women embarks on a 40,000-mile tour and from September to May covers the East, West, the Midwest, the South and South-west, offering audiences works by the world's greatest playwrights.

In a day when theatre is no longer centered in New York but in the "provinces", Players is at home where it has always been for 25 years.

United Fund Victory Lunch On Tuesday

The Transylvania County United Fund Victory Dinner - a dutch treat affair - will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 12:15 p.m. at the Brevard College Cafeteria.

Special recognition will be given to the campaign leaders and workers.

Following the dinner, the Transylvania County United Fund will hold its annual meeting.

HENRY IV, PART I— John Holtz (left) is Prince Hal, Alan D. Share (center) is King Henry IV, and Jared Matesky is Falstaff in the National Players version of one of the greatest Shakespearean history plays, Henry IV, Part I, to

be presented at Brevard College on Saturday, January 25th at 8:00 p.m. at Dunham Auditorium under the sponsorship of the Mutual Concert Association Lyceum series.

Cooperative Spirit Creates 'Rare Arena'

BY DOROTHY OSBORNE
Times Staff Writer

The community spirit of Transylvania County residents and the cooperation of county agencies to get the job done combine to create "a rare professional arena" for Don Morrison, director of the county's Department of Social Services and human resources chairman.

"This is the most exciting thing I have been involved in in my professional career," Mr. Morrison said, speaking of the cooperation of agencies which will be easier when they are brought together in one building. This will be done as soon as renovation is completed on the former elementary school building.

This means, he said, that a person who needs service will not need to understand the bureaucratic divisions of services; with all service agencies under one roof, he will not be shuttled from one end of the county to the other seeking help.

Mr. Morrison, who came to Transylvania County 14 months ago, lives with his wife, Juanita, and four children, ages nine to 15, on Country Club Circle.



DON MORRISON

A native of Minneapolis, Minn., he met his wife in Columbia, S.C., when he was in the Army. After completing a tour of duty in Vietnam in 1967, he decided he had had enough of war and left the Army, after nine years service.

The family moved to Winston-Salem and he entered Wake Forest University to complete work on his degree in psychology. He worked with the Department of Social Services in Winston-Salem,

and completed requirements for a master's degree from the University of North Carolina in 1971.

Mrs. Morrison, a registered nurse, works at Transylvania Community Hospital. A picture of the four children, all with big smiles, hangs on Mr. Morrison's office wall. They are happy kids, he said. "They sparkle."

The family attends St. Philip's Episcopal Church. He is a member of the Brevard Kiwanis Club.

He admits to only one activity not related to his work—playing golf when he gets the chance.

"This job requires dedication to get it done," he said, citing the long hours he devotes to it. All members of the staff do the same thing, he said. None works a 40-hour week.

He sees their work with the children of Transylvania county as "our most important work. If in the future people are to have less need for public programs in support of their private lives, it will stem directly from the child growing up to an adult, able to cope in a highly complex society."

During the time he has been here, he has been amazed at the community spirit of the citizens—their willingness to attend public meetings, serve on the various boards, support the various programs.

"The public spirit is here. They care about people," he said.

"The commissioners gave a very strong mandate when I arrived," he said. "They wanted the Department of Social Services to take part of the lead in influencing a better social stability in Transylvania County."

He cited the preamble to the constitution as an example of what is happening in this county. "The constitution states 'to promote' the welfare, not 'to provide' the welfare. That's what this community is doing. The local government is concerned with its people. That's why I like being here. That's why I came here."

"I get a good feeling out of being useful. To me, that's the best prize of all."

Miss Mass In Symphony

SPARTANBURG, S. C. — Miss Lee Mass, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Mass of Pisgah Forest, will perform with the Spartanburg Symphony Orchestra at the Inaugural Ball in Columbia, Jan. 15th. Lee is a sophomore at Converse College and a graduate of Brevard High School.

Volunteer Workers To Aid Delinquents

A program using volunteer workers to help juvenile delinquents or youngsters with undisciplined behavior is being set up by the 29th Judicial District Juvenile Court Counselors.

Ken Lanning, chief court counselor of the district that includes Henderson, Polk, Rutherford, McDowell and Transylvania counties, sees the program as one way of providing the youngsters with the attention they need from people who care.

Funded by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), the program started in late October when Leo Fox was named volunteer coordinator.

Since that time, Mr. Fox has surveyed the district to determine the needs and set up ways that volunteers can help.

FRIENDS

The biggest need, perhaps, is for a program of big brothers or big sisters, he said, volunteers to be friends with the kids, someone to talk to and do things with.

Another need is for tutoring. In some of the counties, emergency foster care is greatly needed. In Henderson

County, for example, Mr. Fox said that there is no place for emergency care of the youngster during the five days from the time he is picked up and the date of his hearing. In such instances, he said, the youngster spends that time in jail.

Mr. Fox also hopes to get volunteers from among retired people, who might act as grandparents to the children. "A lot of the kids are coming from the single parent family," he said. "They need this association."

The six court counselors, headquartered in Hendersonville, carry a case load of about 50 youngsters between the ages of 10 and 16 or so each, supervising the probationary orders of the judge. The number of local cases averages about 35.

When a child is placed on probation, Mr. Lanning said, the counselor visits his home, getting information on the child and his parents, seeking ways he can help.

FAMILY

"Most times it's not the child so much as problems in the family — marital problems, alcohol, and so forth. We try to see what the problems are and work

toward getting the child some help."

Many times the counselor refers the family to agencies such as social services, vocational rehabilitation, mental health, and schools for help.

Volunteers working with these children can help them tremendously in solving their problems, Mr. Lanning said.

The program, will be monitored very closely, Mr. Fox said, and volunteers will receive training to help them be as effective as possible.

"There are hundred of things that volunteers can do," he added.

He is speaking before civic and church organizations, telling about the program. He is available to talk with other groups and individuals.

Mr. Fox's schedule will soon include spending one day each week in Transylvania County. In the meantime, he can be reached through the Hendersonville office, phone 692-3281. Mr. Lanning's phone number in Hendersonville is 692-6286. Or persons may leave messages for them with Charles Gibbons, court counselor for this county, or at the county courthouse.