

The Annie E. Casey Foundation has released a new study that shows a sharp rise in the numbers of American children living in poverty - from 3.4 million in the 1970s to 5.6 million in 1994.

The family tree Durham family creates foundation

The Fox Family Foundation was established in 1991 by Frances Hill Fox to continue a family tradition of giving to education, health care and the arts.

By BARBARA SOLOW

Durham

For the past three years, David Beischer has been learning a lesson in family values.

As executive director of a foundation created by his grandmother - Frances Hill Fox - Beischer has watched his family's philanthropic dreams gradually become reality.

The Fox Family Foundation,

GRANTMAKING

which has assets of about \$1.2 million, will distribute about \$55,000 in grants this year to nonprofits in Durham, Orange and Wake counties. Previous grantees include Durham Academy and the Foundation for Better Health, the organizer of recent centennial celebrations for Watts Hospital in Durham - which is now home to the N.C. School of Science and Math.

The idea for the foundation grew out of planning for Fox's estate, which includes a 1,000-acre former

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Painting by numbers

Artist Reach teaches inmates self-respect

Laura Roselli has had no trouble convincing jail administrators that the arts program benefits inmates as well as the entire community.

By STEPHANIE GREER

Durham

Working with watercolors and making percussion instruments probably wasn't what most inmates thought they would be doing with their time at the Forsyth County Jail.

But since 1994, an informal arts program there has grown into four arts classes - three at Forsyth and one at the Durham County Jail - known as Artist Reach. The program runs solely on volunteer effort and a couple of small grants, and is designed to give inmates who choose to take the class self-esteem, self-control and communications skills that will help them be successful after their release.

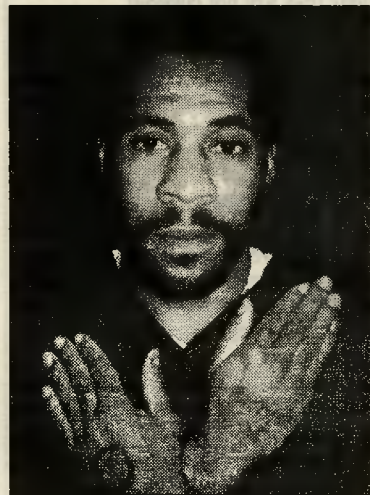
"It's this whole thing where they

ARTS

learn how to work with people," says Laura Roselli, director of Artist Reach. "You'd be surprised how many people have never had one-on-one collaboration with other people in their lives. You can see a progression of their attitudes. They learn how to have relationships with other people ... they learn basic communications skills."

Roselli says inmates who come into her program as "little shells of people" wind up helping others a few months later. Those shifts in attitude and self-concept, she says, are the results of inmates' projects, where they work with other class members but still have the freedom to use their own creativity.

Roselli says jail guards tell her that her students come back to dormitories calmer, less stressed, after the arts classes. She says inmates, who tell her the self-expression makes them feel better, are the pro-



An Artist Reach student shows off his creations.

gram's staunchest champions.

Roselli didn't start out to run Artist Reach; she already had a full-time job as membership and volunteers coordinator at the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art. Her schooling is in arts education, and

she is a printmaker and sculptor. When she got to Artist Reach, the program didn't even formally exist.

In the fall of 1994, she heard that a guard at the Forsyth County Jail was giving inmates art supplies to work with, so she called to volunteer her help. She learned that the guard had left the jail. She also received an offer to take over the fledgling program. In December, she did just that.

Roselli moved to Durham less than a year later, became director of the Durham Art Guild, began an identical program as part of the Durham jail's substance abuse program, and continued to commute to Winston-Salem to teach three other classes.

Currently, the Forsyth County Jail has art classes for men, for women and for members of the substance abuse program, T.E.A.C.H.

Now, however, Roselli is pregnant and physically can no longer put forth the effort and driving time it takes to run both programs. A group of local artists have volunteered to take over

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Motivating tomorrow's leaders

"Don't mess with the best, 'cause the best don't mess," chanted roughly 130 rising high school juniors as they filed into Jones Auditorium recently at Meredith College in Raleigh.

The students were part of the N.C.-East Leadership Seminar of the Hugh O'Brian Youth Foundation - a three-day workshop designed to motivate future leaders.

In an effort to "teach children to think for themselves," actor Hugh O'Brian established the foundation in 1958. The leadership seminars are offered throughout the U.S. at no cost to the students or their schools. The program brings together a select group of students and distinguished

leaders in business, government and education to discuss present and future issues such as America's political system, communications in the electronic age and challenges in the 21st century.

Last month's seminar in Raleigh included seven panels that examined a host of topics.

One, for example, looked at the state's justice system and featured Burley Mitchell, chief justice of the state Supreme Court, and Thomas Hilliard, a lawyer in the Raleigh firm of Hilliard & Jones.

The Raleigh seminar was organized and run by the Raleigh Jaycees.

Funder studies role of Medicaid

A study commissioned by The Commonwealth Fund in New York shows that Medicaid is an important benefit for low-income women - especially those who are mothers.

The study's authors warn that since welfare status is one way in which low-income women qualify for Medicaid, changes to either program could significantly increase the number of uninsured poor women.

Some highlights of the study, "Medicaid's Role in Insuring Low-Income Women," include:

- One out of five American women with family incomes below 200 percent of poverty is covered by Medicaid, including half of all single,

low-income women with children.

- Even with Medicaid, almost one-third of low-income women are uninsured.

- Working puts women at risk of losing Medicaid coverage. Low-income women who go to work or increase their hours or wages account for more than 40 percent of those who leave the Medicaid program.

- One-fourth of all low-income women enrolled in Medicaid did so because they were having a child while another 7 percent enrolled because of a decline in their health.

For information, call (212) 606-3842.

Building community

Babcock awards \$2.6 million in grants

Winston-Salem

The Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation in June awarded more than \$2.6 million in grants to 54 nonprofits in the Southeast. The selected organizations work to encourage community cohesiveness in their respective regions.

Since 1994, the foundation has concentrated its grantmaking on organizations working to build community strength. This year, 49 nonprofits received funding through the foundation's organizational development program, and five organizational coalitions received grants through its community problem-solving program.

The organizational development program finances efforts by nonprofits to improve their long-term effectiveness through better staff development, planning and communication. Twenty-three of the grants given in the program were renewals from the previous year.

The community problem-solving program funds nonprofits that bring people together across race and class lines to alleviate specific community problems. The coalitions receiving funding under the program are:

- Eau Claire Community of Shalom, Columbia, S.C. - \$15,000 over six months. The group uses the strength of church congregations and neighborhood residents to tackle com-

munity problems such as bigotry and lack of food or housing.

- Ensley Community Issues Forum, Birmingham, Ala. - \$100,000 over two years. The forum combines efforts of residents, neighborhood associations, business owners, the city of Birmingham and churches to reclaim the Ensley community, a poor African-American neighborhood marked by poverty, poor housing and an abandoned contaminated industrial site.

- The Jeremiah Group, New Orleans, La. - \$100,000 over two years. The group brings religious congregations, public schools, parents, community organizations and businesses together to improve local schools.

- Owsley County Action Team, Booneville, Ky. - \$83,100 over two years. The team, made up of farmers, businesspeople, residents and elected officials, works to promote economic development in the rural Appalachian community of Booneville.

- The Partnership Project, Greensboro - \$49,650 for one year. The project combines efforts of Project Greensboro, city government, Guilford College and neighborhood residents to revitalize neighborhoods in need.

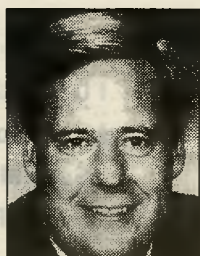
Individual Babcock grant recipients are located in Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana,

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BRIEFLY

Foundation hires new officer

The Foundation for the Carolinas in Charlotte has named Robert W. Morris, a vice president and trust officer for BB&T, as vice president for development.



Robert Morris

Meeting to study Onassis trust

The Jacqueline Onassis lead trust will be the topic of a meeting Sept. 12 sponsored by the North Carolina Planned Giving Council at the Holiday Inn-Four Seasons in Greensboro. Call Sandra Shell, (910) 732-5289.

New Era plan proposed

A plan to help charities that lost money in last year's collapse of the Foundation for New Era Philanthropy is being reviewed by a federal bankruptcy court. The plan would allow nonprofit groups to recover 60 to 65 cents on every dollar they lost in a financial scandal in which donated money was sup-

posed to be matched by the bankrupt foundation. Funds for the recovery plan would come from a pool of dollars from charities that received more money from New Era than they "invested" in the foundation. The bankruptcy court was scheduled to approve the plan at an Aug. 1 hearing.

Foundation supports health research

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has awarded \$500,000 to a team of economists and health experts to study TennCare, Tennessee's program to enroll Medicaid patients in managed care. Chris Conover, a health policy expert at Duke, is a member of the study team.