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# Helping ACTION Fight Drug Abuse

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# ACTION UPDATE

MARCH 1982

## ACTION Encourages Corporate Volunteer Programs

Large and small businesses that want to become more involved on a volunteer level in their communities will soon be getting a helping hand from ACTION.

The agency's Office of Volunteer Liaison (OVL, formerly the Office of Voluntary Citizen Participation) is setting up a clearinghouse to share successful corporate volunteer programs with other companies. "The emphasis will be not only on cash contributions, but on companies providing in-kind services and on getting executives directly involved in community volunteer activities; perhaps loaning executives to work with volunteer organizations," said OVL staffer Dan Bonner, who along with staffer Harriet Kipps is setting up the program.

Responding to President Reagan's call for Americans to roll up their sleeves and volunteer, the ACTION program "...will complement the work of the President's Task Force on Private Sector Initiatives," said OVL Deputy Director Peggy Knight.

The OVL staff is currently looking into corporate-sponsored volunteer programs, finding out which ones have worked and why, and setting up information networks with various business and trade organizations to share ideas with other companies.

"Business has a long record of giving dollars to worthwhile causes," said Bonner. "But sometimes companies don't know there may be other ways to get involved. We want to show them specific ways."

Initial reaction has been encouraging, according to Bonner, who has been exploring the idea with a number of Fortune 500 companies and with such organizations as the National Associations of Manufacturers and the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

## Washington, D.C. Operation Rescue: Volunteer Tutors Work in Elementary Schools

"Operation Rescue is producing great results but more can be done," says ACTION Director Tom Pauken acknowledging a recent address by District of Columbia Superintendent of Schools Floretta McKenzie.

Superintendent McKenzie reported that Operation Rescue, a volunteer tutoring program that builds basic reading and math skills of D.C. elementary school children, would expand the role of volunteers from the public and private sectors.

McKenzie noted that ACTION "plans to continue in its role as a catalyst to other federal agencies in the recruitment of volunteers."

According to Pauken, who last fall wrote to U.S. cabinet heads requesting that they encourage employees in their agencies to join the volunteer tutoring drive, "Operation Rescue has succeeded in reaching some 3,000 school children, but more than 25 percent of D.C.'s 40,000 elementary school students need our help. (cont. page 4)



Efrem Johnson tutors students under Operation Rescue.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR



The interest that has been generated in ACTION's Drug Use Prevention Program has been astounding and reflects, I believe, an awareness among all segments of our society that drugs are bad news. They rob us of time, of dollars, and most important, of potential—the potential of our youth to grow into healthy, responsible adults.

I was pleased to welcome Melissa Gilbert, who plays Laura Ingalls in television's "Little House on the Prairie," to ACTION and to announce that she will be the national spokeswoman for our Drug Use Prevention Program. Melissa has already made an appearance in Los Angeles on our behalf and is eager to do all that she is able to promote our program.

National Volunteer Week, April 18-24, is fast approaching and you will soon be hearing of a number of ways you can take an active part in what is a special week for all of us. I hope you will take advantage of those opportunities.

With warm regards,

Tom Pauken

## Congratulations to the Paukens

Our heartiest congratulations to Tom and Ida Pauken, who on Feb. 13, became parents for the sixth time. The new arrival, Victoria, weighed in at eight lbs., six oz.

## VVLP Aide Lauded for Dedicated Service

Emogene Cupp, a staff assistant with ACTION's Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVLP) for the past two months, was congratulated by agency Director Tom Pauken for her "dedication and invaluable help in getting this badly-needed program off the ground." Pauken made the remarks at a farewell gathering for Cupp on February 5, her last day with ACTION.

Cupp, a recently retired buyer with the Army-Air Force Exchange Service, learned of VVLP through the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF). "I had been looking forward to my retirement," she says, "but when I heard they needed somebody to help get this program started, I applied to work on a temporary basis—until a permanent, full-time person could be hired."



Tom Pauken and Emogene Cupp

Cupp has worked as a volunteer with Vietnam veterans since 1968, when her only son, Robert William, was killed while on active duty with the Army in Vietnam. (She and her husband have a daughter who lives in the Washington, D.C. area.) In addition to her involvement with VVMF, Cupp is an active member of Gold Star Mothers, a national organization of women who have lost sons or daughters in wars. "In Gold Stars we do volunteer work, often at VA hospitals, and give support to other mothers of lost sons," explains Cupp, who served as president of their Alexandria, Va. chapter in 1978-79. She also participated in special services honoring Vietnam veterans at Memorial Day ceremonies in Arlington, Va., last June.

VVLP National Director Jack Wheeler said, "Mrs. Cupp's kind helpfulness and total commitment to the best interests of the Vietnam veterans has made her a very valuable asset to our program. We will miss her, and we wish her well."

## TV Star Joins with ACTION in Drug Prevention Program

TV star Melissa Gilbert, 17, known to millions in her role as Laura Ingalls in "Little House on the Prairie," will serve as national spokesperson for ACTION's new drug use prevention program.

At a February 17 press conference at agency headquarters, Gilbert and ACTION Director Tom Pauken discussed her participation in a campaign to make young people and their parents aware of the hazards of drug use. "It is critical that other young leaders like Melissa around the country step forward, whether they're in the entertainment field or whether they're simply able to lead their fellow students," said Pauken.

Gilbert thanked Pauken for the opportunity to join forces in combating what she termed, "an epidemic of frightening proportions among young people in this country." She said, "I think we should set an example. Since we are in a position where we get a lot of publicity, and people know who we are and what we do, it's important that they know we don't do drugs."

Pauken said the agency will help with technical assistance and several demonstration grants. He also indicated there would be close cooperation with



*Melissa Gilbert and Tom Pauken*

schools, churches and other youth oriented organizations. The agency's Young Volunteers in ACTION program in which teens serve as volunteers to help other teens, will also play a vital role in the drug program, as will older volunteers in RSVP.

Following her discussions with ACTION officials, Gilbert then met with First Lady Nancy Reagan who, along with the President, will host an ACTION-sponsored White House Briefing on Drug Use and the Family on March 22.

## \$117.7 million proposed

### Agency Budget Submitted to Congress

President Reagan has asked Congress for \$117,721,000 to fund ACTION programs in fiscal year 1983. The request represents a decrease of \$11,185,000 from the current FY 1982 level.

The President requested increased funding for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, the Service-Learning Programs and the Citizen Participation and Volunteer Demonstration Programs, the same funding level as FY 1982 for the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs, and a significantly decreased funding level for Volunteers in Service to American (VISTA) to coincide with the proposed phase-out of that program during FY 1982. Reductions in estimated cost for program support reflect the recent separation of the Peace Corps from ACTION, which was fully implemented on Feb. 21.

In submitting the budget request to Congress, AC-

TION Director Tom Pauken said, "In this time of re-examination of governmental priorities and programs, I am convinced that the ACTION approach of fostering self-help and self-reliance is vitally important in helping private citizens and local communities meet their needs."

During FY 1983, ACTION will focus its attention on the problem of runaway youth, Vietnam veterans, drug abuse and illiteracy, in addition to its continuing emphasis on long-term care, consumer counseling and development of private sector voluntarism.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program's FY 1983 spending level of \$27,445,000—an increase of \$85,000—will allow for an FY 1983 total of 345,200 volunteers.

*(cont. page 7)*

## Director's Hill Testimony Emphasizes Need for Voluntarism

In testimony on Feb. 3, before the House subcommittee on Manpower and Housing, ACTION Director Tom Pauken said that President Reagan "wants to do everything he can to encourage voluntarism." The President has emphasized his commitment to voluntary action, both publicly and privately, Pauken said.

Outlining the agency's new approaches, Pauken said that ACTION would be a catalyst for voluntarism, not a centralized authority that imposes directives on localities. Instead of parachuting outside "experts" into a community, ACTION will identify and help local volunteers, Pauken said. "The leaders are out there, we have to encourage them." Pauken cited the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program as an example of ACTION's emphasis on local volunteers.

Pauken also said that ACTION would focus on two major areas—Older American Volunteer Programs and the problems of troubled youth, linking OAVP programs to initiatives on runaways, drug abuse, illiteracy and young volunteers.

Also testifying was Robert Woodson, advisor to the Congressional Black Caucus and a former civil rights activist. Woodson, of the American Enterprise Institute, criticized past government programs for their reliance on professionals and credentialed experts. "Leadership exists in all communities, including poor communities," Woodson said, adding that the ghetto mother who successfully raises five children is more of an expert on family life than a day care professional with a Ph.D. But despite a history of misdirected government programs, Woodson was optimistic. "The President is making progress," he declared. In addition, Woodson said he was "already impressed with ACTION's leadership under Tom Pauken."

In Jan. 28 testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on Juvenile Justice, Pauken declared that ACTION was committed to increasing participation of volunteers in the prevention of drug abuse. As part of this effort, he said ACTION was providing technical assistance to parent groups fighting teenage drug abuse and participating in White House meetings that will introduce parent movement leaders to corporate, entertainment and voluntary association executives interested in preventing drug abuse.

## Operation Rescue *(from page 1)*

"The amazing results thus far," he adds, "show what is possible when federal workers and their private sector counterparts join as volunteers to solve local problems."

Initiated in March, 1981 by the D.C. Public School System, the Washington, D.C. Urban League and various private sector groups, Operation Rescue has involved 1,000 volunteer tutors in heading-off possible failure of D.C. schoolchildren.

ACTION employee Irene Phillips, a program specialist for the Young Volunteers in ACTION, works individually once a week, for one hour with two students, ages eight and nine, at Leckie Elementary School in Southwest Washington. "Initially," says Phillips, "you have to work with the kids and their teacher to figure out where they are at, and where your special reading class should begin."

Efrem Johnson, an Operation Rescue volunteer who is a former ACTION employee and second year student at the University of the District of Columbia, works with groups of six fifth-graders at Noyes Elementary School in Northeast Washington. His volunteer service is Johnson's first teaching experience and he says he is seeing tangible results.

"I can see that I'm having an effect," he says. "I work with the groups for two hours at a time, and I have fun doing it. I feel as though I'm doing something to help out the neighborhood and people in general by working towards improving the skills of the next generation of kids."

Anyone interested in further information on Operation Rescue may call, 202-724-4482.

## COPE

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Employees and family members of employees wishing assistance in resolving personal, family, social, legal, financial, drug and alcohol abuse problems may obtain confidential help by calling :

COPE Counseling Center  
484-7400

## Black History Month at ACTION

“A positive effect of the political and economic changes of the past year is that Blacks have been forced to take a good look at themselves as a people and to become much more self-reliant—to realize that they must do for themselves. Those Blacks who survive the difficulties of the years ahead will, hopefully, have attained a new strength and a higher level of Black political awareness and power than ever before,” said Dwight Ellis, vice-president of the National Association of Broadcasters, in a program which helped commemorate Black History Month at ACTION.

Speaking before some 40 employees at ACTION headquarters on Feb. 23, Ellis was part of a panel on “The Black Political Puzzle: Where do we go from here?” He was joined by Sam Tucker, president of Tucker, McGhee, Speights & Co., a Black advertising agency based in Washington, D.C., and Gregory Wims, special assistant to the director of Legislative and Governmental Affairs at ACTION.

During the panel session and a follow-up discussion period, participants presented a wide range of views concerning Blacks in the political arena. Subjects included increasing Black participation and representation in the media, political involvement at the grass roots level, campaign strategies and strategies for gaining power, utilizing Black leadership, and the importance of Black financial support to gaining power.

Tucker noted that “It is unrealistic to think we can sit back and hope that some good-hearted person will come to our aid. We can make needed changes, only if we have the power to demand them and use that power.” He added that political reality often dictates that Blacks “go beyond conscience” in running for office. “But once we are in office, then we can act more in line with our conscience and begin making needed changes which we feel are in our interests. And it is unrealistic and counter to our interests to try to make those changes overnight,” Tucker said.

Picking up on Tucker’s theme, Ellis noted that “As a Black person working in private industry, a major problem I face is making the corporation for which I am working look good, while at the same time, maintaining credibility with the minority community. Sometimes there is a discrepancy between the two which must be worked out.”



*Dwight Ellis and Gregory Wims*

The opening event of Black History Month was a panel session and follow-up discussion on Feb. 18 on “Education: Past Successes and Failures in the Black Community—What the Future Holds.” Panel members included Dr. Elizabeth Johns, director of Education for the National Council of Negro Women; Jackie Stone, special assistant to House Minority Leader Robert Michel (R-Ill.); and Dr. Janie Boyd, a consultant to ACTION. Topics discussed included relationships in the Black community; importance of caring and individual attention in public education; subtle discrimination, particularly economic; breaking the welfare cycle among poor Blacks; the tragedy of the “me” generation; and the importance of the community.

At the Feb. 18 session, Johns stressed the importance of “recognizing, not just the deeds of famous Blacks—which represent just a tiny fraction of all Black people, but examining trends—long institutional processes and ongoing movements. This is vital if we are to see where we, as Blacks, have succeeded and where we have failed,” Johns said.

The month’s events were coordinated by an ACTION planning committee made up of Dr. Lawrence Davenport, director of Domestic Operations (DO); June Carter Perry, director of Public Affairs, who moderated both panel sessions; Jean Logan, Office of Communications; Gregory Wims; Joe Bass, Office of Volunteer Liaison; and Barbara Wedge and Ruth Archie, Older American Volunteer Programs.

## In Memoriam

### Marie Westphal

Marie Westphal, 49, a recruiter, since August 1980, in the Austin Area Office was killed in an automobile accident, by a drunk driver in San Diego, Calif. on Dec. 30.

Upon learning of her death, Dallas Service Center Placement Manager Edward Godfrey said, "All who knew Marie will remember her as a fine lady who enjoyed her years as a volunteer and believed, wholeheartedly, in ACTION's programs. She will be dearly missed."

Westphal's years as a volunteer included Peace Corps service in Quito, Ecuador from Jan. 1978-March 1980, and in The Philippines from Feb.-July 1975 (cut short because of family emergency), and VISTA service in San Miguel, N.M. from Oct. 1975-Oct. 1977. In addition, she held a variety of management positions in the U.S. government during the 1960s and 1970s at the General Services Administration, the U.S. Office of Education and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Westphal also taught school, at the secondary level, both in the U.S. and in the Virgin Islands, served as a research analyst at the University of Maryland in College Park, and earlier was a federal aid coordinator with the Washington Technical Institution in Washington, D.C.

She is survived by her son, Jim Rogers of 1406 Dallas Parkway # 1060, Dallas, Tex. 75204. A memorial fund has been established in her name with the Peace Corps Partnership Program.

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### Bill Frazier

Bill Frazier, 40, former communications director in the Chicago Service Center, died of a heart attack on January 8 in Russell, Kan. He had been living there since 1979, when he retired from ACTION for health reasons.

Upon learning of Frazier's death, Chicago Service Center Director Bruce Cohen said, "All of us who knew Bill remember him as a caring individual whose sincerity and sense of humor helped us through the day."

Frazier had been active in public life prior to becoming ACTION communications director in Region V. In addition to his work with the General Services Administration and the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Kansas City, Kan. and the ACTION state office in Topeka, Kan., he also served as an aide to U.S. Senator Robert Dole (R-Kan.). Since his retirement from ACTION, Frazier had been working part-time in the Republican gubernatorial campaign for David Owen of Kansas.

Frazier is survived by his mother, Theresa, of 1415 Front St., Russell, Kan. 67665. A memorial fund in his name has been established at his church with the American Heart Association.

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## FROM THE FIELD...

WASHINGTON, D.C. . . Barbara Wyatt, director of YVA (Young Volunteers in ACTION) has issued a YVA memorandum which includes project statistics as of Jan. 15, 1982. On that date, 12 projects were in operation with a total of 164 volunteers serving in 61 locations. Everett, Wash. currently leads with 58 volunteers in 15 stations. Little Rock, Ark. is second with 28 volunteers in four stations, followed by Tulsa, Okla., with 24 volunteers in 12 stations.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. . . San Francisco Home Health Service, a non-profit organization, which addresses local home, health and social needs, has been awarded sponsorship of one of the city's two Retired Senior Volunteer Programs, effective Feb. 1. Formerly sponsored by the Council of Churches since it was launched here nine years ago, the program currently has 504 senior volunteers, and covers the Mission, Bayview/Hunters Point, Richmond, Sunset, Oceanside, Merced Heights and Ingleside areas. Lucille Ramstetter, project director for the local RSVP since its inception, will continue in that role under its new sponsorship.

FORT WORTH, TEXAS. . . At the Daggett Middle School, 11 teenage students are using the buddy system to help their Cambodian counterparts adjust to a new way of life in America. "These Cambodian kids have a tremendous need for simple friendship," said Barbara Jones, local director of the YVA in Ft. Worth. "They come from a war-torn homeland into a completely different culture." The American teenagers and their new friends from Cambodia met for the first time at a training session on Feb. 3.

## PEOPLE IN PLACE



ANGIE HAMMOCK    C. WADE FREEMAN, JR.

ANGIE HAMMOCK, from Dublin, Ga., is the director of ACTION's Drug Use Prevention Program which supports President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan's commitment to a drug free society.

"The aim of the program is to mobilize volunteers from all segments of the community—parents, teachers, children and business groups—to get involved in the prevention of drug use among adolescents," Hammock says.

From 1977 to 1981, Hammock, 26, served as press secretary and narcotics advisor to Rep. Billy Lee Evans (D.-Ga.). In this capacity, she was responsible for conducting investigations into drug use, prevention and treatment; and helped prepare legislation on drug-related matters.

Hammock also has devoted much of her time as a volunteer with the National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth.

Prior to joining the congressman's staff, Hammock was a reporter and anchorperson at WCWB Television, an NBC affiliate in Macon, Ga. At the same time, she was studying speech and drama at Mercer University in Macon. Previously, she attended Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and Valdosta State College in Valdosta, Ga.

The daughter of Jim and Ramona Hammock of Dublin, Hammock resides in Arlington, Va.

C. WADE FREEMAN, JR. of Arlington, Va., has been named special assistant to Betty Brake, director of ACTION's Older American Volunteer Programs by ACTION Director Tom Pauken.

Before joining the OAVP staff, Freeman served as a pastor in the Baptist Church for over 30 years.

"The wheels of a Baptist church turn on volunteer programs," says Freeman, "so I'm sure that I will thoroughly enjoy my service with the older American programs."

Freeman was senior pastor of Capital Hill Metropolitan Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., from 1971 to 1981. From 1959 to 1971, he was senior pastor with Calvary Baptist Church in Tulsa, Okla. He was senior pastor of the First Baptist Church in Clarksville, Tex., from 1955 to 1959, and pastor of the First Baptist Church of Mabank, Tex., from 1950 to 1953.

A 1951 graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Tex., Freeman earned his bachelor of divinity degree from South Western Seminary in 1954, his master's in divinity in 1973 and his doctorate in divinity in 1980 from Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

### ACTION Budget *(from page 3)*

The Foster Grandparent Program will continue at its present funding level of \$48,400,000, providing for 18,100 volunteers. Also, continuing at its FY 1982 level will be the Senior Companion Program, budgeted at \$12,016,000, with 4,200 volunteers providing companionship and personal assistance for the frail elderly.

Funding for Service-Learning Programs, including Young Volunteers in ACTION, will increase by \$73,000 to an FY 1983 level of \$1,830,000.

At a funding level of \$1,984,000 in FY 1983, an increase of \$175,000 over FY 1982, Citizen Participation and Volunteer Demonstration Programs will award: nine State Office of Volunteer Liaison grants; 16 Mini-Grants; five Technical Assistance Program grants, nine Fixed Income Consumer Counseling grants; and 19 Volunteer Demonstration Program grants in the areas of drug abuse prevention, runaways and literacy.

VISTA's budget will decrease from \$8,780,000 in FY 1982 to \$231,000 in FY 1983, an amount sufficient to cover residual costs after that program is phased out.

## FGPs Serve in Child Abuse Program

FGP coordinator Ethel Livingston is filled with praise for the Foster Grandparents in Hampton, Va. serving in the homes of abused and/or neglected children. "They are definitely making an impact," she says. "Our Foster Grandparents are caring and non-judgmental seniors who provide listening ears to the parents and their children. They become surrogate parents to the parents, while demonstrating positive parenting skills. And they're doing it beautifully."

Since November 1979, the Hampton FGP has served 31 referrals and some 65 children. "Parents referred to the program feel socially isolated, have low self-esteem, are often young and immature and have few parenting skills," explains Livingston. Referrals are primarily made by the Hampton Department of Social Services. Most Foster Grandparents are assigned to children in designated families for one year.

Prior to entering the home of an abused or neglected child, the Foster Grandparents receive two weeks of in-depth training that provides knowledge and skills to ensure a relationship with the parents that will, in turn, benefit the children, Livingston says. After an initial interview with the family, she carefully matches them with volunteers.

***"...we have to be open-minded...it's so worthwhile."***

LYLA SMITH, FGP

Shortly after a visit to the Hampton FGP in mid-January, ACTION Deputy Director Winifred Pizzano said, "I was really impressed with the parents and children and the Foster Grandparents concerning how they were able to talk about their experiences and how they were dealing with problems and finding solutions. I'd love to see this component of FGP expanded, because it really does work."

Speaking of their experiences with the program, in a recent interview, three FGPs voiced similar feelings:

"You have a chance to really get close to the parent" says FGP Alma Diggs, 60. "We get to the root of their problems, because they will tell us many things they won't tell the social services people.

"There is one family—the man is sedated. When he's off the medication, he becomes violent. I've been working with the mother. If she has someone to

give her positive guidance, she's all right. She loves her children but she doesn't understand raising them. But whatever I suggest, she'll go along with it. I feel I've done a lot for her. But it took a couple of months.

"The mother still does some things that are not very becoming. But I met *her* mother and I have a better understanding. Some of her problems will always be there. But I love the children. I do role playing and they practice their manners on me. We cook, we do things that a grandmother would do with her grandchildren. I think it's terrific!"

"It takes a lot out of you to go into an abused or neglected home," says FGP Lyla Smith, 65. "But I've taught their mother how to save on her food bill. I try to make her feel she's accomplishing something. I take crafts and try to get the children working together.

"We run into drugs—all kinds of things," she adds. "You just didn't know these things existed because we didn't live that way. But we have to be open minded. It's just so worthwhile, I thoroughly enjoy it."

Alma Green, age 71, said that her first assignment didn't work out. "It was a girl, her two children and her boyfriend, but the boyfriend was violent and it was so dangerous that I called Mrs. Livingston and they took me out. The court won't let the boyfriend come there anymore because of the fights.

"In one home, the mother didn't want to do anything," Green continues. "When she was drinking, nothing could be done, but I'd go and stay with the children. She didn't believe the children would be taken away from her, but they were. At first, you could hardly get into the place, there was so much stuff everywhere and bugs running everywhere. It was something else. But I loved the children and I wouldn't give them up. I helped her clean up and I visited the boy when he was taken to a foster home. I saw to it that he wrote to his mother and that she wrote to him. Maybe they'll get back together. She doesn't drink and she's changed a lot.

"I've never had any children of my own, although I've raised plenty," adds Green. "And I love this program. It helps me so and I look forward to helping others. I hope—I think—we're doing that."

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### ACTION UPDATE

Editor . . . . . Judy Kusheloff  
Graphics Designer . . . . . Bud Wandling