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ACTION UPDATE

APRIL 1982

White House Drug Use Briefing Stresses Prevention... Concerted, Determined Action Essential

It was a gathering of people who have said "enough," who have drawn a line and who have vowed to fight the spreading menace of drug abuse with all the resources they can muster. It included corporate leaders from major U.S. firms, physicians, representatives of parent groups, and ACTION and White House staff—some 100 people in all.

They met at the White House March 22 and during the day-long session, hosted by First Lady Nancy Reagan and sponsored by ACTION, they mapped plans to battle the drug culture that

threatens the health and lives of young people throughout the country.

Addressing the group in the East Room of the White House, Mrs. Reagan said, "Drugs ruin lives before they've even had a chance to develop and then compound the damage by destroying the family ties that offer the best hope. I don't think ever in my life have I felt as compelled to do something about an issue as I feel about youthful drug abuse."

One overall message repeatedly emerged from

(cont. page 3)

With Tom Pauken at White House Briefing on Drug Use session are, left to right, William Barton, president, National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth; First Lady Nancy Reagan; and Dr. William Mayer, administrator, Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration.



FROM THE DIRECTOR



We're gearing up at ACTION to celebrate National Volunteer Week, April 18-24; we have a full schedule of activities planned for the week and a number of important preliminary events are on our agenda as well.

The ACTION Fair, to be held Wednesday, April 14 from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. in Farragut Square, will feature bands, dance groups, gymnasts, singers, speakers, exhibits, and, not least of all, a "Clown Corps!" It will be a day for both serious thought on the role of volunteers and for celebration of their efforts.

On Thursday, April 15, President Reagan will present the Volunteer Action Awards at a White House luncheon.

For ACTION employees, the highlight of National Volunteer Week will be a special volunteer project on Saturday, April 17, at Washington's Hospital for Sick Children (HSC). It will be a day of working together that will provide some desperately needed, basic help to HSC, which for nearly 100 years has served area children who are victims of birth defects, mental retardation, abuse and debilitating accidents. Because of insufficient funds and limited staff, HSC needs help with some Spring repair projects—so let's roll up our sleeves! A brick wall needs to be scraped and painted, the driveway curbs need a coat of yellow paint, the wooden bridge used for wheelchair access needs patching up, and the grounds need raking and a general sprucing up.

The hospital staff figures that we can finish these jobs if we assemble 80 volunteers to work for three to six hours each. You will be asked to sign up for particular tasks and indicate how much time you can serve and what tools you can provide. We're hoping that many of us will work the whole day. The hospital will be providing a picnic lunch, and transportation is available for those who need it.

Let's get out our work gloves, shovels, rakes, and clean our paint brushes and rollers. HSC needs us and it's a great chance to volunteer.

This is sure to be one of the most satisfying days that we at ACTION get to spend together. Hope to see you there.

With warm regards,

Tom Pauken

Blinded Veteran Heads California VVLP



David Szumowski and Tom Pauken

David Szumowski, director of ACTION's Southern California VVLP (Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program), intends to use his position "to see that, in some way, the sacrifices made by the Vietnam veterans are acknowledged. I would like the American people to know that I was proud to serve—that what I lost was given in the cause of the principles of freedom," he says.

What Szumowski lost was his sight—13 years ago as a tank platoon leader with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam. He was trying to aid an infantry unit pinned down under fire. "Maybe it was the luck of a bad shot, or my own perseverance," he adds, "but I made it."

Recently in Washington, D.C. for a board meeting of the Blinded Veterans Association, Szumowski stopped by ACTION headquarters to discuss VVLP with ACTION Director Tom Pauken and with the ACTION VVLP and Public Affairs staff.

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White House Briefing

(from page 1)

the White House Briefing on Drug Use and the Family: The best hope for combatting drug abuse is for parents to face the problem and band together with other parents.

"Parents are not helpless," said Marsha Keith Schuchard, co-founder of Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education in Atlanta, Ga. "The tremendous crushing peer pressure on our children can be checked if parents work with other parents." "The hope," added Vonneva Pettigrew, president of Parents and Youth Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Washington, D.C., "is a united front. By banding together, we can move to a position of strength rather than helplessness."

Bill Barton, president of the National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth, said that parents and other groups could exert enough pressure to counter the pro-drug forces and toughen drug laws. He noted that the Supreme Court has upheld the right of communities to ban the sale of drug paraphernalia, which according to industrialist H. Ross Perot, who is executive director of Texans' War on Drugs Committee, is a \$3 billion a year industry.

The entire U.S. drug industry, Perot added, does a \$68 billion to \$89 billion annual business. A business of that magnitude can "bring our country to its knees," said Carla Lowe executive director of Community Action Against Drug Abuse in Sacramento, Calif.

Another focal point of the briefing was the increasing recognition of the severe health hazards posed by the use of drugs. Dr. Donald I. McDonald, a pediatrician and president of the Scientific Advisory Council, American Council on Marijuana, noted that physicians have only recently begun to connect many physical problems that they see in their young patients to drug abuse. "Nearly all parents (that I've met) of drug users say they didn't know their children were on drugs until it was too late," McDonald said. Dr. William Mayer, administrator of the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration added, however, that there was evidence that young people are increasingly recognizing that drugs are destructive to their health.

Joining other speakers in criticizing some segments of the media and entertainment industry which portray drug use as socially acceptable, Carlton E. Turner, White House drug advisor, said, "We must de-glamorize drugs." Turner



Panelists Carla Lowe and Dr. Donald McDonald

outlined a presidential program which included reducing daily drug use by high school seniors by 30 percent and establishing parent groups against drug abuse in every high school by 1984.

Actress Melissa Gilbert, who plays Laura Ingalls on the TV series, "Little House on the Prairie," and who serves as national spokesperson for ACTION's Drug Use Prevention Program, said that she was setting an example of the many people in her industry "who don't do drugs. In the beginning, my peers used to think I was square," Gilbert said. "Now I think kids respect me for it. . . There's almost reverse peer pressure among my contemporaries."

During the briefing and at a follow-up press meeting the next day, ACTION staff outlined the agency's role in the fight against drug abuse. Director Tom Pauken said that ACTION would help mobilize parents, religious leaders, corporate executives, and all others who can volunteer in the fight against drugs.

Connie Horner, acting director of VISTA, and former deputy director in the Office of Policy and Planning, which oversees the ACTION Drug Use Prevention Program, said the agency would provide, through its drug program, technical assistance and small grants to schools, student groups, parents groups, drug stores, physicians.

Pauken and Angie Hammock, who heads the ACTION Drug Use Prevention Program, said that the agency volunteer effort—which includes the Young Volunteers in ACTION program and older volunteers serving in RSVP—will be aimed at prevention—at making young people aware of the hazards of drugs so they won't get started in the first place.

Those who wish further information should write the ACTION Drug Use Prevention Program at 806 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. or phone FTS-254-8501.

YVAs Extend Hand of Friendship to Cambodian Youth



YVAs and their Cambodian "buddies."

When 14-year-old Wanda Campbell first met Kim, her Cambodian "buddy" at the Daggett Middle School in Ft. Worth, Texas, she held out her hand and said "friend." Kim, who speaks little English, at first didn't know how to respond and held back.

"But when I did it again," Wanda recalls, "Kim shook my hand and said 'friend!' We've been friends ever since."

Wanda Campbell is one of a dozen eighth-graders at Daggett School to serve in the Cambodian "buddy" program, a one-year local pilot project of ACTION's Young Volunteers in ACTION (YVA) program. YVA involves volunteers age 14 to 22, in service to their communities, in 12 programs across the nation.

Ft. Worth YVA Director Barbara Jones explains further: "At Daggett, the volunteers help newly arrived Cambodian youngsters learn English and feel at home in this country. As buddies, the Cambodian and American students seek each other out at school, in the lunchroom, at assemblies—any place and time that's convenient.

"The most important aspect of the project," she says, "is friendship. The communication problem and the fear and confusion that the Cambodians feel when they first arrive here makes it difficult for them to learn. If they want to be absorbed into the American melting pot, they must have friendly, informal relationships with Americans, as well as formal classroom training."

Jones says that the initial response to the program was overwhelming. "The volunteers we selected were very enthusiastic. When one busy volunteer was asked how she would find time to devote to the program, she said, 'I'll make time. I want to help.'"

After an initial planning and training session, the volunteers and their counterparts met. "The joining was immediate," Jones says. "A common reaching out. Language difficulties presented no barrier. Understanding was electric."

My Lind Ly, a Cambodian "buddy" at Daggett, exemplifies the Cambodians' enthusiasm. "I want to learn all about America," she says. "I want to learn a job and be able to work." When asked what her American buddy would learn from her, she replied, "I'd like to teach her my language."

"Each person is learning from the other in this program, and the Cambodians are adapting swiftly," Jones says. "Their relationships are intertwined and the benefits wonderfully mutual. The school board and the entire community are supportive and enthusiastic. We hope to see the project extended to other schools in the area."

Veteran *(from page 2)*

"As a blind person," he said, "I was forced to use my memory—my brain power. This was necessary to remember things that I couldn't pick up at a glance." He used his "brain power" to attend Denver Law School and pass the Colorado bar exam. "Then came a period of wallowing in self-pity," he says, "but there comes a time when you understand that the light is at the top and you just start crawling upwards. You look back over your shoulder and it's dark down in the barrel. There's nothing to do but keep going."

He kept going in a number of ways, moving to San Diego and working as a press agent; then as a veterans' benefits counselor for three years before becoming involved in the Blinded Veterans Association, through which he learned about VVLP.

"You know," he says, "all the veterans want is to be thanked. People have stood up and called us fools. . .but remember, it was fools like us that 200 years ago gave them the right to talk to me like that. We'd better hope that there are always fools like us around."

April 18-24:

President Proclaims National Volunteer Week

Every year, some 60 million Americans, one out of every four U.S. citizens, volunteer to improve the lives of the 230 million people in this country. These citizens—their services and contributions—are to be honored this year during National Volunteer Week, April 18-24.

In announcing National Volunteer Week, President Reagan cited the tradition begun over two-hundred years ago by the men and women who founded America: "that spirit of giving freely to one's neighbors—the wellspring of compassion underlying the essential decency of American life."

ACTION Director Tom Pauken added that "federal employees share in that tradition of helping others, whether they have given their time and efforts to refugee relief or the PTA, taught Sunday school or tutored, led songs at day care centers or senior centers, counseled runaways or veterans, driven their neighbors to the doctors or themselves to the blood bank...the list is endless...they are to be commended."

American volunteers include people like Wanda Campbell of Ft. Worth, Texas, who through the Young Volunteers in ACTION program, extends her hand in friendship to newly arrived Cambodian teenagers at her school, helping them to learn English and feel at home in this country (See story on page 4). In addition to serving in YVA, ACTION volunteers work in the Foster Grandparents, Senior Companion and Retired Senior Volunteer Programs, in VISTA, or in the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program.

As the national volunteer agency, ACTION is spearheading a drive for National Volunteer Week, calling on its employees and employees of other federal agencies to volunteer on their own time in their communities, and offering assistance in these efforts. A major task involves helping refurbish the grounds of the Hospital for Sick Children in Washington, D.C. on April 17 (See announcement on this page). The agency is also encouraging other agencies to plan and hold events for the week. Other agency events include:

- A White House luncheon on April 15 which the



This ACTION volunteer serving in a Meals-on-Wheels project is one of some 60 million Americans receiving special recognition during National Volunteer Week.

agency is co-sponsoring with VOLUNTEER: the National Center for Citizen Involvement. President Reagan will present awards at the luncheon, in seven categories, for outstanding volunteer achievements to individuals and their organizations. *(cont. page 8)*

To All Staffers

Tired of sitting around on Saturday, no place to go, nothing to do? Feeling left out of life's mainstream? Looking for another excuse to put off Spring housecleaning?

Join us at Washington's Hospital for Sick Children, Saturday, April 17, any time between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and be part of the crew that will help make the grounds ship-shape for summer.

Paint a fence, repair an access bridge for wheelchair bound kids, plant flowers, trim shrubs or choose any one of a multitude of tasks we've promised to perform on this "ACTION Speaks Louder Than Words" day. Hospital staff say they can use as many as 80 volunteers and are even providing a free lunch to show their gratitude.

This day at the Hospital for Sick Children is a good way for us to observe National Volunteer Week. Whatever your motivation, please join us. If you need transportation, further information, or more encouragement, call Jack McCririe, ext. 43102. Watch for further details in your local elevator.

New Orleans Workshop Promotes Voluntarism



At New Orleans workshop are, left to right, J. Upshur Moorhead, White House coordinator for the President's Task Force on Private Sector Initiatives; Wendy Borchardt, special assistant to the President for Public Liaison; First Ladies Beth Busbee, Georgia; Dodie Treen, Louisiana; and Alice King, New Mexico; and Tom Pauken.

The Second National Workshop on Voluntarism, co-sponsored by the White House and ACTION to promote and expand the volunteer resources of the nation, took place on March 9 in New Orleans, La. It was highlighted by the appearance of First Ladies from three southern states, each of whom spoke of the impact that voluntarism was making in meeting vital human and social needs in their state.

"There are so many important programs in Georgia which wouldn't have been possible without the work of our volunteers," said Beth Busbee, wife of Governor George Busbee of Georgia. "Voluntarism has always been a way of life in our state," she said, adding that both she and her husband had been volunteers for a long time.

Picking up on that theme, First Ladies Dodie Treen of Louisiana and Alice King of New Mexico said that they had also been active in volunteer work. "Volunteers have made vital contributions in New Mexico," King said. "They have offered services that taxpayers could never have afforded to pay for."

More than 350 representatives from public and private organizations in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast states, along with representatives from

ACTION, attended the workshop which was designed to follow-up on President Reagan's call for expanded volunteer efforts to meet increasing human and social needs in the country.

Participants examined ways of attracting, recruiting and utilizing volunteers and developing public/private partnerships to complement the work of state and local programs, and reviewed successful examples of these partnerships and of ACTION programs.

Other speakers included ACTION Director Tom Pauken; Wendy Borchardt, special assistant to the President for Public Liaison; J. Upshur Moorhead, special assistant to the President in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff; and J. Steven Rhodes, special assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs.

Borchardt spoke of the historical role volunteers have played in shaping the country and urged participants to help meet President Reagan's renewed call for voluntarism. "Over the past 30 years," she said, "our responsibilities have been usurped by government, particularly at the federal level. Often in delegating the responsibility to federal agencies, some of the enthusiasm for programs diminished and costs escalated with increasing staff and administrative overhead.

She cited several examples of formerly federally administered programs which were being successfully administered by volunteers, one of which was a home meal delivery program in Pima, Az., with a \$53,000 budget, \$50,000 of which had paid for staff and administrative overhead and \$3,000 for clients and food. "Since federal funding for that program has been cut," Borchardt said, "staffing and administrative functions have been taken over by volunteers, and the food budget was doubled to \$6,000, saving \$47,000 and feeding twice as many people."

Borchardt and Pauken both praised the three First Ladies for their commitment to voluntarism, and Pauken noted "an excellent example of the private sector's involvement in voluntarism, right here in New Orleans"—a newly opened senior citizen's center, contained within a major department store in that city. The center, named "The Heart of Town," is maintained inside the Krauss Co. department store and provides, not only recreational and social activities, but part-time job opportunities as well. "This center is indicative of the spirit of giving, which is central to the American tradition," Pauken said.

Volunteers Vital to Refugee Resettlement Efforts

“There are many reasons to believe that the adjustment of new Cuban and Haitian entrants to the United States will, in time be overwhelmingly successful,” said Richard English, ACTION deputy assistant director in the Office of Policy and Planning, after a recent four-day visit to Cuban and Haitian communities in Miami, Fla., “And one reason is that volunteers and voluntary agencies can play key roles in that adjustment.”

English, who chairs the recently formed ACTION Council on Refugees, made the trip to determine what kinds of organizations were using volunteers to help Cuban and Haitian refugees assimilate into American society—through such services as teaching English and providing job counseling, training and placement. His findings will help determine which organizations can use assistance from ACTION or from ACTION volunteers.

Accompanying English, and serving as interpreter, on part of his trip, was Tony Benedi, special assistant to the director of ACTION. Benedi who is bilingual, escaped from Castro’s Cuba with his family in the early 1960s.

While in Florida, English met with representatives of 14 agencies serving Cuban and Haitian refugees, among them several voluntary agencies or “volags,” the international organizations that find sponsors for newly arrived immigrants. He also visited an ESL (English as a Second Language) class, a nutrition center where Hispanic elderly can receive hot meals at no cost, and a residential/employment/ESL facility. “The most severe problems facing the refugees are unemployment and the language barrier,” English notes, “the latter problem often contributing to the former.”

“In addition,” he says, “community leaders here feel that the ‘Marielitos’ ” —the new wave of Cuban entrants— “are blamed unfairly for the behavior of a very few criminals and misfits in their midst. They feel that overcoming this stigma is their most serious obstacle—even greater than the language—in obtaining jobs.”

English notes, however, that many Cubans

and Haitians are, despite these difficulties, finding jobs and adjusting to life in southern Florida. “This is due, in large part, to the presence of a strong, supportive Cuban community, which is more than 20 years old,” he says.

In a conversation with English, Auxiliary Bishop Agustin A. Roman of Miami said that many immigrants are at first, not motivated to work. “Creativity sleeps under Communism,” Roman said. English explains that the Cubans have lived under a system where the rewards are not related to the quality or quantity of their contributions to the economy, and that many of them, therefore, came to this country expecting new clothes, new cars, new radios, without putting forth any effort.

“Also, in Cuba, people don’t have to make any arrangements for such things as housing or electricity, because all of those decisions are made for them,” English says. Roman added that after several months in the United States, the Marielitos’ ability to cope with the problems of living in a free society return.

“We are currently aiding refugees, Indochinese as well as Cubans and Haitians, in a variety of ways,” English says. “Our interagency agreements are providing support for refugee job placement efforts and other activities. In addition, VISTAs are working with local refugee assistance agencies in Florida in areas with large Cuban and Haitian refugee populations (See story in December 1981 issue). But we know there are many other organizations that could use our assistance—technical and financial support and volunteer service. Making this trip was a way of finding out how else we can help.”

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

National Volunteer Week

(from page 5)

- A volunteer fair on April 14 in Farragut Square, near ACTION headquarters, where bands, entertainment and media personalities will help honor volunteer efforts. Participants will have the opportunity to sign up at various booths—sponsored by local clearinghouses—for specific volunteer opportunities.

- A kick-off breakfast at 8:30 A.M., April 19, at ACTION headquarters. The breakfast is open to all ACTION staff, and several government and congressional representatives have been invited. A featured speaker is Barbara Bush, wife of the Vice-president.

- A week-long pictorial exhibit in the headquarters lobby, highlighting the work of American volunteers.

- An extensive media campaign with ACTION volunteers and ACTION and White House staff being featured on local and national radio/TV programs and in newspaper and magazine articles.

The week's events are being coordinated by a committee, chaired by ACTION Deputy Director Winifred Pizzano and composed of representatives from agency offices. For further information, contact Joe Bass, FTS 254-7262.

FROM THE FIELD...

CHICAGO, ILL...Alan Drazek of Morton Grove, Ill., a former Illinois and Cook County official, has been appointed director of ACTION Region V. Drazek, 41, will direct a staff of 50 persons overseeing some 60,000 volunteers in Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Minnesota and Iowa. A native of Chicago, Drazek grew up on the city's northwest side. He attended Loyola University in that city, receiving a bachelor's degree in humanities in 1963.

AMERICAN FORK, UTAH...RSVP volunteers in the Alpine School District are adding a new dimension to supplement the work of the professional teacher. "These are people who love kids and are able to give them extra attention," says Cecil Hansen, director of elementary education. The retired seniors, who currently number 26, come to the program with a variety of experience and education, but with one thing in common, a warm personality and desire to serve.

NASHVILLE, TENN...WSM (Radio) Inc., one of this city's major employers, is the first company to announce support of the Tennessee Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program's (TVVLP) efforts to help find jobs for Vietnam veterans. WSM, Inc., which consists of Opryland USA, Opryland Hotel, Opryland Productions, WSM-AM/FM and the Grand Ole Opry, presently has 15 job openings with salaries ranging from above minimum wage to \$15,000 per year.

STAFF EXCHANGE

Congratulations and best wishes to:

Budget's Marvin Whitehead and VISTA's Jim Burnley, recently honored at respective farewell bashes. Marvin is now with the Department of Commerce, Jim with Justice. Best wishes to both!

OPP's Connie Horner, taking Burnley's place as VISTA head. She's acting director.

ACTION Region IV (San Francisco) Director Phil Brady on his recent marriage.

All employees who have been selling Girl Scout cookies. Seems the cookies have been abounding in every ACTION office.

Raffle sellers looking for a soft touch??? You should know that ORC's Chuck Everett recently purchased a \$200 raffle ticket in an effort to win a new Cadillac. (He didn't win). . .Actually the raffle proceeds paid for a tour to Europe of the Philadelphia Boy's Choir, of which Chuck's son is a member—not a bad deal for all concerned, we think!

Our concern and best wishes for recovery to Timmy Sutton, foster child of ORC's Betty Pringle. Timmy has been in the hospital for awhile and we want to see him well and out.

TO ALL STAFFERS: Again we say, please call us with anything touching, amusing or otherwise noteworthy about yourself or your fellow employees. Remember, this is supposed to be *your* column . . .if you aren't reading about it, it's because we haven't heard about it.

ACTION UPDATE

Editor Judy Kusheloff
Graphics Designer Bud Wandling