

ACTION UPDATE

July 3, 1978

Grassroots Money Planted Across the Country: VISTA Awards 1.2 Million in Grants

Five national grants totaling \$1,200,477 were awarded recently by VISTA to grassroots organizations throughout the country to train and place nearly 220 volunteers to help low-income people improve their lives and their communities through self-help efforts.

These awards went to the National Association of Farmworker Organizations (NAFO), the National Training and Information Center (NTIC), the Youth Project, the National Council of La Raza and the National Association of Neighborhoods (NAN).

Five VISTA volunteers will be trained and assigned by NAFO to help organize advisory councils of migrant farmworkers in the Atlantic coast stream. These councils will help farmworkers obtain benefits to which they are entitled, such as decent housing and sanitation facilities in their camps, day care centers and social services. This is a pilot project which will be expanded by the addition of 35 VISTAs in the fall who will serve in other migrant streams.

The NAFO volunteers will be recruited from the farmworkers themselves whenever possible and will travel and live with migrant families. They will receive special training in organizational and leadership development and community support and will be closely supervised by experienced migrant organizers, a national project director and multi-state supervisors.

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ACTION LOOKS AT CHINA

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NTIC, established in 1972 to serve low-income neighborhood groups in a number of states, will train and place 35 VISTA volunteers in projects in New York, Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Colorado and Utah. The volunteers will help grassroots community groups to deal with such problems as neighborhood and housing deterioration and the lack of social services.

The National Council of La Raza will assign 49 volunteers to eight projects in the west and Southwest to help mobilize Hispanic community groups to remove barriers which deny them equal access to education, employment, justice, communication and other opportunities. La Raza supports 106 community-based Hispanic organizations in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California and Kansas.

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the Youth Project provides financial and technical assistance to emerging community groups throughout the country. This private, non-profit foundation will place 90 VISTA volunteers in a wide range of community-initiated efforts to address such issues as redlining, unjust property taxation and poor health and safety conditions.

Forty volunteers will be trained and placed in several states by NAN to assist community groups in gaining a stronger voice to deal effectively with housing deterioration, redlining, crime, unemployment, the lack of opportunities for young people and other problems. Formed in 1975, NAN supports the efforts of low-income neighborhood groups in many areas of the country to improve their living standards.

VISTA awarded two other national grants in FY 1978 for a total of 160 volunteers to be trained and placed on community self-help projects by The National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs and the Public Interest Research Group. The seven FY 1978 awards total \$1,981,350 and involve nearly 380 VISTA volunteers.

ACTION Takes a Look at China

China in the late 1940's was a nation of people debilitated by wars and hunger. Inflation topped 1,000 percent. The money that a few years before could purchase a whole cow, in 1949 would buy no more than a single sheet of toilet paper. A visitor leaving his hotel in Shanghai -- considered one of the more affluent cities -- found his path obstructed by corpses.

Today, the picture in the ancient Asian country is far different, reports Don Eberly, senior policy analyst in OPP. Eberly, who recently returned from an 18-day visit to six Chinese cities, found impressive programs in health, education, agriculture and industry and a people who are healthy, stable, and self-sufficient. Wages and prices are fixed in most situations, but in cases with obvious fluctuations, such as for fruits and vegetables, prices are permitted to move within a prescribed range. The wide array of goods in stores is limited by some rationing.

Traveling with a 16-member Family Values Study Group, Eberly visited six Chinese families, and toured a commune, hospital, schools, neighborhood associations, industries and museums in Peking, Nanking, Yangchow, Wusih, Shanghai and Kwangchow.

Service Learning Integral

Eberly, whose work at ACTION focuses in part on service learning programs, found that the concept of service learning is "integral" to the teachings of Mao. "In several cities," he said, "our group was given auxiliary guides who were university

students majoring in English. These students were spending a month or so with visiting English speakers, primarily from the United States, Australia and New Zealand. The students were accompanied by their Chinese professor, with whom they met on a nearly daily basis."

Other students had similarly directed assignments, he continued. Those in philosophy and politics met with groups of people in neighborhoods and communes to help them understand current government policies in the light of Chairman Mao's philosophy.

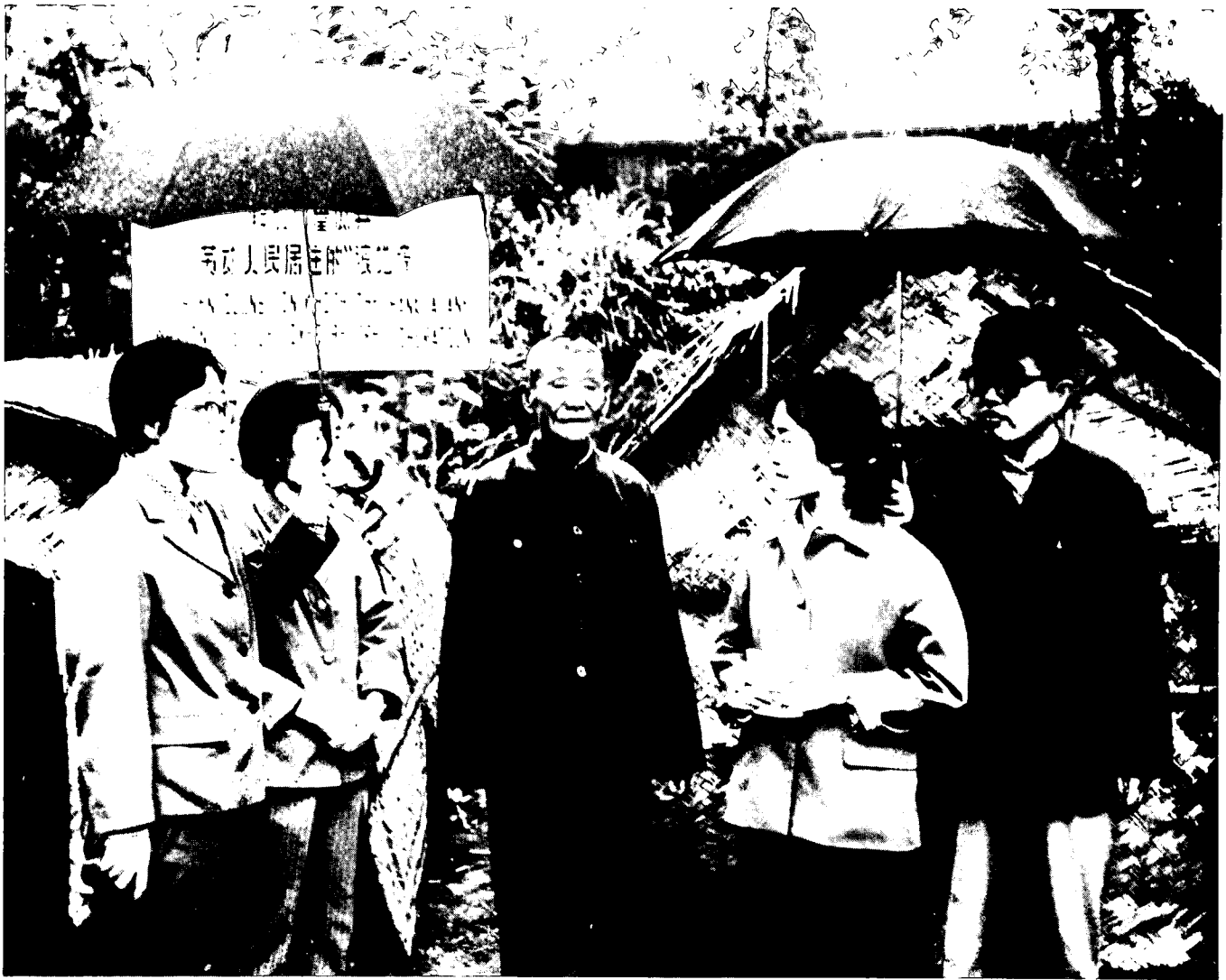


Total Learning Concept

Students at primary and secondary schools also are involved in work projects. As in Cuba, which Eberly visited in December, activities at the primary and secondary levels are not integrated as well as those at the university level. "We saw sixth graders making pencil sharpeners...high school students making printed circuits." In both countries, though, he said that there is a "total" approach to education. "When pupils leave school at two or three in the afternoon, they go to a Children's home or a Children's Palace for recreation or work projects." All activities, whenever possible, were mixed with a political message.

"There is a little game," he said, "where one can aim a cue stick at a ball and, if properly struck, result in knocking over four figures at once. I smashed the Gang of Four at my first attempt."

"The Gang of Four," he explained, is the name given to four unsuccessful contenders for power following the death of Chairman Mao. The Gang of Four included Mao's wife.



The Women of China

Offering other observations on Chinese life, Eberly said there is a strong effort to upgrade the status of women: "We attended a popular movie," he explained, "in which an attractive young woman used wit and muscle and dedication to Mao's teachings to overcome male villains".

Intrigued by the Chinese people's commitment to voluntarism, Eberly said: "Members of our group were told that thousands, perhaps millions of people volunteer each year for such activities as harvesting rice and wheat and constructing underground defense complexes. When we asked how voluntary this service is, we were told about the spirit of the people and the importance of these activities and were given a saying or two from the Chairman and the people's relief at smashing the 'Gang of Four,'" Eberly recalled.

"'What about those who refuse to volunteer?' we asked," Eberly continued. "'We have just told you about the spirit of our people. Why would anyone refuse if they weren't sick?' was the reply. Thus, voluntary service in China seems to be analogous to the carrier wave in radio transmission, or the QE2 crossing the Atlantic. The course is set."

Voluntary organizations with private means of support do not exist, he added. The

China Welfare Institute which runs hospitals, opened the first Children's Palace in Shanghai, and publishes magazines in foreign languages might be described as quasi-voluntary.

Will they Keep Volunteering?

Whether the spirit of voluntarism will continue is difficult to predict, Eberly commented. However, one policy that should help to sustain that spirit, at least at the local level, is democratic centralism, he believes.

Communes in the countryside and neighborhoods in the city are actively encouraged to achieve a high degree of self-sufficiency. Their products and produce are sold to the state and profits are plowed back into the commune or neighborhoods as a whole. The local area seems to have virtually total discretion in spending the profits, whether for improved health or housing facilities, or on machinery that will increase productivity or ease the labor.

Eberly said that he is planning a slide presentation on his trip for ACTION employees, although it has not yet been scheduled. The date will be announced.

VISTA Reorganizes

The VISTA/AEP reorganization, which became effective in early May, reflects the agency's stated intention to grant more responsibility and authority to the Program Offices.

Following reorganization, VISTA now consists of the following branches: Field Operations and Programming, Program Development, Planning and Budget, and a Technical Assistance/Training and National Student Volunteer Program (NSVP) Branch. Additionally, staff members are assigned to support function areas such as policy-making.

The Field Operations and Programming Branch, to which desk officers are assigned, will continue to work directly with the field in providing a wide range of support. The branch will help monitor program goals and objectives, process placement requests from the regions and also provide policy interpretation and advocacy for the regions vis-a-vis headquarters offices.

The Program Development Branch develops and monitors the national VISTA grants, and works on new VISTA program initiatives and special projects. Formulating the VISTA/AEP budget, and monitoring the use of VISTA resources by the regional and state offices is the responsibility of the newly created Planning and Budget branch.

The Technical Assistance/Training and NSVP Branch plans to develop a technical assistance capability to respond to volunteers and sponsors. VISTA Currents, the branch's new publication which first appeared this April, will be a key communications link. The branch is also responsible for the development of curricula and the delivery of training to VISTA and AEP volunteers and sponsors. The National Student Volunteer Program will continue to provide training, technical assistance and other support to student volunteer programs. Additionally, NSVP will develop demonstration service-learning projects for youthful offenders, high school drop-outs and under achievers.

VISTA's Policy staff continues to formulate and process policy.

OPP Grants in Oakland and Baltimore to Aid Women in Crisis

In Baltimore, a banner at the Center for Displaced Homemakers shouts a challenge:

"The woman who strives to be equal with a man lacks ambition."

No sally against the masculine gender, the banner's message instead serves as a pep rally cheer urging women, whose lives have been devastated by widowhood, divorce or desertion, on to new careers and brighter futures.

Run by Baltimore New Directions for Women, the center is one of a growing number focusing attention on an oft-forgotten group -- women between the ages of 40 and 65, who were homemakers -- until their homes fell apart.

Under its legislative mandate to explore new and innovative program directions, ACTION has joined in the effort to help women in crisis. The agency has awarded a total of \$150,000 in Office of Policy and Planning Demonstration, Title B money to two private non-profit organizations specializing in developing counseling, job placement, referral and shelter programs for displaced homemakers.

Baltimore New Directions for Women has received \$100,000 in ACTION funds to sponsor a one year program, "New Directions for Volunteers: A Program for Women in Crisis." The organization will recruit, train and place 14 full- and 112 part-time volunteers, all displaced homemakers. The volunteers will assist other women in similar situations through a coordinated resource center and a women's advocacy center. A manual on how to establish volunteer programs at other centers will be created and shared with interested persons. After completing the program, the homemakers-volunteers will be assisted in finding either volunteer or job placements.

Additionally, a second award of \$50,000 to the Alliance for Displaced Homemakers of Oakland, Calif. to run a national conference this fall in Baltimore on displaced homemakers has been awarded. The grant money will be used to organize the meeting, which is the first of its kind.

The conference is expected to draw more than 300 displaced homemakers, all volunteers now working to help others like themselves. It will attempt to provide a unifying force for those involved in the field, lay groundwork for building a nationwide information network, set the scene for developing materials, programs and implementation methods, and develop plans for resource development and effective fiscal controls.

Out of the conference will come a manual of how-to's which will highlight successful and innovative projects and provide technical assistance information on organizational models, budgets, curriculum materials, forms and evaluation techniques.

ACTION's commitment to address pressing women's issues includes a major thrust in the area of family violence. Recently, a \$300,000 demonstration grant aimed at strengthening volunteer efforts to combat wife and child battering was opened for competitive bidding. The funds will support one pilot project in each region which will serve as a focal point for the exchange of information among grassroots groups in that region. A two-day conference sponsored by each pilot group is expected to take place in 1979.

Programming and Training Office Makes Promises . . . Reality

Editor's Note: The following article, written by Barbara Katz, comes from the July issue of Peace Corps Times.

"There is a Peace Corps history of new offices going to save the world that promise and don't deliver."

David Levine is determined that his will deliver. And after you talk with him, you are convinced that it will.

Six months ago, the Peace Corps Office of Programming and Training (OPTC) was just an idea -- something Peace Corps Director Carolyn Payton believed was critical to meeting the Peace Corps' commitment to the world's poor.

Today OPTC is a reality, with a staff of 15, an office overlooking the heart of governmental Washington, and a strong commitment to carry out its mission.

That mission: to pull together all issues relating to training and programming within the Peace Corps and give them a vigor they have lacked in recent years.



OPTC is Committed

OPTC Director Levine, who notes that such responsibilities have been scattered throughout the agency until Payton formed the office in January, believes that it will play an important role in strengthening the Peace Corps in the years ahead. He believes also that the office will help the Peace Corps fulfill its renewed commitment to the world's poor.

The Peace Corps, he says, has the dual function of "helping the poor people of the

Third World to increase their capacity to meet their basic human needs, and helping to develop projects that Third World countries can replicate, if they desire, using their own people."

But to achieve those goals, says Levine, "We need to program well and give the volunteers the skills they need to do the job -- and that's why programming and training are the key. Volunteers can accomplish magic out there -- but the Peace Corps has to make the conditions for the magic possible." His office, he emphasizes, is "a hands-on, field-based, response-based office. This is not a think tank where a bunch of people who have very little to do with what happens in the field decide what to do about policy. The people out there in the 60-some countries the Peace Corps serves have the experience from which we must learn."

While the new office is still feeling its way in many areas, it has embarked on several major projects.

New Review System Works

As part of the Peace Corps' emphasis on helping to meet the basic needs of the world's poor, OPTC has begun translating that broad policy into more specific working papers useful to field staff.

The office has also helped develop a new review process for field-prepared "country management plans" for fiscal 1979, focusing on projects that further human needs goals. Programming planning specialist Pirie Gall -- who was a PCV in the 60s in Nepal -- says that the result of that process was "a complete top-to-bottom, substantive review -- for the first time in anyone's memory."

A number of new training programs are being developed in keeping with the Peace Corps' new emphasis on basic human needs. According to training specialist Jim Ekstrom, the office is trying to determine what kinds of skills can be taught to generalist volunteers most effectively in intensive programs. It will then be working with appropriate institutions to carry out the training. As an overseas country director in Niger and Cameroon, Ekstrom -- also a former volunteer -- has had first-hand field experience in training.

The office is also developing guidelines for a more intensive pre-service training program, says Ekstrom, and preparing materials that can be used for in-service training in such fields as fisheries, agriculture, health, appropriate technology, and water resources.

What the "Peace Corps Does Best"

Levine explains that the agency's new emphasis on skill-training generalists, rather than on recruiting specialists, is based on the belief that the agency can more easily obtain large numbers of generalist volunteers and use them well in the village-level human needs jobs that the "Peace Corps does best."

The technical assistance that the office has been providing includes a variety of services. Both staff and consultants are frequently on the road in response to requests from the field, and a talent bank of specialists in each of the seven major programming areas is being used.

Val Mezainis, fisheries specialist, and agriculture specialist Whett Reed recently traveled to Malaysia to lend a hand with a rural development/village technology regional conference, and assisted projects in several other countries along the way.

Both are former Peace Corps volunteers, as is Arlene Mitchell, a health specialist who helped set up a joint World Bank-Peace Corps health project in The Gambia. Mitchell's Peace Corps training and experience in Niger, where she worked on a child health care and nutrition project, undoubtedly came in handy.

Other technical assistance is provided by the Information Collection and Exchange program, which works in close coordination with OPTC. Headed by Margot Aronson, the information program provides answers to specific questions volunteers send (example: How do you build a grain storage bin?), prepares simply-written technical manuals and books, and puts together resource packets using Peace Corps and other materials.

Kudos for a Job Well-Done

OPTC Director Levine, who displays a fondness for Africa shirts and weekly three-hour give-and-take sessions with the entire staff, says the office he's running is "one I'm very proud of. The enthusiasm, the energy, the commitment, the leap of faith of the people here is absolutely phenomenal. There is virtually no one who isn't here until late in the evening, putting in all sorts of special efforts."

Levine also finds "astonishing" the reception the office has received from the field.

"Given the fact that recent years have been ones of unfilled promises and unmet expectations, we've been extremely grateful at the openness and receptivity that have been provided," he added.

ACTION Wipes out the Washington Post ... in Softball

You just can't beat the bureaucrats at their games. Especially if one of their games happens to be softball. That's the message being delivered on the exploits of the ACTION women's softball team which is undefeated in five contests against such stalwart opposition as the Diplomats and the Washington Post team (whose players can write leads but can't take them).

With just three games left this season, fans, spectators and the curious are welcome to watch the team play at 23rd and Constitution, near the Lincoln Memorial. Starting time for games on the 10th and 17th of July is 7:15 p.m. and for the season finale on the 24th, 6 p.m.

Consult the schedule below for further information, or call coach Leo Clarke, 254-8375.

			Time	Field
July 10	R.A. Rookies	vs Diplomats	6:00 PM	18
	One Flight Up	vs Passport	7:15 PM	18
	ACTION	vs Washington Post	7:15 PM	15
July 17	Washington Post	vs Passport	6:00 PM	18
	ACTION	vs R.A. Rookies	7:15 PM	18
	Diplomats	vs One Flight Up	7:15 PM	15
July 24	ACTION	vs Diplomats	6:00 PM	18
	Washington Post	vs One Flight Up	7:15 PM	18
	Passport	vs R.A. Rookies	7:15 PM	15

New York Regional Director Named

Nestor Llamas, 47, executive director of Mobilization for Youth, Inc., in New York City, has been named Regional Director for Region II (New York).

Llamas, scheduled to assume his new post July 9, will direct a staff of 36 and will be responsible for 34,913 volunteers serving throughout New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"We searched a long time for a person with the right combination of community awareness, and extensive background of involvement in local community problem solving, and ethnic sensitivity," ACTION Director Sam Brown said in announcing Llamas' appointment in June in New York City.

"We think Nestor Llamas fits that description and more," Brown continued. "He is an able administrator, street-wise, politically savvy and brings a strong commitment to extending federal resources to local grassroots organizations and poor people."

Llamas sees the agency's new urban program as a wide-open opportunity to involve people at the neighborhood level in decisions that affect their well-being. "The urban policy has major implications in terms of our cities as it affects the lives of poor people," he said. "ACTION's new policy--and its underlying philosophy--is one to which I have been committed and will recommit myself once again in my work as Regional Director with ACTION."

Llamas' knowledge of social issues in the New York area stretches back nearly 20 years. Since 1975 as executive director of Mobilization for Youth, a community action agency, he supervised a staff of 60 working in the Lower East Side. Concurrently from 1976, he taught at the New School for Social Research, specializing in issues relating to the Spanish-speaking community.

He also has held posts as both acting and deputy commissioner for the Community Development Agency, a division of New York City's Human Resources Administration from 1970-74, and as regional administrator for the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), Community Action Programs for the New York Region from 1969-70.

Prior to that, from 1967-69, he was OEO district director for Metropolitan New York. Between 1958 and 1968, Llamas worked with individuals and groups within low-income communities through the city Youth Board, as a psychiatric social worker at Hillside Hospital, as a supervisor for Mobilization for Youth, and as National Coordinator for Community Organization for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Department of Labor.

A native New Yorker, Llamas holds a B.A. and M.S.W. (Master of Social Work) from New York University. A certified social worker, he is a member of Community Planning Board # 3 and the New York State Manpower Services Council.

International Year of the Child Needs ACTION

ACTION's International Year of the Child (IYC) work group will coordinate an exchange of letters, drawings, and possibly tape recordings between children in the United States and in countries where Peace Corps volunteers serve.

ACTION's project is one of a number of federal agency efforts in the year-long International Year of the Child initiative, organized domestically by the Inter-agency Committee of IYC, of which ACTION is a member. At a recent meeting of ACTION's IYC work group, Pat Harbour of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare/Secretariat for IYC, emphasized ACTION's capacity to make activities work on a community level where they will have the most immediate impact on children.

One of the benefits of the proposed Peace Corps exchange project is that children can learn about each other's cultural values, songs, and games as well as health problems and nutritional habits. ACTION's IYC work group will serve as the liaison, coordinating exchange programs between Peace Corps children's groups and interested domestic children's groups.

Louise Frazier, ACTION's IYC coordinator, requests that VISTAs, former volunteers, and Older American volunteers involved in domestic projects now begin efforts to foster children's groups in their communities to exchange with proposed Peace Corps groups of children overseas.

For additional information on ACTION's IYC activities, contact the ACTION Regional Office or Louise Frazier, 254-8082.

Finding a Place for Our Kids

ACTION staff members would like to see a nearby day-care center established. That's the verdict of a survey conducted at ACTION headquarters, with 48 of 70 employees queried indicating they would be interested in using a center housed in or near ACTION

According to David Gurr, OPP/PD, the survey showed that children of staff members could fill at least one pre-school classroom and that there is a need right now for an after-school program for youth during the summer months. A number of employees also expressed a need for a facility on days when school holidays do not coincide with Federal holidays, or when there are teacher conferences. Peace Corps country staff in training at headquarters also stated their interest in a center which would provide temporary care.

Within the next few weeks, Gurr plans to conduct a meeting to determine the feasibility of such a child development day-care center for ACTION employees. Staff members could serve as the governing body of a non-profit corporation that would run the center, which could be housed at ACTION. Further details, including costs, will be discussed at the meeting. Gurr notes that since there is a great wealth of organizational talent in the agency, employees willing and able to get the day-care project moving should come forward. Contact Gurr at (202) 254-8501 with questions or suggestions.

Lifesaving Course Taught at ACTION

More ACTION employees will have the opportunity to learn cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) when the next agency training course begins in July.

The CPR training sessions are approximately seven hours long, beginning with a

3½-hour lecture and film. Following the introductory session, course participants return to practice the techniques they have learned on both adult and infant mannequins.

ACTION began the CPR course in February of this year in response to a government order, announced in September 1977, to train 20 percent of the federal work force in CPR techniques over the next five years. George Kreiner, ACTION's CPR training coordinator, stated that during the past five months the agency has trained 64 employees, or 10 percent of ACTION's work force, which represents nearly half the government's requirement.

Individuals interested in enrolling in the course should contact Kreiner at (202) 254-8910 for additional information. The next training session is scheduled for July 11.

Polly Kidd Retires After Fifteen Years



"I was watching television last night and they had a special program on Pearl Buck, and I can still remember the time she showed up in the Director's office. They were wild and exciting days."

Polly Kidd, Administrative Officer in the Office of Health Service/Medical Operations, recalled her early days with the Peace Corps as she approaches retirement on June 30. After joining the Peace Corps staff in 1963, she quickly moved to the position of secretary to the Peace Corps Deputy Director during the Sargent Shriver years. Various members of the Kennedy family would arrive at the office at odd moments, she reflected, along with other celebrities who enjoyed visiting the newly established volunteer headquarters.

But her best memories of 15 years of service are of the volunteers. "In my work with medically evacuated volunteers, I've seen thousands," said Polly, "and I've never seen a volunteer I didn't like. I've never met finer people, and I've made some lasting friendships."

As for her plans for the future, Polly says that she'll "sit with my feet up and stare into space," uninterruptedly for at least a few moments, sometime in August -- after changing apartments and three weeks' travel in July. Then there should be time for more travel, opportunities to see grandchildren grow up, and plenty of time for all the daytime activities one misses when working full time.

Bonds' Drive Completed

The agency's recent savings bond campaign, underway from May 10 - June 7, resulted in 69 additional employees signing up and being first-time bond buyers. This represents 29 percent of the domestic staff, compared to 23 percent who owned bonds before the campaign began.

The Director's Office led the drive with 8 new bond buyers out of a possible 29, bringing the total number of bond buyers in that office to 17 or a 59 percent

participation.

Jim Simpson, chairman of the campaign, reports that 382 out of 1,350 employees or 29 percent of headquarters and domestic staff have purchased bonds. The government-wide goal is 75 percent participation.

Focusing on Minorities, Health and New Recruits at Regional Directors Meeting

The highlight of the latest Regional Directors' meeting, held in Clarksville, Ind. from June 6-8, was a proposal submitted jointly by the agency's 10 Regional Directors to John Lewis, Domestic Operations Associate Director, for a more grass-roots-level approach to ACTION's domestic programs. If ACTION Director Sam Brown approves this plan, the basic decision-making authority for most of the agency's domestic programs will, by the end of this fiscal year, be transferred to the ACTION state offices.

In response to Sam Brown's recommendation for the increased participation of minorities in ACTION programs, conference participants also discussed the issue of increased representation of native Americans in all ACTION programs. Participants decided that a workshop should be conducted in the fall to study ways in which native Americans could be better integrated into ACTION's programs. The workshop would be composed of project sponsors working in Indian programs, Indian volunteers and non-Indians who work with various native American groups.

During the conference, ACTION Deputy Director Mary E. King led a discussion on domestic health programming, emphasizing the importance of the health and nutrition segment of ACTION's Basic Human Needs programming thrust.

A task force is being formed, under the direction of John Lewis to discuss the merits of expanding ACTION's rural programs.

The regional directors also explored a number of issues currently facing the agency. Among them were the new urban plan, minority recruitment and the planning process for the 1980 budget.

Peace Corps Supplement in Process

A recommendation to supplement Peace Corps' \$82.9-million budget for FY 1978 passed on June 22 with a six-to-two vote by the House Appropriations Sub-Committee on Foreign Operations. The supplement of nearly \$3.3 million, if ultimately passed by the House and the Senate, will be allocated to two specific ACTION arenas.

About \$2.26 million will cover improvements in Peace Corps' training and programming. A little more than \$1 million will serve as cost-of living increases for ACTION staff.

Those who voted for approval of the supplements were: Charles Wilson (D-Texas), Silvio Conte (R-Mass.), David Obey (D-Wisc.), Sydney Yates (D-Ill.), Louis Stokes (D-Ohio) and Yvonne Burke (D-Calif.).

Ex-Volunteer Report Available

Former Peace Corps and VISTA volunteers should be given greater opportunities to become involved with current Peace Corps and VISTA programs and policies, according to a report from the Independent Foundation (IF), a nationally based organization of former Peace Corps and VISTA volunteers.

The report, based on an attitudinal survey of former volunteers, also recommends that career assistance be offered to volunteers to help them make the transition into their own jobs following volunteer termination. In addition, the report suggests that a directory be created to help locate former volunteers for community projects and activities that could use their skills. The directory would also enable volunteers to exchange information on resources and volunteer experiences.

According to Jim Callahan, Office of the Former Volunteer Project, initial efforts to implement the report's recommendations include organization of address files for the volunteer directory, and budget approval for pilot career workshops. Callahan says, however, that the exact policy or planning role for the former volunteers has not yet been clarified.

Anyone interested in seeing the report should contact Callahan at (202) 254-8406.

Regional News:

Jeannette Cason: Atlanta

Jeannette Cason, 47, formerly the Program Officer in Chicago for Region V, has been appointed Service Center Director in Atlanta. She will head the Atlanta, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., area offices, including the volunteer recruitment operations for the domestic and international branches in these areas.

"I've already visited all the area offices and talked with the staff," said Cason, "and I am very pleased with the amount of dedication and commitment that the Atlanta office has had during a long period of fluctuating circumstances. I look forward to the support we can give them."

Larry Brown, Assistant Director for the Office of Recruitment and Communications, in announcing the appointment of Ms. Cason, said, "It is clear that we have a strong leader, who, with the committed staff already there, will make the Atlanta Service Center one of the top producers in the country."

A native of Independence, Kans., she graduated from the University of Missouri in 1953 with a bachelor's degree in journalism/political science. She will assume her new duties on July 5th in Atlanta.

Seattle PC/VISTA Recruiter Offers Volunteer Alternatives to Seniors

Four years ago, Marianna B. Kyle at age 63 "retired" after more than 30 years of

social work, mostly in Seattle, Wash. But Mrs. Kyle, a widow from Bellevue, Wash., "wasn't ready to retire and be inactive and sedentary." At age 68, she still isn't!

In 1974, a few months after her retirement from the Department of Social and Health Services in Seattle and Bellevue, Mrs. Kyle became a Peace Corps volunteer and traveled halfway around the world to continue her social work in Malaysia. She served two years as a psychiatric social worker at the general hospital in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of the Southeast Asian country.

Mrs. Kyle has hung up her white social worker jacket but is anything but "inactive and sedentary." At the present time, she is recruiting other "retirees" for Peace Corps and VISTA service. A temporary recruiter with the Seattle recruiting office, the energetic woman tries to reach older Americans with her message about volunteer opportunities before they actually retire.

"Once they're retired, it's much more difficult to recruit them," she contends. "You have to present the idea before they retire and let them prepare for it."

Mrs. Kyle has established contacts with businesses and educational organizations in the greater Seattle area to inform as many pre-retirees as possible about opportunities for Peace Corps and VISTA service. Among them are the Seattle public schools, Seattle Community College, the University of Washington, the Substitute Teachers Retirement Association and the Boeing Aircraft Company.

Last spring, she presented a series of slide shows on VISTA and Peace Corps at pre-retirement seminars conducted by Boeing for employees within six months of retirement. Information on health services, pensions, travel and recreational opportunities for senior citizens also was provided to these employees at the seminars. Mrs. Kyle's presentation was so well received that she was invited to participate in similar seminars to be conducted at Boeing in the fall.