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# **ACTION UPDATE**

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## **ACTION Assumes Critical Position in National Urban Initiatives**

ACTION will play a significant role in the nation's urban policy, as announced on March 27 by President Carter.

In his policy statement, the President referred to a \$8.3 billion program to assist the nation's cities. Voluntary activity and community-based programs will figure significantly as constructive approaches in assisting cities solve urban problems. ACTION will be involved in these volunteer and locally-based approaches through the creation of two new programs: the Urban Volunteer Corps, and a new Urban Criminal Justice initiative.

The Urban Volunteer Corps is a \$40 million effort aimed at assisting neighborhood revitalization and preservation activities through the mobilization of volunteers and allocation of small grants through a Good Neighbor Fund. It is currently estimated that the Urban Volunteer Corps program will be administered in 145 cities nationwide. The Good Neighbor Fund will involve small grants to neighborhood groups which need not be in the same communities as the Urban Volunteer Corps.

The Urban Volunteer Corps, the volunteer component of Carter's urban package, will assign part-time, non-stipended volunteers to nonprofit organizations such as halfway houses and consumer co-ops to provide management assistance and consumer assistance to fixed-income individuals. The Good Neighbor Fund, the other element of the Urban Volunteer Corps, will provide seed money in small amounts averaging \$5,000 to neighborhood groups for support costs, including training, supplies, and materials. Helping a group establish a community museum is an example of an initiative that might be funded.

The second program, the Urban Criminal Justice Program, which will be jointly planned for by ACTION and the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration of the Justice Department, is a \$10 million initiative in which citizens and community groups will be involved in the prevention and control of street-level crimes in their areas. Assistance will be given to elderly victims of crime and in the coordination of already existing community criminal justice programs such as drug hotlines, family violence centers and rape crisis centers.

In a memorandum to employees on March 28, Sam Brown called for continued staff support in providing ideas and suggestions for the improvement and refinement of concepts in the urban policy effort. In the months ahead, ACTION staff will meet with the Office of Management and Budget, the Congress, and community groups in further formulation of program plans.

# UN Reception Highlights Awareness Month

During the March Awareness Campaign, a number of receptions were given throughout the country for former volunteers, highlighted by a special reception at the United Nations on March 15 commemorating the 17th anniversary of Peace Corps.

Almost 300 former volunteers now residing in the New York metropolitan area attended as well as representatives from such international organizations as World Education, Inc., Operation Crossroads Africa, Experiment in International Living, American Field Service, UNICEF, and the United Nations Development Program. Deputy Peace Corps Director Gretchen Handwerker attended, representing the Peace Corps.

Guest speakers included Ambassador Allard Lowenstein, United States Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs, the United Nations, Ambassador Tan Sri Zaiton Ibrahim of Malaysia, Ambassador Frank Boaten of Ghana, and ACTION Director Sam Brown. Also speaking were newly appointed Commissioner Haskell Ward of the New York City Community Development Agency, and a former PCV in Ethiopia; Thomas Drahaman, Executive Director of the International Medical and Research Foundation, former PCV in Thailand; and Jasperdean Kobes, Director of Programs for World Education, Inc., and a former PCV in Ethiopia.

The highpoint of the evening was the presentation of the Hubert Humphrey International Service Award to U.S. Congressman, Christopher Dodd, a former Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic, and Velma Linford of ACTION's Office of Recruitment and Communications. Linford, who was recently honored by her home state of Wyoming when a West Laramie, Wy. elementary school was named after her, was cited by the Peace Corps and the UN Meditation Group for her "vision, energy, skill and commitment to international service." Congressman Dodd of Connecticut was honored for "continuing to display the best qualities of a Peace Corps volunteer." Sam Brown said that in his work as a U.S. Congressman, Dodd exemplified the commitment to ideals and dedication to public service on which the Peace Corps was founded.

Other receptions during the month, planned for the most part by former volunteers, were held in Minneapolis on March 16 at the VISTA "Project for Pride and Living," where Mary King spoke on new directions in Peace Corps and VISTA. The San Diego and Los Angeles Peace Corps Service Councils each held receptions on March 20 and 21 honoring Dr. Carolyn Payton, Peace Corps Director. Earlier, Payton was honored at receptions in Houston and Denver hosted by former volunteers. In San Francisco, a reception was held on March 28 for former Peace Corps and VISTA volunteers. Sam Brown was key speaker. Finally, on March 31, VISTA Director Marge Tabankin spoke at a reception held at the University of Wisconsin campus in Madison.

Lynn Miller, Former Volunteer Project staff, said the receptions served a variety of purposes. "It was the first time that former volunteers were identified and honored for their service. Each reception was publicized in local newspapers which heightened public awareness about former volunteers now residing in the community and what their volunteer experiences were like. Former volunteers likewise profited by learning from ACTION senior staff what new directions Peace Corps and VISTA are taking, and also getting acquainted with other former volunteers who now reside in their communities."

## VISTA Helps People Decide

VISTA projects are as diverse as the VISTA volunteers themselves, who range in age from 18 to 80, and come from a variety of ethnic and economic backgrounds. But the volunteers

share a common goal -- to involve low-income people in the vital decisions that affect their lives.

"If you can get the people to work together, you can almost accomplish everything," said VISTA volunteer Joyce Fletcher, 39, of Cincinnati, Ohio. Mrs. Fletcher, who has five children and four grandchildren, is assigned to the Urban Appalachian Council in Cincinnati, where she works with low-income people like herself whose families are from Appalachia.

Last year, she got some of her neighbors together to see if they could do something about an abandoned, dilapidated tavern in their midst. "There'd been a couple of fires in the building, the ceilings were falling down and kids were playing in it. The neighbors had talked about it, but they hadn't gotten together," she said.

"But when they did, they acted. They got signatures on a petition, brought it to a city council meeting and spoke out on the problem. The building was torn down in six months. They did this themselves. We just showed them how," said Mrs. Fletcher.

Helping citizens to choose "winable" issues is important in getting them together, according to VISTA volunteer Joseph Marinello, 23, from Los Angeles, Calif.

"You surface issues that are of immediate concern to a large number of people -- issues that are hurting people and making them angry. But, don't work on problems that you know can't be solved," said Marinello, who is assigned to the Northwest Institute for Community Development, a non-profit umbrella agency for grassroots neighborhood organizations in Seattle, Wash.

"My goal is not just to win issues, however, but to leave stable, lasting, self-generating community organizations that will no longer need my support to keep on improving the quality of life in their neighborhoods."

Many VISTA volunteers are involved in economic development in depressed areas. About a year ago, Indians on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in Cannon Ball, N.D. had to travel 13 miles to buy a loaf of bread, according to VISTA volunteer Amelia Kroeger, 34, of Rochester, N.Y. She and her husband, Richard, 35, who serve through the North Dakota Institute of Cultural Affairs, helped Cannon Ball residents to raise more than \$8,000 in money and materials to convert an abandoned community center into a small general store.

The non-profit community-owned venture opened last March and now includes a cafe and a laundromat. It will gross an estimated \$100,000 and break even in its first year in business, said Mrs. Kroeger.

"We helped train a staff to keep books and financial statements, do the inventory and manage the business, but they run the show," she said. "Our goal is to bring in industry and bring new spirit back into the community, with self-sufficient people across the board. We're working to break something loose in Cannon Ball and we won't move on until we know we're going to win."

About 110 VISTA volunteers are assisting credit unions and small farmers' cooperatives in 10 mostly southern states through the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, an agricultural service organization owned by some 130 low-income co-ops. Last year, the federation headquartered in Epes, Ala. was awarded a \$530,000 grant by VISTA to train and place these volunteers, some of whom are small farmers themselves. It was one of five new VISTA national grants awarded to multi-state organizations. Other projects are locally sponsored.

Richard Copeland, 45, the father of ten children, joined

VISTA through the federation to help small farmers like himself in Hamilton, Ga. He is trying to build up membership in the West Georgia Farmers' Cooperative in and around Hamilton.

"Too many farmers around here have to hold down part-time jobs to make ends meet," said Copeland, who runs a junk yard on the side.

"I feel that if we work together and hang in, we will succeed. I see the co-op as a good route to go and get the most for the dollar. VISTA is a key to some success in that direction. If VISTA lasts a while, it will help in a heap of ways."

Helping low-income elderly people to meet their needs is another VISTA priority. Last fall, VISTA volunteer Tom Snyder, 25, of Detroit, Mich. came across a group of elderly tenants of a neglected apartment building in Lynn, Mass., where he works for Massachusetts Fair Share, a community organization with chapters around the state.

"The tenants were having trouble contacting their out-of-state landlord who had ordered a large hike in their rent without improving his services," said Snyder, a 1974 political science graduate of the University of Michigan. "They felt that the increase was unfair in light of the fact that the building was in such bad shape.

"Some of the windows were so loose and poorly insulated that the curtains moved in mid-winter, and they had no hot water in the morning."

Snyder tracked down the landlord in New Hampshire, got some of the tenants together and suggested they send a signed petition to the landlord. "All I did was a little research, give them a few ideas and show them that collective action is the only way to get results," he said. "With these tools, they can make things happen. I think we'll see improvements in that building within a month."

VISTA service opens up "new worlds" for many volunteers like Leigh Anne "Tish" Cerny, 22, of Chicago, Ill., who is helping to develop community organizations in Little Rock, Ark. She serves through the Community Organization Research Action Project (CORAP), which received a VISTA national grant of \$470,000 last year to place 100 volunteers in poor neighborhoods in a seven-state area.

Since joining VISTA three months ago, she has helped community groups to voice their concerns about a proposed school closing, the lack of stop signs and adequate street lighting, and street drainage and pothole problems.

"Doing little things like that every day is incredibly satisfying. It is an addictive kind of work in that you really are helping people improve the quality of their neighborhoods and their lives. We really are serving America."

Editor's Note: Next issue, ACTION Update will focus on one specific VISTA project which exemplifies the new VISTA thrust toward community organization and self-help.

## National VISTA Survey: Some Preliminary Findings

The FY 77 National VISTA Study, which employs ACTION's new classification system of basic human needs, is nearing completion, reports Charles Schwartz, OPP/Evaluation, who is coordinating the project.

The study represents a massive effort by 15 staffers in OPP/Evaluation who visited 115 randomly selected VISTA projects

in 39 different states during May-September 1977. All totaled, 413 volunteers, 115 supervisors and 498 community people were interviewed by the survey team.

Volunteers, supervisors, and community members were asked a variety of questions regarding, for example, training, project management, supervision, agency support, workload and plans for community continuance, following volunteer termination.

For the most part, the percentage of volunteers directing their efforts toward meeting basic needs broke down in the following manner: community services, 35 percent; health/nutrition, 15 percent; legal rights, 15 percent; knowledge/skills, 14 percent; economic development/income, 13.5 percent; housing, 6.8 percent; and energy/conservation .5 percent.

Although the average VISTA project had seven assigned volunteers, newer projects tended to have fewer volunteers. 71 percent of projects in existence for one year or less had no more than five volunteers serving.

VISTA still primarily recruits local volunteers, with almost two-thirds of the 413 volunteers interviewed from the local level. 21 percent of the total group were low-income, local recruits.

Personal data showed that two-thirds of the volunteers queried were female and two-thirds were single. The average age of all volunteers was 31, with half the group, 27 years old or younger.

While the average volunteer puts in 43 hours a week on project related tasks, more than one third worked more than 45 hours per week. Also, one third of all volunteers surveyed were involved in extra-curricular community activities, unrelated to the volunteers' assignments, such as coaching a softball team, tutoring, serving on a welfare rights advisory council, or starting a clothes distribution service for needy persons.

VISTA is primarily addressing urban problems. 60 percent of the surveyed projects were in urban locales. Volunteers primarily serve adults, then, family units, teenagers, senior citizens and young children. 55 percent of the volunteers worked with a predominantly white clientele; 27 percent with black; 10 percent with Hispanic; and 7 and 1 percent with Native American and Asian, respectively.

One important by-product of the national survey was a group of reports on the 115 VISTA projects surveyed, describing each of the individual projects, and listing the projects' weak and strong points such as good in-service training or effective involvement of the target area served. These project critiques, completed by December 1977, were sent to the 115 projects and sent to ACTION's regional and state offices.

The final survey with conclusions should be published in the next few months.

## **National Youth Opportunity Seen as Working Alternative**

"The absence of a national youth policy is killing the national idealism of America's youth, robbing them of any sense of usefulness and purpose, and depriving this country of a vigor and vision it desperately needs."

So begins a 1978 report on service-learning by the Policy Analysis Service of the American Council on Education.

The 50-page study, compiled under contract for ACTION and entitled "Service-Learning for the Future: Domestic and

International Programs", looks at service-learning models and needs both in this country and abroad. It concludes that "if a National Youth Service Program with a service-learning component were introduced, it would go very far indeed toward addressing the crises which currently plague the nation's young people, and which have profound consequences for education in America."

Unemployment and stress leading to high rates of delinquency, vandalism, alcoholism, drug abuse and psychological problems among today's youth are of great concern to this country's parents, educators and political leaders. According to the American Council on Education (ACE), the consensus among educators is that this nation needs a coherent youth policy. This opinion is shared by economists and others who have begun to show interest in the relations between education, work and other areas of society.

On August 5, 1977, President Carter signed into law the Youth Employment and Demonstrations Projects Act (P.L. 95-93). The law provides for several new programs targeted at youth and is designed to provide opportunities for work, education, and community service.

The concept of service-learning attempts to deal simultaneously with an array of educational and social problems at points where they would seem to mesh naturally. Ideally, service-learning programs combine off-campus learning with some kind of volunteer community service for which the student receives compensation in the form of academic credit, educational vouchers, financial assistance, or a combination of the three.

In reviewing existing domestic service-learning models, the ACE report touched on ACTION's VISTA, UYA, Youth Challenge, NSVP and PLS programs, in addition to other public and private sector efforts.

"ACTION's Program for Local Service (PLS) is probably the best overall demonstration model for a National Youth Service," according to the report. "If funded at a level comparable to the GI Bill, PLS could reach a much larger audience.

"An expanded PLS would serve to provide community service opportunities at the local level and recruit and place people interested in working on conservation or community service projects."

PLS was begun in the Seattle, Wash. area in 1973 as an experiment to test the concept of national service for young people, 18-25. In 1974, the program went statewide. Volunteers selected by the sponsoring agencies were to serve fulltime for one year on community projects and received 90 percent of the minimum wage. When ACTION funding dropped to three percent in 1975, the program was kept alive through a combination of state and private contributions. Last year, legislation was passed formally establishing PLS as a state program.

As for service learning curricula and programs similar to UYA, the report concludes that colleges and universities must take the initiative not only in developing outreach but also in assuring that programs are adequately funded from tuition and fees. Moreover, colleges and universities should provide faculty supervision, full-time program administration and academic credit.

ACE defines international service-learning as "any structured work and experiential learning program in a multi-cultural milieu in the interests of the recipient people."

A recent survey showed that approximately 30 colleges have what generally can be called service-learning programs overseas. This represents less than five percent of all study abroad programs. A few, such as Goshen College (Indiana) and the School for International Training, and the Experiment in International Living, have full international programs. Merrill College (University of California at Santa Cruz) and Beloit

College (Wisconsin), among others, offer combined domestic and international programs. California State University at Chico established a work-study semester in Morelia, Mexico in 1975. That effort is representative of a growing number of specialized programs.

Still other schools serve as connecting bridges between interested students and international experiences. Some, like The College Venture Program Abroad of Northeastern University's Institute for Off-Campus Experience, arranges for students from 16 member institutions to participate in a variety of programs.

Others--Operation Crossroads Africa and Volunteers in Asia (Stanford) among them--focus more sharply on specific geographic or activity areas.

While there are several international service programs sponsored by private organizations, usually church affiliated, few offer academic credit. In the public sector, little program development has been attempted outside of Peace Corps.

Two programs connected with the State Department turned the concept of service-learning around and brought foreign nationals here. In 1967, the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) sponsored a summer work/travel activity which enabled foreign university students to visit the U.S. from 1967-69. Volunteers to America brought students from 12 foreign countries here to share their knowledge and skills. A total of 105 students came to work in VISTA programs and other community activities, primarily in public schools.

Concluding its report, ACE urged that great care be taken prior to any involvement in multilateral programs, and closer study be made even in unilateral efforts. While it presented the possibility of the federal government creating and funding a new bilateral international service learning program and/or a new federal youth agency incorporating elements of a national youth service, international service-learning, reverse flow programs and others, ACE leaned heavily in favor of leaving the academic dimensions of the programs with the academic community.

The initiative of this country's colleges and universities must be protected, ACE warned. The success or failure of service-learning will depend on the depth of commitment made by the institution, its faculty and its students.

To be effective, any service-learning program on whatever scale, must satisfy the requirements both for a legitimate learning experience and a valid concept of service, the report concluded. The program must be worthy of receiving academic credit; it cannot be merely subsidized made-work. Instead, it must meet real community needs. And, it should be voluntary and attractive to a large number of young people on a broad, social and educational spectrum.

## **ACTION Staff Briefs Jordanian Princess on Youth Service**

Princess Alia, eldest daughter of King Hussein of Jordan, met with ACTION staff in Washington recently for a briefing on volunteer service for youth.

The young Princess sought the meeting out of what she termed her desire to "explore ways to channel the energy of young people for the common good" in Jordan.

Marge Tabankin, Janet Gutkin, Jeanne Carney, Lynn Baird, Don Eberly and Jim Mayer, representing VISTA, NSVP, OPP and the Office of Voluntary Citizen Participation, explained program operation with special emphasis on the Youth Challenge

Program because of its applicability to the Princess' objectives of involving Jordanian youth in community work.

The staff urged the Princess to visit Egypt where public service of one to three years is mandatory for both young men and women. As an alternative to military service and a prerequisite for government employment, volunteer projects in Egypt each year involve 27,000 graduates of universities and colleges.

## Japanese Officials Seek OAVP Assistance

A four man team from the Hokkaido Prefectural Government of Japan recently visited this country to study public welfare administration. During their stay, the group requested information about ACTION's programs for the aged.

At a February 22 meeting at HEW, OAVP Program Specialist Rey Tejada briefed the Japanese team on RSVP, FGP, and SCP objectives; eligibility requirements; program sponsorship, examples of volunteer services provided, costs and administration at the local level. He also discussed volunteer benefits, and current volunteer strength nationwide.

Tejada emphasized that OAVP programs are not welfare programs, and explained the reasoning behind limiting the age for eligibility to 60.

Tejada was joined by Francis Luzzato, Office of Voluntary Citizen Participation, who outlined volunteer opportunities in the Peace Corps for senior citizens.

In addition to their Washington visit, the Japanese team also visited state government offices in Washington, Georgia and Oregon.

Representing the Japanese Government were Yuichi Sasaki, Assistant head of the personnel division, Department of Administration; Eigi Fujiya, Assistant head of the commerce and industry promotion section, Department of Commerce, Industry and Tourism; Hiroshi Sato, Chief of inspection subsection, Department of Housing, and Urban Development; and Masahide Aoyagi, forestry specialist, Soya Subprefectural Office.

## More Accurate RSVP Profile to be Gleaned from National Study

An RSVP Descriptive Study is underway to obtain an accurate picture of RSVP from the standpoint of project, sponsor, and volunteer characteristics within the context of the human needs areas.

The study was designed by OPP/Evaluation in collaboration with OAVP to provide a better perspective of the 700 RSVP projects with almost 235,000 volunteers contributing 52 million hours of service annually. The random sample of RSVP projects will be surveyed through a four part questionnaire for project directors, chairpersons of RSVP advisory councils and RSVP volunteers. Almost 3,000 surveys will be sent in early April with returns expected by mid-May.

The questionnaires have been specifically designed for each respondent: volunteer, director and advisory council member. Volunteers will be asked demographic information concerning their age, sex, marital status and what important benefits are derived from the volunteer experience. Project directors, on the other hand, will be queried on staff size, project administration, such as, transportation or meal services, and recruitment of traditional/nontraditional volunteers. Finally, advisory council members will be asked, for example, about their perceptions of community needs and whether the advisory councils have formally assessed these needs.



According to David Sansbury, OPP/E, this study is a "systematic attempt to obtain a profile of the RSVP program." Information obtained from the survey will help to identify, for example, what volunteer assignments make the best use of volunteers' abilities and talents, what characterizes a successful project and how strong aspects of successful projects can be implemented in other RSVP projects, and what future trends may be identified from a characterization of the scope and diversity of volunteer activities nationwide.

Sansbury and Joe Beausoleil, OPP/E, believe the profile derived from the survey results should be very helpful to management, programmers, and to members of Congress most concerned with Older Americans.

## **OPP to Develop Agency Role in Deinstitutionalization**

ACTION's Director, Sam Brown, has described in speeches and discussions with administration and congressional officials, the agency's commitment to encourage volunteers to participate in deinstitutionalization efforts at the community level. OPP has been asked to develop the agency position in this area.

Deinstitutionalization has been broadly defined by OPP to include efforts to assist in moving people from institutions to the community, to provide support programs for individuals already in the community who have been released from institutions in the past, and to assist people, such as the elderly or handicapped, who do not require institutional care and wish to remain in the community. This definition applies to four social service areas and groups: mental health/mental retardation, criminal justice, the handicapped, and the elderly, who are served in nursing homes.

The OPP Planning Division is responsible for the deinstitutionalization effort which will include at least three major activities: identifying activities in which ACTION volunteers are presently working, developing model demonstration efforts, and participating on a federal interagency committee. This larger effort in the federal government, in which HEW has taken the lead, will involve federal agencies responding to local needs. Tom Glynn, OPP/D, and Mercedese Miller, OPP/P, represent ACTION on the HEW interagency committee.

The HEW effort is in response to a study released in January 1977 by the General Accounting Office entitled Returning the Mentally Disabled to the Community: Government Needs To Do More. This study noted that at least 135 federal programs, operated by 11 major departments and agencies, "impact either directly or indirectly on the mentally disabled."

Deinstitutionalization has been discussed by ACTION staff which includes Wayne Clark, DO/D, Frank Rey, VISTA/AEP, Jack McCririe, OAVP, and Mercedese Miller, OPP/P. The group should expand to an agency-wide advisory committee. The OPP Evaluation Division has agreed to assist ACTION programs in identifying applicable activities for ACTION's volunteers. Broader participation with ACTION's field staff is planned with more activities getting underway this summer. If you are interested or need more information, contact Mercedese Miller, OPP/P, Ext. 48501.

## **Roundtable Discussions Help Clarify BHN Guidelines**

Peace Corps staff, both overseas and in Washington, are now heavily involved in developing the Country Management Plans (CMPs) and the related review process, which for the first

time will emphasize programming recommendations made in accordance with basic human needs (BHN) guidelines. The Peace Corps Office of Programming and Training Coordination has been holding a series of roundtable discussions to examine the application of general program criteria to different human need areas, and to help develop a shared understanding of the implications of the basic human needs emphasis. Discussions from roundtable meetings held for employees during the month of March on appropriate technology, community services, housing and agriculture, for example, have helped clarify and give new perspectives on the BHN guidelines which are still in the draft stages.

A recent roundtable session focused on health and nutrition. Health programmers from the Office of Program Training Coordination, OPTC, Diane Hedgecock and Joy Riggs-Perla, former volunteers in Niger and the Philippines, presented their proposed guidelines and matched them against three hypothetical projects.

The guidelines for health/nutrition programs were presented under six categories: (1) Does the project respond to the needs of those with the greatest susceptibility to health problems? Poor health conditions have the most serious consequences when they affect pre-school children and pregnant and lactating women. (2) To what degree does the health problem affect the people concerned? Some widespread diseases do not necessarily cause a high mortality rate or low productivity. (3) Does the project contribute to improved health conditions generally or does it simply alleviate immediate suffering? In general, an emphasis on prevention rather than cure is the name of the game. (4) Does the project advocate solutions appropriate to the culture and setting? Solutions outside the control and beyond the resources of the community are to be avoided. (5) How does the project affect the health of women and minority groups? Solutions to health problems should be discussed with representatives of all affected groups and not just with local spokespeople, typically male. (6) How does the project affect aspects of family or community life other than health? For instance, freedom from health problems can improve the economic standing of individuals, enable the settlement of new land areas, and increase the intellectual potential of children. The three hypothetical projects also demonstrated how difficult it can be to apply the guidelines in the face of minimal project data. There are few projects which match up perfectly with all guidelines.

Project summaries will reach Washington in April as the major part of Phase I of the Country Management Plan submission. These summaries will be ranked by overseas staff according to their understanding of each country's development priorities when weighed against the general program criteria sent with the CMP guidelines.

As the CMPs are received they will go through a two-stage review process. First, they will be reviewed by analysts at country desk, regional, and Peace Corps-wide levels as well as by sectoral or need area teams, composed largely of regional staff, who will apply BHN and quality program criteria. The projects will be compared to other projects of a similar type in inter-country, interregional groupings. Comments and suggestions from the roundtable discussions will then be incorporated in the sectoral reviews. The review and synthesis process should result in a balanced application of criteria and a common understanding of what is meant by BHN programming.

At the second-stage of the CMP review, regional managers will look at special country circumstances, technical criteria, country development reviews and country strategies to see that project planning is consistent with the broader perspectives and long-range view projected by country staffs in the overall narratives. At the Peace Corps wide level, the overall program profile and program size will be assessed, along with the regions' and supporting offices' requests for resources to support new and continuing programs and training.

Throughout this review process, Peace Corps managers hope that the FY 79 operating plans will show a marked increase in basic human needs programming. Another important intent in the two-stage CMP process is that program review will take precedence over budget development, not being dominated by resource considerations. As the Peace Corps level of review is completed, overseas posts will receive feedback on their presentations, along with instructions and forms for budget preparation and the refinement of training plans for the coming year.

## Malaysia Health Conference

Francis Luzzato, Director, Technical Assistance Division, Office of Voluntary Citizen Participation, is attending the NANEAP Peace Corps Conference on Village Level Food Production and Technology in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Twenty-three representatives will attend from nine countries in the NANEAP region. Following the close of the conference on March 31, he will visit Peace Corps appropriate technology field projects in Nepal. Luzzato, who is Peace Corps' coordinator for United Nations Volunteer Program activities, will attend a meeting in Yemen, following his visit to Nepal, to discuss Yemen's program expansion in FY 1979.

Other Peace Corps staff members attending the Malaysia Conference are Dick Hailer, NANEAP Deputy Director; Paula Goddard, Area Director Asia/Pacific; Whett Reed, Fish and Agriculture Specialist, Office of Programming and Training Coordination; and Val Mezainis, Peace Corps, Management.



## Information Exchange at PC Meetings

Some Peace Corps offices have found an appealing variation to the conventional weekly activity report.

For two months, Peace Corps Management, the Peace Corps Director's office, MSP and the Office of Programming and Training Coordination have held regular Friday luncheons at which individuals talk about what they are doing. The setting is informal; the food, sometimes, home-cooked. The discussions range from a summary of work-to-date on the Humphrey Bill, to a capsule report on Ms. Payton's Africa trip, to new Country Management Plans.

# University Assists NSVP in Survey Scan

The first survey of high school student community service programs is currently being conducted by ACTION's NSVP staff, with the assistance of the University of Virginia's Evaluation Research Center, reported Jeanne Carney, Chief, NSVP.

Although most high schools in the country offer some type of voluntary community service activity, such as Boy Scouts, Hi-Y, Key Clubs, NSVP will concentrate on programs where the service is integrated into the school's curriculum. Initially, 300 schools will be pretested this spring. Following that, a stratified sampling of approximately 3,000 of the more than 30,000 high schools nationwide with community service programs will be contacted for the full survey next fall.

The full survey will define the nature of student volunteer programs and the extent of those programs in the communities they serve. "We'll be able to describe the complexion of student involvement," Carney noted, "and determine, for example, what basic community needs are being met and the percentage of students in various human need areas." Statistical information from the survey will be of value to schools that are interested in developing or already have local programs involving high school students. The data will also help NSVP improve its efficiency in responding to these schools, as well as help NSVP determine the extent and growth of student voluntarism.

The survey has been two years in the making, explained Carney. "We had to work with a number of educational organizations and get the approval of OMB to do the study. We have received the approval of nearly all Chief State Schools Officers in the 50 different states. Because each officer has his or her own preference for conducting surveys in their state, NSVP has to use several methodologies for collecting the data."

Also planned for the fall, according to Carney, is a survey of a stratified sample of colleges that have voluntary community service programs. The last college survey conducted by NSVP in 1974 indicated that there were more than 400,000 college students involved in volunteer programs across the country.

## "How-To" Guide Now Available for OAVP

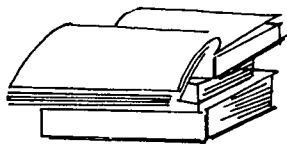
OAVP Director Helen Kelley has ordered copies of the Arkansas Social Services Advocacy Handbook for distribution to all OAVP project directors through ACTION state offices.

The handbook gives basic "how-to" information covering rules, regulations and procedures for Aid to Families with Dependent Children, food stamps, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Medicare, Medicaid and unemployment programs.

The handbook will help project directors promote improvement of social services through volunteer stations and volunteers, and will assist in responding to the problems and needs of individual older volunteers.

As an additional aid, a USDA pamphlet, The Food Stamp Program, has been distributed to each OAVP project and state program director.

## Library Week: April 2-8



Here is some food for thought from your 4th floor carry-out; the ACTION Library. During National Library Week, April 2-8, come in and sample some of the gourmet treats: events global and noble, exotic faces and places, crops and co-ops, technology and methodology, and lots more "Info: to Go." This varied menu is yours for the asking in M-407 or call ext. 43307.

# Regional News

## Dallas -VI

The ACTION Awareness Campaign has reached the West and Southwest, reports Region VI.

Denver Public Information Officer Stephenie Ericson coordinated Sam Brown's visit to Colorado on March 11. Brown was interviewed first by the Denver Post, then visited Atlantis Community VISTAs, covered by the Rocky Mountain News. CBS affiliate KMGH-TV ran news footage on Brown's visit to the Community Design Center VISTA project. In the afternoon, Brown left for Boulder to meet with RSVP, FGP and SCP directors. While there, he was interviewed by the Boulder Daily Camera. Region VIII director Karen Paget, General Counsel Harry MacLean, local notables and ACTION personnel also participated.

Dallas communications team, Austin recruiters and other ACTION staff worked with Recruitment/Communications Director Larry Brown in setting up his itinerary in Dallas. On March 15, Brown was interviewed by the Times Herald, Morning News, and Fort Worth Star-Telegram. CBS affiliate KDFW-TV interviewed him at the Dallas Press Club for airing at the end of March on the 60 Minutes television show. Brown also talked to the Times Herald editorial staff, on WRR-AM, an all-news station, and KRLD Radio. Region VIII director Joe Bernal, deputy Zeke Rodriguez traveled with Brown and were also present at the Peace Corps/VISTA luncheon at the Press Club, along with local notables.

Brown also received extensive coverage from both radio, TV and local newspapers on March 16 and 17 in Austin and San Antonio.

## San Francisco-VII

Bob Rubin, the Service Center Communications director in San Francisco, recently won the 17th Annual World Championship Domino Tournament held in San Francisco.

The championship play lasted more than 13 hours with Rubin and his partner beating 184 teams for the top prize-- a week for four in Hawaii.

Rubin explained that dominoes is a very popular game in San Francisco. "Thousands play it every noon in clubs, restaurants, even bowling alleys." The tournament receipts are for the benefit of the Hunters Point Boys Club. Bob Rubin has worked with the boys club for many years and is a member of their board of directors.

## Chicago-V

On February 24, 35 female employees from the Chicago Regional Office attended the first annual Women's Day conference in Chicago. Vivian Ritter, Federal Women's Program Coordinator in Wash., delivered the keynote address entitled, "A New Day for Women in Action." Following this, a series of workshops were held on legal rights, money management/credit, new careers, women's awareness, and health. Sandra Lebold, program operations, was selected as outstanding woman of the year for ACTION in Region V.

Chicago was an important stopping point for Sam Brown in his travels during the month of March for ACTION's Awareness campaign. On March 3, he arrived in Chicago and visited a group of RSVP volunteers at Cook County Hospital. He then spoke to the Chicago Committee on Foreign Relations on new agency directions and was later interviewed by Chicago Tribune reporter David Schneidman for a future front page article.

## Chicago—V

One ton of vegetable seeds has been contributed to 39 Peace Corps countries, reports Jim Carpenter volunteer recruitment specialist, in the Chicago Service Center. For the second year in a row, Vaughn Jacklin Company of Illinois donated the seeds which will be used for agriculture and nutrition programs in the 39 Peace Corps countries. Carpenter's office recently packaged and sent the 18 varieties of seeds, and since then has received 25 letters of appreciation from host nationals for the generous contribution.

As if one ton of 18 different types of vegetable seeds weren't enough for one office to handle, Carpenter and his group also shipped a tractor, complete with corn planter, plow and disc, to Zaire. The tractor, manufactured by the Self-Help Corporation, a nonprofit group in Waverly, Iowa, was donated by Robert Miller, farm broadcaster for WLW radio in Cincinnati.

RSVP volunteer Elsie Worms of Belleville, Ill. was recently presented a certificate of commendation for saving a life, by Chicago Regional Director Michael Doyle.

On January 10, while volunteer Worms was at her work station serving meals to seniors, she noticed that one of the seniors, John Barnes, began choking. When Barnes turned red, Worms thought that he was just coughing. "Then he turned blue," she said, "slumped over in his chair, and I knew what I had to do." With that, she grabbed Barnes around the waist and "gave him the business," executing the Heimlich maneuver, a life-saving method she learned in 1969. The 5-foot-three Worms toiled for ten minutes with Barnes whom she described as "a big man (who) weighs about 200 pounds." No small task, indeed, but the small piece of meat caught in Barnes throat was dislodged, and Barnes is alive today.