



Keynote Speaker at Kick-off Breakfast

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PEACE CORPS
INFORMATION SERVICES
DIVISION

ACTION UPDATE

MAY 1982

Older Americans Month Honors Senior Citizens

Seventy-nine-year-old Nina Hodge stands by her front door and listens for the sound of an approaching car. She knows that her friend Nina Wilkerson will be there shortly to take her to the Holiday Lodge Nursing Home where she plays the piano for the residents' weekly Thursday afternoon sing-a-long. For Hodge, blind since age one, this activity has become "one of the most wonderful things that's ever happened to me in my whole life."

Hodge and Wilkerson are among the nearly 300,000 older Americans who serve in ACTION's RSVP programs. Their volunteer colleagues include 18,000 Foster Grandparents working with children who have special needs, and 5,000 Senior Companions who give caring attention to the frail elderly.

May—proclaimed Older Americans Month by President Reagan, is a time during which communities across the nation will celebrate the contributions of ACTION's older American volunteers, as well as those of millions of other senior citizens across the country.

In his proclamation, President Reagan said the country owes a special debt of gratitude to its older citizens "who have enriched and continue to enrich our great nation. Older Americans from all walks of life have played a major role in creating the bounties of life that bless us all," the President said.

Noting the contributions of older Americans, ACTION Director Tom Pauken spoke of the

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National Volunteer Week: April 18-24

Awards Presented at White House Luncheon

Eighteen individuals, organizations and corporations received the President's Volunteer Action Award for "outstanding volunteer achievement" on April 15 at a special White House luncheon hosted by First Lady Nancy Reagan and co-sponsored by ACTION and VOLUNTEER.

"This testimonial—the first of many—is a way the American people can pay tribute to you for your unselfish and humane work," the First Lady told the recipients as she presented each with a silver medal, donated by Tiffany & Co.

Timed to coincide with the approach of National Volunteer Week, the awards presentation acknowledged the selfless contributions of volun-

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Tom Pauken looks on as Mrs. Reagan presents award to Ronald Bayton of the East Hampton Striders Athletic Association.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



As the director of ACTION, I've had the opportunity to observe, firsthand, how older Americans view voluntarism.

What they bring to their work is a sense of awareness that can only be gained through years of experience. Within such awareness is the recognition that anyone who offers his or her time and talent in making life better or less painful for someone else, is bound to be enriched.

Millions of older Americans, including more than 300,000 who serve in ACTION's older American programs, have chosen to volunteer—to help people in their communities in need. During this month—proclaimed Older Americans Month by President Reagan—I take pleasure in joining ACTION staff and Americans everywhere in honoring those Americans for their contributions.

During this past year, the number of senior volunteers has increased. So too have the areas of endeavor. Those areas now include drug education and counseling; eradication of illiteracy; and aiding our newest immigrants to learn the language of and find their way in a new country.

Today, older Americans are a highly regarded segment of our population, 34 million strong and growing stronger. They comprise the most informed and experienced element in our society. Their achievements have sustained our promise; their maturity has provided balance. The days of their years are a strength from which all of us can draw.

Whether they serve as advisors in the community, teacher's aides, companions to the disadvantaged, foster grandparents to the lonely child, or in a multitude of other capacities, Older Americans do so in a true spirit of voluntarism. I know you take pride in your contributions to our Older American Volunteer Programs and celebrate with me this special month.

With warmest regards,

Tom Pauken

Ground Broken for Vietnam Veterans Memorial



At groundbreaking ceremony are, left to right, Jack Wheeler (with his son, John), VVLP national director and chairman of the board, VVMF; Jan Scruggs, president, VVMF; Bob Doubek, construction director, VVMF; and Senator John Warner, (R-Va.), member of VVMF national sponsoring committee.

One-hundred-and-twenty Americans each turned a shovel of earth near the Lincoln Memorial on March 26, breaking ground for the construction of a memorial to the veterans of the Vietnam War.

Described as "dignified and joyous," the ceremony was attended by some 2,000 people, including Vietnam veterans and dignitaries. Among those participating were ACTION Director Tom Pauken, Jack Wheeler and Bill Jayne, VVLP director and deputy director respectively—all Vietnam veterans—and Emogene Cupp, Gold Star Mother and former VVLP staff assistant.

Wheeler, a member of the Board of Directors of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Committee, introduced keynote speaker Jan Scruggs, who heads the committee. "The American people were divided by that war and the division was deep and bitter," Scruggs said, "but this memorial will "begin the healing process" and provide a "beautiful and fitting tribute" to the 2.7 million veterans who served in Vietnam and the 57,000 who died there.

Two long, black granite walls meeting at a 135° angle—one wall pointing to the Lincoln Memorial, the other to the Washington Monument—comprise the basic design of the memorial on which the names of the men and women who gave their lives in the Vietnam War will be inscribed.

The finished project will be dedicated next November 11, Veterans Day.

Older Americans Month *(from page 1)*

erroneous notion, "prevalent not so long ago... that anyone past age 60 was over the hill. Fortunately, ageism is an attitude that was driven over the hill by the weight of its own ignorance," Pauken said. "Today older Americans are a highly regarded segment of our population. They comprise the most informed and experienced element in our society. Their achievements have sustained our promise; their maturity has provided balance."

ACTION's OAVP Director Betty Brake spoke of the "love, wisdom and enthusiasm of the volunteers as the basic magic ingredient which makes these programs so unique... It's an inspiration to see the volunteers, project directors and sponsors seeking new ways to serve others, exploring the needs of the local community in the new ACTION initiatives—drug education and counseling, and aiding and teaching newly arrived immigrants to this country—and exhibiting a "can-do" approach to everything."

Editor's Note: At headquarters, the film, "Close Harmony" is being shown throughout the month at a series of brown bag luncheons. Watch for postings on dates, times and locations. Also, 30 and 60 second public service announcements in honor of Older Americans Month have been sent to some 6,000 radio stations nationwide. The announcements will be broadcast during the month.

National Volunteer Week: April 18-24

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teers—people who, in the words of ACTION Director Tom Pauken, who introduced Mrs. Reagan, "give and have given of themselves to help others."

President Reagan announced the program last December 12, after the first meeting of the President's Task Force on Private Sector Initiatives, a group formed to promote private sector leadership and responsibility for meeting public needs through public-private partnerships (See article in January 1982 issue). At that time, he voiced his belief that "This program of recognition is vital to call attention back to what is being done by American volunteers and to what can be done by volunteer action."

ACTION and VOLUNTEER: the National Center for Citizen Involvement, selected preliminary nominees from 2,300 names submitted to the White House from every state, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. The final judging was made by members of the National Voluntary Service Council, a group of private citizens appointed by President Reagan to serve as ACTION's Advisory Board. Winners were chosen in seven categories: jobs; health; material resources; education; recreation and the environment; public safety; and the arts and humanities.

Receiving the awards were:

Lee's Friends Oncology Patients, Norfolk, Va., founded in memory of Lee Harkins, who died at age 16 of cancer, to aid cancer patients and their families.

East Hampton Striders Association Hampton, Va., which provides recreational activities for children.

Lawrence Shulman of Silver Spring, Md., founder of three programs providing vocational education in various trades.

Higher Achievement Program, Washington, D.C., which organizes teachers and volunteers to tutor fourth-ninth grade high achievers from low-income families.

The Sunshine Foundation of Philadelphia, which helps provide a last wish for terminally ill children and gives emotional support to parents after their child's death.

Teleministries USA of Harrisburg, Pa., which offers a 24-hour crisis and referral service to persons in need.

International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 61 of Philadelphia, Pa. which recruited members to construct physical therapy equipment for an Easter Seal rehabilitation center.

Employment Aptitude and Placement Association of Ventura, Calif., which found jobs for 2,000 people.

REACT International of Northbrook, Ill., which provides assistance in natural disasters.

New Directions Club, Inc. of Houston, Tex., a halfway house for ex-prisoners.

Mrs. A. E. Eulert of Wichita, Kan., who pioneered and organized braille services in her community.

Elizabeth Titus of Shaftsbury, Vt., who founded the student conservation program in national parks.

Arts and Humanities Council in North Dakota, which provides access to the arts for the Devil's Lake, N.D. schools and community.

Jacqueline F. Merritt of Dubuque, Iowa, who organized the state's first festival for handicapped persons.

Bobby Trimble of Midland, Tex., who organized volunteers to repair homes of older, disabled or low-income residents.

Homer Fahrner of Sacramento, Calif., organizer of Gleaners State-wide which collects leftover produce from farms and distributes it to the needy.

Pacific Northwest Bell of Portland, Ore., whose teams of volunteers help communities in Oregon, Washington, and Lewiston, Idaho.

Tenneco Inc. of Houston, Tex., which provides volunteers for community service.

Barbara Bush Addresses National Volunteer Week Kick-off Breakfast



Barbara Bush greets staffers at kick-off breakfast.

“When I was preparing for this event this morning, I asked George what he thought I had to offer people like yourselves who are doing such fine work,” said Barbara Bush, wife of the Vice-President. “He said, ‘Tell them you’re a cheerleader.’ Well, I am here to tell you that I am *your* cheerleader.”

Mrs. Bush was speaking before some 300 ACTION staffers at a kick-off breakfast on Monday, April 19, marking the beginning of National Volunteer Week. It was held at ACTION headquarters to honor the millions of Americans who volunteer their services in their communities, and the wide variety of breakfast foods were prepared and contributed by agency employees.

“You people have the right idea,” Mrs. Bush said. “You are doing the kind of work that so urgently needs to be done.” She told of several visits she had made to volunteer programs around the country. “One older person said she had no reason for getting up in the morning—until she became a volunteer,” Mrs. Bush said. “She told me that she had gotten much more out of volunteering than she could ever hope to give back.”

Complimenting some of the agency staff she knew personally, Mrs. Bush said, “Nobody could be better qualified to lead your agency than Tom Pauken and Winnie Pizzano, and with such employees as Tom Lias (OVL head) and Richard English (deputy director in OPP), I know that you will continue to do the work that is so vital

to people in communities everywhere. Let me say, again, that wherever I go, I will always be out there as your cheerleader.”

Tom Pauken welcomed Mrs. Bush, calling her “a charming hostess. I have been their (Vice-President and Mrs. Bush’s) guest several times,” Pauken said, “and I am very pleased to have Barbara as my guest in return.”

ACTION Leads National Volunteer Week Events

As the national volunteer agency, ACTION took the lead this year in coordinating local and national events marking the celebration of National Volunteer Week, calling on ACTION and other federal employees and community leaders throughout the nation to join in honoring those Americans who volunteer in their communities.

“Partially, as a result of our work, over 30 government agencies—the departments of Health and Human Services, Defense and Labor, to name just a few—participated in the week’s events,” said Joe Bass, of the Office of Volunteer Liaison, who led the agency drive. “I think this was the largest show of support in any year to date.”

Local volunteers were recognized in hundreds of communities—from Cranston, R.I., at a volunteer luncheon—to Fontana, Calif., at a buffet/dance/awards presentation, sponsored by the “Old Timers’ Foundation.”

Federal agency activities included presentations of the ACTION slide show, which shows the agency’s volunteers at work, designing of National Volunteer Week posters, surveys to determine the extent of voluntarism among employees, volunteer fairs and special recognition ceremonies. “The Federal Maritime Commission, for example, held a special ceremony to honor their staffers who had taken CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) training or who had given blood,” Bass said.

National Volunteer Week Fair Features Entertainers, Highlights Volunteer Opportunities

Celebrations marking National Volunteer Week started off with a bang—a three-hour-long fair, sponsored by ACTION, took place on April 14, in Washington, D.C.'s Farragut Square.

Held during the lunchtime hours under sunny, spring skies, the fair attracted hundreds of people from nearby offices, tourists and whoever happened to be passing by. Balloons, banners, buttons and continuous live entertainment were the drawing cards, and the crowd really got into the spirit of things!

People sang along with professional singers, applauded jazz dancer Caitlin Kelley, one-man band Bob Devlin and Ronald McDonald of McDonald House, and enthusiastically received saxophonist "Easy" Smith and the Young Strings in Action—a group of violinists ages five through nine. Actor Terrence Currier of Washington, D.C.'s Arena Stage was a featured performer, who along with all the other entertainers, contributed his services to honor the work of volunteers. More than thirty groups and organizations had booths featuring literature and material on their work, among them the Veteran's Administration Medical Center, the American Heart Association, the local YWCA, the Peace Corps and the March of Dimes. Additionally, seven volunteer clearing-houses from the metropolitan area had displays and tables where people could sign up for volunteer work. "The purpose of the fair was to acquaint people with the hundreds of volunteer opportunities in their communities, and to entertain them at the same time," said ACTION staffer Joan Kelley, who acted as mistress of ceremonies for the event.

Thanks go to Joan and to many other ACTION employees, including George Wakiji, and Tom Brown, for the outstanding job they did in putting the fair together, and especially to Deputy Director Winnie Pizzano for her help and enthusiastic support. A special appreciation for the fine community spirit of the Washington, D.C. Department of Recreation which donated a 32-foot portable stage and all the sound equipment. A job well done!!

ACTION Staffers Fix Hospital Grounds



Staffers paint wall at HSC.

"It was a first-class demonstration of the true spirit of voluntarism," said ACTION Director Tom Pauken describing the work of agency staffers who helped mend the grounds of Washington's Hospital for Sick Children on Saturday, April 17. "I want to express personal thanks to everyone who was there."

As part of the events of National Volunteer Week, Pauken joined the 60 ACTION staffers who took time out from weekend rest and relaxation by working at HSC—which serves victims of birth defects, mental retardation, abuse and debilitating accidents, and has long been in need of repair because of insufficient funds and staff.

Between 9 A.M. and 4 P.M. staffers worked at—painting walls, painting and scraping driveways, curbs, skid-proofing an access bridge for wheelchair-bound children, hauling out many bags of debris and raking the entire grounds.

By the end of the day, the grounds' appearance was "dramatically different from what it had been some eight hours earlier," according to Jack McCririe of Staff Training and Development who coordinated the project, thanks "also to the work of some hospital staff who came in on their day off. We accomplished everything we had set out to do and more."

In a letter to Tom Pauken, Hospital Administrator Jim Bellor thanked the ACTION employees for performing in a magnificent manner. "We are extremely appreciative of your interest and of the efforts of the volunteers who worked so industriously this past Saturday," Bellor said.

Older American Volunteers Serving in Head Start Program

An interagency agreement between ACTION and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to utilize the skills of Foster Grandparents and RSVP volunteers in Head Start programs in selected communities is now operating in nine states. (See story in December 1981 issue)

The \$275,000 HHS funding supports participation of RSVP volunteers in Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Maryland and South Dakota, and FGP volunteers in California, Georgia and Wisconsin.

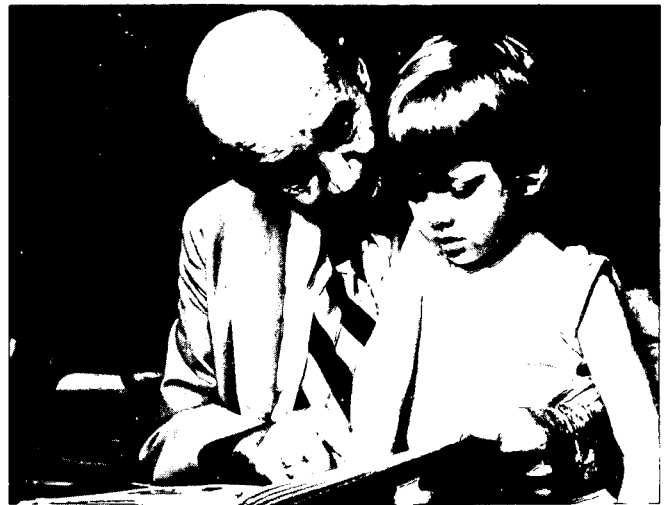
By the end of its first year of operation, some 645 senior volunteers will have served in Head Start components. The RSVP and FGP programs will develop different models for older American volunteers in Head Start that can be adapted by Head Start centers nationwide.

"Among other activities, the volunteers promote more socially acceptable behavior with children from disadvantaged homes," says project director Rey Tejada of OAVP. They also work with teachers in planning special learning needs of children; increase cognitive skills by reading stories, participating with independent activities and accompanying children on field trips; improve feeding skills and table manners through instructional techniques and modeling; and enhance fine motor skills by participating in drawing and copying activities with the child.

So far, the program seems to be meeting expectations. In Soquel, Calif., for example, 17 Foster Grandparents were recruited in November and received orientation and training. Each now serves at least two Head Start children.

According to Lily Bourriague, FGP project director of the Elvirita Lewis Foundation and the Tri-County FGP, "It's working beautifully. The Foster Grandparents are so happy—they absolutely love this."

The program meets some very specific community needs. The area served covers three counties—Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito," Bourriague continues. "Each county has been declared an area of persistent unemployment. We have a large population of Hispanic, Asian, black and refugee families that make up most of the target areas served by Head Start.



OAVP volunteers and pre-schoolers are involved in a variety of activities under interagency agreement.

"Santa Cruz County has one of the highest rates of persons over 60 per capita in the United States. There are almost no work opportunities for the older persons of our tri-county area."

Bourriague notes that many of the Head Start children do not speak English. "Ninety percent are Spanish-speaking in the Santa Cruz site. Being with the Foster Grandparents really helps the children's mastery of English."

There are eight Spanish-speaking, three Asian, three Anglo and three black Foster Grandparents assigned to the tri-county sites. "It just happened that the backgrounds of the grandparents corresponded with the children's backgrounds. It's really very beautiful to see the interchange," Bourriague says. "One teacher told me, 'I've had to change my schedule so that the children are free to surround the Foster Grandparent when she enters the room. They rush up to her shouting, 'Gramma! Gramma!' The grandparents feel they are doing something important—and they are.'"

In Rapid City, S.D., RSVP Project Director Halley Lamb calls the RSVP/Head Start arrangement positive, too. Lamb has placed 65 RSVP volunteers in a local Head Start at the Child Development Center. Twenty-four of the volunteers are Native Americans.

"Sixty percent of the children are Native Americans," Lamb explains. "Many are bilingual, Lakota being the Sioux language spoken here. I think initially there was reluctance on the part of the volunteers. They were afraid they would be in the minority. But the ones who told me, 'We don't feel well, we're too busy,' are now some of our most enthusiastic volunteers. Once they tried it, most came back and now serve as many as three days a week."

Atlanta Conference Stresses Drug Effects on Youth

"They were such good kids. I just wanted to hold each of them and tell them we love them and want them to make it," said First Lady Nancy Reagan speaking before participants at the eighth annual National Parent Conference on Youth and Drugs, held April 1-3 in Atlanta, Ga.

Mrs. Reagan's remarks referred to the time she had spent with 20 admitted teenage drug users from the Atlanta area the previous evening. She said she had heard the teenagers tell how they had destroyed themselves with drugs. "I told each of them, 'I'm very proud of you, and I know you will stick with it (the anti-drug program in which they were involved)' " she said.

ACTION Director Tom Pauken told participants that during his years in high school in the early 60s, peer pressure ran against using drugs. "Those who were involved with drugs were considered by most of the young people at the time as being stupid and foolish. During the late 60s and early 70s, however, that situation reversed itself." Pauken became aware of this when, as a young lawyer, he defended some young people charged with illegal drug use. Pauken told one young person who received a suspended sentence that everything would work out as long as he stayed out of trouble with drugs.

The young man seemed upset, Pauken noted, "when I thought he would be relieved. I asked him what was bothering him and he responded, 'if I don't do drugs, I won't have any friends.' That kind of youthful peer pressure to use drugs has to be reversed."

The three-day conference was hosted by the National Parents' Resource Institute for Drug Education, Inc. (PRIDE), and co-sponsored by ACTION, the American Council on Marijuana, the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the Atlanta Junior League. Called the largest of its kind, the conference was held at the Urban Life Center of Atlanta's Georgia State University and attended by some 600 adults and 350 young people who came from every state in the nation and from Canada.

The harmful effects of drugs on adolescents, and the need to deal with and resist the peer pressure to "do drugs" were key themes of the con-

ference. Both were repeatedly addressed in informal youth "rap sessions," led by TV actress Melissa Gilbert, spokesperson for ACTION's Drug Prevention Program. At one session, Angie Hammock, who heads the ACTION drug-prevention effort, said that young Americans have the
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Deputy Director Urges Corporate Involvement in Volunteer Programs

President Reagan has challenged the private sector to help right the economy. ACTION Deputy Director Winifred Pizzano recently addressed a group of corporate executives at a conference sponsored by The Conference Board in New York City, on how they can do just that through participation in volunteer programs.

Pizzano told the 200 business executives that volunteers and voluntary action by corporations cannot replace all the health and social service programs cut by the Reagan budget, nor were they expected to. However, she did offer suggestions on how business can do its part.

"What volunteers have done and can do is supplement the professionals. And, at least one of the things corporations can do is support volunteers," explained Pizzano.

For example, she said that \$1,000 invested in a local Retired Senior Volunteer Program would add 10 volunteers to the project, which translates into 2,000 hours of community work including health-related services, tutoring in schools, assisting people living on fixed incomes, and visiting persons with long-term care needs who are trying to remain in their homes.

Not only is it critical to fund ongoing volunteer programs, said Pizzano, but it is extremely valuable to look at people within corporations as a significant, largely untapped resource. This is particularly true of recently, or about-to-be-retired employees who can be encouraged to get involved in community service work.

"Thousands of times, gold mines of experience have been tapped by involving retirees in company-sponsored volunteer programs or by simply matching skilled retirees to service agency needs," said the deputy director.

OAVP Director Discusses White House Conference on Aging Recommendations

Editor's Note: As most of you know, OAVP Director Betty Brake served as executive director, from October-December 1981 for the 1981 White House Conference on Aging. In a recent interview with ACTION's public affairs staff, she shared her views on the conference and discussed how its recommendations would be utilized.

Q: The major task of the White House Conference on Aging was to prepare recommendations which may influence laws affecting the elderly during this decade and beyond. Now that the WHCoA is over, what happens to the conferees' recommendations?

A: All the recommendations made by the 14 committees have been mailed to the delegates and observers. Their responses are being tabulated and incorporated into a final report of the conference proceedings.

Many of the recommendations from the 14 committees conflict on issues. The survey process is designed to clarify the majority point of view.

When the report is completed, the secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) submits it to Congress and to the President.

Q: What would you like to have seen happen differently at the conference?

A: We here on the OAVP staff are so aware of the value of voluntarism—seeing as we do on a daily basis how crucial it is to communities throughout the nation and indeed to the volunteers as well. I don't think the conference gave as much attention to the potential importance of volunteer service as it might have. Senior volunteers are often the answer to many problems. Our own programs prove this with well-documented consistency.

The majority of this country's seniors—74 percent—are self-sufficient and 69 percent are in good health. During the conference, we heard a great deal about giving aid to the poor and the handicapped but we did not hear nearly as much

about what is being done by those who are, as we so often say here, "a national resource."

Somehow, the available resources must be targeted directly to help those in real need.

I'd like to quote a February 9, 1982, editorial in *The Wall Street Journal*: "There's been much less attention to the ways people can organize to help themselves (than has been given to asking for handouts) . . . Where business can contribute most is in thinking about social problems in practical, entrepreneurial, get-the-job-done ways," in contrast to reaching into their pockets. Business, as well as the government, has only so much money to give—no matter how worthy the cause."

The government can publicize successful voluntary efforts and provide money to lift programs that make sense off the ground in specific instances, but the motivation for effective self-help groups comes only from individuals and communities themselves. I think that point of view was lost at the conference.

And finally, I'd like to make the point that two very vital concerns received too little attention, although they are of enormous interest to the elderly—inflation and crime as it affects the elderly. The secretary of HHS must take into consideration the impact of both these concerns.

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most prevalent drug culture in the world. "Being in most high schools for two days will convince you of that," Hammock said.

The First Lady said the nation is "passing through an era of dark shadows, but there is a light in the window that spells out hope and progress." She pledged the unreserved support of her husband's administration for organizations such as PRIDE, but warned the conference that the nation's drug abuse issues could not be addressed without the wholesale education and participation of parents and other concerned adults.

"Your wholehearted involvement is vital to our efforts," the First Lady said.

ACTION UPDATE

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