

Wednesday, August 16, 1967

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

Chicago institute teaches pride in Negroes' heritage

By Lucia Mouat

Staff correspondent of
The Christian Science Monitor

Chicago

Count them—624. There are that many kinds of problems in a 16-block ghetto neighborhood on Chicago's West Side. They range all the way from underemployment to functional illiteracy.

And the organization which did the counting—the Ecumenical Institute—is out to see that every one of these interrelated problems is conquered.

In its view, the resulting changes in attitude and in economic and political structure in this Garfield Park community of more than 4,500 Negroes must serve as a model for inner city areas all over the world.

"We consider ourselves a lab for sociological research," says Joseph L. Pierce, a former Texas radio announcer who serves on the institute's development staff. "Chicago should be ideal—it has all the problems, all the agencies, all the bureaucracy. And it has the largest concentration of theological seminaries in the world. We make no claims to sweeping success yet, but if Chicago can't bring this off, black people may end up resorting to the alternatives of Detroit and Watts to get necessary change."

Courses given

The Ecumenical Institute is a research and training center which grew out of a 1954 resolution of the World Council of Churches. For years it confined its activities to courses in practical theology given in suburban Evanston. But it was convinced that the inner city holds the most pressing problems of the '60's, the faculty packed up and moved the entire operation to the former grounds and buildings of the Bethany Seminary in Garfield Park.

At present more than 100 white middle-class families live in the institute's dormitory-headquarters. Most of the adults have at least one college degree. While their professions range from airline stewardesses to petroleum engineers, more than 30 teach in nearby public schools. Their religious affiliations vary from Presbyterian to Roman Catholic.

Each member of the highly structured institute "order" devotes a rigorous 11-hour day to the organization's dual mission of "reformulating" the inner city and teaching theology.

Assignments taken

For all, the day begins with a 6:15 worship service. Even those in the "order" who put in eight hours in a regular downtown job (more than half of the adults) must be ready at the end of the day to accept an evening speaking or work assignment.

For more economical living and eating, current income is pooled. However, institute programs depend on a separate budget, supplied mainly by donations.

The institute's theological education program consists of 16 courses which faculty members give on weekends in various cities around the United States and overseas. This past year 16,000 people took the courses. During July alone 600 clergy, teachers, and college students spent a month at headquarters taking courses and watching institute tactics in handling inner city problems.

For its first two years in Garfield Park, the institute did nothing but quietly gather statistics. It keeps up-to-date figures on neighborhood population, business, and housing statistics.

Facts gathered

"We refuse to move on any task until we have the facts," explains Phillip Townley, a Methodist clergyman who sold his suburban Detroit ranch-style house to bring his wife and three children to the institute this year. "Many groups try an idea, whether it fits or not."

The "action" half of the institute's mission is called its "5th City Project." The term refers to the immediate neighborhood and the sociological classification for those committed to renewing the inner city. Institute members hope to work themselves out of a job by helping residents develop a sense of identity and pride in themselves and in their community and by building organizational structures to provide needed community services.

Among concrete neighborhood gains since the institute's arrival are a health and dental clinic, a legal-aid center, a playlot, tutoring service, and renovation of a tavern into a meeting place called "The Node."

March staged

Last May when an institute survey of 16 grocery stores showed inner city prices an average of 8 percent higher than suburban, some 120 area residents staged a "march of affirmation" on a local market. To show their corporate buying power, they bought only those items on which prices were fair. The employer got the message.

Also members of the 5th City Voters League sent a total of 400 letters to the Illinois Congress this year, urging that consumer credit legislation be passed. Fifty-one people cared enough to put in a personal appearance in Springfield.

The institute runs an extensive preschool program for tots of a few months to five or six years in the community. Mr. Pierce describes it as "basically motivational," aimed at helping each youngster see himself as significant and important.

The institute's philosophy is to affirm rather than minimize the differences in races and cultures.

Differences praised

"One of the things we've had to come down hard on in the neighborhood is that there's nothing wrong with being a Negro," says Mr. Townley. "Too many are trying to be white men and can't. It's frustrating. . . . But now we're beginning to see racially what we've finally discovered in marriages—that it's the differences that make it marvelous, not the interests and gifts in common."

Through its educational program the institute tries to make a "world citizen" of each youngster. The more he knows and sees of other cultures, the better. Even tots in the infant program listen to language and folk song records and see the art and customs of various world cultures. In Berlitz "total immersion" style, it may be India one week and Latin America the next.

To bolster the Negro's pride in his own culture, Garfield Park residents from a retirement home teach preschool courses in Negro heritage.

The more than 200 members of the insti-

tute's family order shun any "do good" labels. They feel the answer to inner city problems is a change in self-image, rather than simply more food, more jobs, and more low-rent housing. For this reason, they frown on "giveaways." One of the classic institute stories concerns a truckload of turkeys which arrived in the neighborhood a few Christmases ago, the gift of a wealthy benefactor. Members of the institute order sent it right back where it came from.

Similarly, institute faculty try to give leadership rather than menial tasks to neighborhood Negroes.

"It's not pious; it's scientific," says Mr. Pierce. "A person can't pick up the image of himself as significant or important while he is doing dirty work."

Mr. Townley's 18-year-old son, Steve, who was the only white boy in the Marshall High School student body this year, chose to give up his quarterback position in football and become a halfback instead. His reasoning: "It would never help if I were giving all the orders."

Black berets worn

Response of 5th City residents so far is hard to measure.

The area escaped Negro riots last summer. The institute's after-school work with gang members may have had some bearing.

Probably more significant is the fact that several hundred Negro residents here have opted to wear black berets, the institute's "Iron Man" symbol for those who commit themselves to community leadership in the renewal effort. Area or "stake" meetings (similar to block clubs) are frequent, and residents do turn out.

"Looking back it's just not the same community as when we came here 2½ years ago," says James Addington, a former Arizona caseworker now on the institute staff. "When we first arrived, people were suspicious—'What are these white people doing here?' It's been a long, slow battle, but now we're looked on as part of the community."

Family tested

"The demand on a family here is fantastic because everything is so highly structured," adds William Gregory who with his wife and four children has spent the past year at the institute and this fall returns to his job as an English teacher at suburban New Trier High School. "But our kids have survived beautifully. And through this experience a family really finds out what it is to be a full-fledged, rip-snorting, raring-to-go family with a sense of mission."

Mrs. Townley admits she "shudders" at some of the language her children have picked up but argues that their first-hand knowledge now of another culture is "invaluable."

This fall the institute, a division of the Church Federation of Greater Chicago, will expand its working territory by another 16 blocks and 20,000 people. Its hope is that eventually 24 other regions in the United States will have similar research and training centers. Boston has one already. It is not structurally related to Chicago's but grew out of courses which institute faculty gave in the New England area.

"Each individual at the institute keeps the parentage and history of his own religion," stresses Mr. Townley. "The ecumenicity comes in doing the task together. The church first, last, and always is the mission. When we cease doing what the world demands of us, we cease being what the church demands us to be."

Church group gets Kemper N. S. building

The Kemper Insurance Group Wednesday turned over its eight-story, \$1 million Mutual Insurance Building, 4750 N. Sheridan, to the Ecumenical Institute, a division of the Church Federation of Greater Chicago.

The 15-year-old Ecumenical Institute, with a worldwide staff of 843, runs an education and social action program in 36 U.S. and 22 foreign cities. The program is designed to motivate citizens to improve their social conditions.

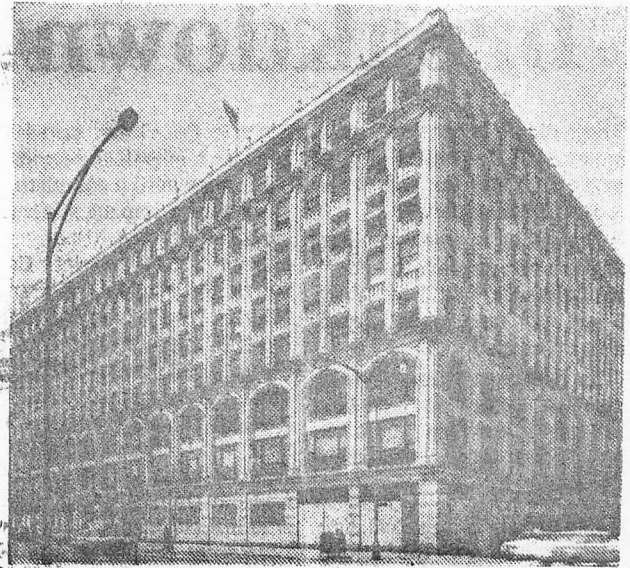
The Ecumenical Institute will keep its headquarters at 3444 W. Congress and use the North Side building as its International Urban Research and Training Center. About half of its Chicago staff of 200 will move to the new building.

The Kemper Insurance Group vacated the Mutual Insurance Building last month when it moved to its newly built headquarters in Long Grove in Lake County. It will keep its Kemper Insurance Building, 20 N. Wacker, as a downtown office center.

In turning over the deed, James S. Kemper Jr., president of the insurance firm, said, "The Ecumenical Institute has become a vital social force in countering urban crisis not only in Chicago but throughout the country. We believe this building will provide an excellent center for institute operations."

A Chicago spin-off of the Ecumenical Institute has been the eight-year-old Fifth City community organization centered in the West Side Fifth Av. area.

With the boast that it operates with a minimum of outside help, it has sponsored a \$2-million, 102-unit housing rehabilitation program and a \$1-million shopping center.



Mutual Insurance Building at 4750 N. Sheridan donated to the Ecumenical Institute.

Church unit gets Kemper building

The Kemper Insurance Group Wednesday donated its Mutual Insurance Building, 4750 N. Sheridan, to the Ecumenical Institute, a division of the Church Federation of Greater Chicago.

The building, with an assessed valuation of more than \$1 million, was vacated by the insurance company on Thanksgiving Day. Company offices housed in the building were relocated in a new structure in suburban Long Grove.

The Ecumenical Institute will use the building as headquarters for its Urban Research and Training Center.

FORMAL presentation of the deed to the building is scheduled there at 5 p.m. Wednesday.

James S. Kemper Jr., president of the Kemper Insurance Group, will give the deed to Dean Joseph W. Matthews of the Ecumenical Institute.

The former insurance building is ideally suited "geographically, symbolically and practically" for urban research and training programs, said Philip H. Townley, director of programs and overseas research for the institute.

SUN TIMES FINAL DEC. 16

New Ecumenical Institute HQ

THE KEMPER INSURANCE Group turned over its eight-story, \$1-million Mutual Insurance Building, 4750 N. Sheridan, to the Ecumenical Institute, a division of the Church Federation of Greater Chicago.

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September 5, 1971



The Iron Man (a miniature is in foreground) is an important symbol for the staffers at Fifth City Community Corporation. His spirit is broadcast to the people of South Lawndale with songs and slogans.

4 agencies that 'do' without the dole

With no help, they give help

By Glenda Sampson

IN LAWNSDALE a 39-year-old woman gets the first medical examination of her life—free.

In West Garfield a father of six children lands a good job after being unemployed for 18 months.

In Englewood a 5-year-old gets excited about learning in one of the few Montessori schools not in middle-class suburbia.

And in Palatine a 25-year-old with an IQ of 62 proudly takes home to his family the first real paycheck he's ever earned.

While television and public transit advertisements shout the praises of major charity organizations, while federal self-help projects pass quickly from the drawing board to the street to the files of a past administration, hundreds of small community agencies and organizations work consistently, unaided or unhindered by most of their fellow citizens, to alter the quality of life for all of us who live in the city.

Here are the stories of four such agencies:

Fifth City Community Corporation, 3425 W. Fifth Av: In a ramshackle building with boarded up windows sits the nerve center of a 16-block area encompassing some 4,200 people. They live in the middle of one of the city's most desperate ghettos—South Lawndale.

It was almost a decade ago—1962—when the people of Fifth City started getting themselves together. Neighborhood parents met to find a pre-school for their children and gradually expanded their discussion of neighborhood concerns until they had a list of 3,200 specific problems.

They divided these problems into three areas of "underlying causes" and set out to find funding for what was to become, with help of the Ecumenical Institute, the Fifth City Community Corporation.

The three causes they listed were: [1] the victim image of the black man, imposed on him by the white-dominated society; [2] the absence of local structures which are needed to make any community vigorous, and [3] the lack of means a poor ghetto dweller has to participate in the decision-making process that determines his destiny.

Today the corporation coordinates nearly 100 individual projects within its overall structure: a health center, a legal aid clinic, education and recreation programs for every age group from infancy to retirement, a credit union, art and theater groups, a family services bureau . . . the list goes on and on.

With no help, they give help

An example of a particular project was the securing of federal loans for rehabilitation of both residential and commercial structures in the community.

"An attempt was made to include moderate as well as low-income housing," says Mrs. Lela Mosley, the motherly looking, energetic woman who directs Fifth City operations. "When families start doing better financially we don't want that to be a cue for them to leave Lawndale."

Residents decided to tackle community problems as a whole rather than concentrate in one area because "ghetto problems reinforce one another," Mrs. Mosley says. "In order to move one problem toward significant solution it is necessary to move them all."

She considers the problem of self-image the most crucial, however. "We work on this in every age group. One little example is what we teach the pre-schoolers about saying grace at meals. Instead of teaching a child the old ritual—'Thank you, Father, for this food for the nourishment of our bodies, Amen'—we ask him to say both to God and to his mother who prepared the meal—'Hey, this food is really good, right? Life is good, right? Thank you.' And his optimism and faith spread to the whole family."

Fifth City also believes in the importance of symbols. There are Fifth City colors, Fifth City songs, and most important, there is the Iron Man. His sculptured image stands in the courtyard at Fifth City headquarters, and his spirit is broadcast with songs and slogans. "What is the Iron Man?" Mrs. Mosley is asked, and she frowns thoughtfully. "Why, I guess he is just Man Who Endures—and who keeps grinding away at his problems."



left, Mrs. Lela Mosley of Fifth City explains that her organization tackles community problems as a whole rather than separately because "ghetto problems reinforce one another."



The 5th City project has acquired 12 such building shells and rehabilitated them using private and federal money. It has spent up to \$14,000 redoing three-bedroom apartments.

5th City assumes responsibility for rebirth of area

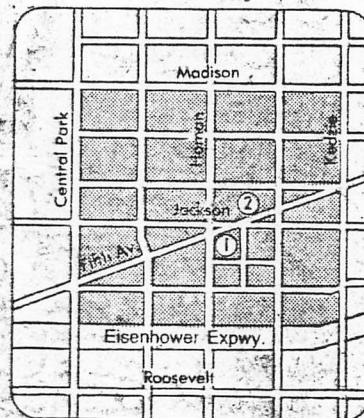
By Alan Merridew

IRON MAN, a 10-foot-high sculpture, stretches skyward from a small lot near Fifth Avenue and West Jackson Boulevard.

Like the three-story mural west of him, Iron Man was executed by local tradesmen and amateur artists.

He is the symbol of 5th City, which seems a state of mind as well as a geographic area and a plan.

Geographically, 5th City is that part of the West Side that was torn apart by the 1968 riots. It is the southwestern corner of East Garfield Park—bounded by West Madison Street, Kedzie Boulevard, the Eisenhower Expressway, and Central Park Boule-



5th City construction in the riot area: 1. Shopping center; 2. Health clinic.

IT IS AN effort to show that a grassroots approach is the best way to reverse an inner city area's deterioration and create a "new," humanistic city.

"Grassroots people know they have 10 strikes against them before they start," said Mrs. Lela Mosley, 5th City's program coordinator. "It could take 49 years to rebuild the inner city. We have the model and a long time line."

Her office looks down on Jackson and Homan Avenue, where a \$400,000 shopping center is being fitted out for its opening, scheduled for later this month.

The center contains a grocery store, a currency exchange, a drugstore [the only one in 5th City], a barber shop, a laundrette, and a dry cleaning store—all owned and operated by local black businessmen. Fifth City also operates a health clinic nearby.

Not so long ago the shopping center site was nothing but burned-out buildings and empty lots strewn with litter.

"BY AND LARGE, we haven't used professionals," said Mrs. Mosley, whose formal education ended at high school. "We're trying to show that local people can solve their own problems."

"Professionals would have come in here with fixed professional ideas, ideas that really might not apply here," she said.

FIFTH CITY does not derive its name from Fifth Avenue, which cuts almost directly across the area. Rather its name is derived from the residents' decision to build a new kind of city different from the existing four sociogeographic "cities": downtown, inner city, neighborhoods, and suburbs.

What they are building, they say, is not based on geography, but on the "sheer decision of its citizens" to build 5th City built to bring hope and renewal to cities everywhere. They have even named 53 other cities on the globe which they believe they will help.

A 5th City brochure says it is designed "to weave a new social fabric . . . to reverse the trends by reshaping the structures of society," a claim which draws sneickers from some professional urbanologists.

Its origins lie in the Ecumenical Institute's desire to help create a model urban area, thru "integration in reverse" in a core of the city.

THE INSTITUTE, founded in the wake of the 1954 World Council of Churches assembly in Evanston, moved into an old semi-

way in 1962 in an effort to ease the plight of blacks.

It encouraged nursery classes, tenants unions, and block clubs. Within a year or so, about 200 community residents were taking part in its weekly basement sessions, discussing local problems.

The community members eventually listed about 3,200 problems, which they systematically studied until they had crystalized complex organizational and social models.

In early 1964 the residents adopted a covenant, the Iron Man—"any man who has decided to drive his very life, like a stake, into the ground of the city and take responsibility for its rebirth"—and songs and rituals.

In 1965, a preschool opened in what was once an abandoned metal working shop. Today about 240 children attend classes there daily.

The 1968 riots cudgeled but did not kill the 5th City project. The Ecumenical Institute was fire-bombed and its white members sought refuge in a hospital during the riots. Some were told not to come back into the community again. Since then the number of whites at the West Side branch of the institute has more than halved and white members of the institute have a much lower profile in 5th City.

RICKEY REED, a 28-year-old black development worker with 5th City, says, "Today a white man in any inner city black situation is present only as a guest. There is no other way."

Since 1968, 5th City has developed its rehabilitation projects, acquiring 12 abandoned buildings and restoring them. Its development corporation, using federal and private funds, spends an average \$14,000 on a three-bedroom apartment. So far about 160 family units have been restored.

Development director Bruce Donnelly notes that "anyone can rehabilitate the shell of a building, of course. The critical thing is care and upkeep after the people move back in."

LAST MONTH, the embryo Youth Development Guild organized its first annual benefit extravaganza "in an effort to curb one of our most serious social confrontations—fratricide, the killing of one's brother or sister."

Mrs. Mosley seems especially troubled by 5th City's inability so far to make much contact with area youth. "We can't promise them things that are out of our reach," she said. "We want to work out how to begin shifting images for youth."

CLEARINGHOUSE ON CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

RESPONSE

1850 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006

July 1981, Vol. X, No. 4

WHAT THE COMPANIES ARE DOING

Insurance Companies Join Institute of Cultural Affairs to Bring Medical Assistance to Inner-City Neighborhoods

A combination of funds from Aetna Life & Casualty and other resources from the Chicago-based Institute of Cultural Affairs have brought health care and education programs to an inner-city community in Washington.

A "health advocate" program has been established in Ivy City—a small, minority community in the District of Columbia—bringing basic medical care and health information to its 3,000 residents. The program, started last year, began by training certain residents in basic medical skills. These "health advocates" then went door-to-door, assessing the health needs of families and providing them with information on nearby health centers.

What made it possible was a \$10,000 grant from Aetna and the organization work of the Institute of Cultural Affairs

a non-profit organization operating in 29 countries and engaging in research, training and demonstrations concerned with human and social programs, said James Troxel, ICA spokesman.

"The program has now grown substantially in Ivy City," Mr. Troxel said. "We have child inoculations and an annual health fair." Included in the health fair are simple screening tests, baby weighing, vaccinations, and free health care information.

But that's not all the program has done for Ivy City residents, Troxel said. What began as a "health advocate" program has now turned into a system in which volunteer health care professionals—including doctors—are on call 24 hours a day. These professionals keep in touch with residents through the area's pre-school services and an "Elder's Program" for the aged.

The "grandmother" of projects for the ICA has been its "Fifth City" development project in a 16-block inner-city Chicago neighborhood. During the past decade and a half, the project has initiated an industrial and commercial center with 16 new businesses that employ hundreds of residents and have a potential for 500 more jobs.

More than 30 "Fifth City" residents have been trained in neighborhood health care, and a community health clinic has been refurbished.

Allstate Insurance Company, CNA Financial Corporation and Combined Insurance Company of America are among the supporters of "Fifth City."

The Aetna also provided \$10,000 for a series of community meetings and workshops in rural Mississippi towns. The purpose of these meetings, said Mr. Troxel, is to generate community interest in improvement projects—like the 'Fifth City' in Chicago and the Ivy City program in Washington, D.C.

Other recent contributors to the ICA include Indianapolis Life Insurance Company and Lincoln National Life Insurance Company.

The Fifth City Preschool has been able to offer quality care to children of low-income parents thanks largely to Federal Title XX subsidies. These subsidies are now threatened.

I *t is a testament to the coping abilities of working mothers that the crisis of child care rarely surfaces.*



From Chicago Magazine, October, 1981, article
"The Arrangement" by Mary O'Connell

"The Fifth City Preschool, a community-run center in the Garfield Park area, regularly draws 30 or 40 parents to its monthly meetings, and parents commit a certain number of workdays each year to keeping the center in shape. The results are dramatic: The people of Fifth City have transformed an abandoned sheet-metal factory in a poor black neighborhood into a pleasant, airy space for 100 children. The factory's skylight, cleaned and restored, brightens cheerful classrooms decorated with reminders of black struggles and achievements."

The Allstate Foundation

Urban Affairs — Fifth City Creates The Future NOW!

The Allstate Foundation continues to support those organizations committed to urban development. One such group is Chicago's Fifth City, a 40 block area west of the Loop. Almost two decades ago, this location became a pilot program for socioeconomic development. Senator Charles Percy referred to "burned out buildings, unemployment, skyrocketing crime, transiency, and utter despair. Now," he says, "we have replaced those words with growing employment, more investment, people coming in, buildings being fixed up, and an area of the city with a future . . ."

This year's Foundation grant is earmarked for the Fifth City Business Careers Computer Center Expansion and Scholarship Fund which will provide additional and necessary job training for the employment of minorities, low income, and disadvantaged people of the City of Chicago.

A letter written by a recent graduate of this program best expresses our pride in being a part of this organization's success story . . .

Dear Sponsors:

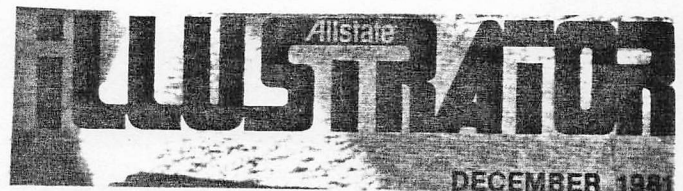
I am writing this letter to thank you for your support of this program. I have learned more in thirteen weeks than I have in one school term. Before attending Fifth City Business Careers I was just another street person trying to survive. I had no skills at all, now I have many (typing, accounting, office-procedures, business math, business English). I didn't even have a high school education, but now I have my GED and a chance to do anything that I want to do and be anybody I want to be. I recommend this program to others because it gives them a better chance in life.

*Sincerely,
Lamont Pridgeon*

Editor's Note: We are happy to share Lamont's good news with you . . . effective Nov. 16, he accepted a position with a Chicago bank!!!



President of Fifth City Business Association Verdell Trice and Director of Fifth City Business Careers Shirley Mueller accept a Foundation check from Senior Personnel Assistant Bill Wilborn.



FIFTH CITY CITIZENS REDEVELOPMENT CORP.

(Fifth City) Founded: 1967

**Boundaries: N-5th Avenue, S-Congress Expressway,
E-Kedzie, W-Central Park**

Henry Fox-President, William Glover-Vice President,
Carrie Neff-Treasurer, Mark Welch-Secretary, Lillie Fox-Manager

Community Profile

Fifth City is a forty-square block area in East Garfield Park on Chicago's Westside. Situated some four miles from downtown, the area sits in the midst of an old, decaying ghetto that is 99% Black.

Approximately 23% of its adult population is functionally illiterate. While nearly 50% of its housing stock is owner-occupied, 85% of its population is on some form of tax-funded monetary assistance.

History

Fifth City Citizens Redevelopment Corporation grew out of a comprehensive community development project sponsored by the Institute for Cultural Affairs, a worldwide technical assistance agency which provides staffing and resources to impoverished communities to develop local leadership. While Fifth City's early efforts in the area emphasized social development, the riots of 1968 which devastated the community caused the organization to take a new look at other development activities.

The rehabilitation of existing housing became a priority concern of Fifth City's community board of directors. This led to the development of two rehab development packages involving a dozen buildings totalling over 130 units. Pack I was completed in 1972, Pack II was finally finished in 1976.

Current Programs

Once the rehab work had been completed, Fifth City's role as a local sponsor did not end. In its attempts to find capable managers for the project, the corporation utilized three different management companies with little success. This led to the establishment of an in-house management staff resulting, among other things, in rent collection rate increase from 65% to 96%.

More recently, Fifth City has increased, at HUD's urging, its technical capacity in its management program by bringing on staff a full-time licensed real estate broker.

Fifth City also maintains an extensive block club organizing program which assists homeowners in neighborhood clean-ups, community gardens, weatherization workshops, and loan/grant applications. More recently, it facilitated its local Men's Club in obtaining a multifamily rehab grant from the city to rehab a six-flat building. It also attempted to start up a rehab employment training program, but could never get the CETA allocations necessary to make the program fly.

One unique project Fifth City operates is a revolving working capital fund. Utilizing grants received from private and public sources, this fund has been used to provide small, no-interest loans for block club projects or buildings under rehab. Capitalized in early 1979 at just over \$8,000, the re-

volving fund has made loans to date totalling over \$19,500. Fifth City is currently exploring ways to increase the fund's assets to capitalize other Fifth City projects.

Future Indications

Fifth City has made several attempts in recent years to fund an in-fill housing new construction program. Its latest effort, in concert with other neighborhood groups in Chicago, is to apply through the city for a UDAG grant to help write down the construction costs of such a project.

In addition, plans are being made to develop a third Pack of buildings for substantial rehab, now that the corporation has proven itself to the federal government. A number of other smaller projects are also on the drawing boards.

Benchmarks

- Substantial Rehab of 140 units in 12 buildings.
- Ongoing Management of 140 units.



Unsung Heroes

Six Chicagoans who have worked tirelessly and quietly to help others

by Alfredo Lanier



Lela Mosley

The City That Works traditionally has worked better for white neighborhoods than for depressed black communities. To prevent their black West Side neighborhood of East Garfield Park from becoming yet another abandoned area, Lela Mosley and others in 1963 formed the Fifth City Community Organization. Since then, the organization has grown into a well-oiled machine that can effectively pressure city, state, and Federal officials into providing needed services or, when that fails, can rally the neighbors to take care of their own problems. The group runs a senior-citizen center that provides recreation and hot meals, a training program for unemployed youths, a preschool to provide quality day care, and a housing program that rehabilitates buildings owned by low-income families. Fifth City also has a tractor and a dump truck, which the members use for cleaning streets, removing snow, clearing empty lots, or hauling manure for the area's many small gardens. "We remind the city when we need some services, like snow removal," Mosley explains. "But we go ahead and do it ourselves when the city doesn't do enough, or the job is not done the way we want it."



Sidney Epstein

Topnotch medical care—and an extraordinarily effective public-relations and fund-raising apparatus—have made the Children's Memorial Hospital on Fullerton near Lincoln one of the city's strongest magnets for attracting corporate donations. Now, thanks to the efforts of Sidney Epstein, president of Allied Van Lines, philanthropists may soon begin to notice Chicago's "other" children's health-care institution, the 220-bed facility at Cook County Hospital. Only slightly smaller than the one at Children's, County's unit serves young patients whose ailments are often compounded by poverty and neglect. Last year Epstein began donating toys and gifts that his sales agents normally used as premiums. "I am 58 years old and I have never been as shattered as I was when I visited that hospital," Epstein says. "Some of these children had never received anything new. Some had never even received a present in their lives." Epstein will try to drum up additional corporate donations but adds, "I know I will continue to give even if no one else does."



Carlos Delgado

"You'd make a splendid lawyer" was an odd compliment to pay Carlos Delgado. He was 49 years old, and for the previous 18 years had been a heroin addict. During that period his life had consisted of menial jobs and stints in jail, mostly for dope pushing, which was his chief means of support. In 1969, he was arrested once more and convicted on three counts of possession of heroin. But this time he agreed to enroll in a drug rehabilitation program. After 22 months at the Gateway House, where he experienced harrowing withdrawal symptoms, Delgado conquered his habit. Two years later he decided to pursue his "insane dream to become a lawyer" and enrolled at Roosevelt University, graduating with honors. He was later accepted by De Paul University, where he received his law degree last February. Delgado readily passed the bar exam and began practicing law at a small firm in Evanston late last year. Not surprisingly, he would like to specialize in criminal law, particularly concerning drug offenses. He also would like to work for the decriminalization of marijuana and stiffer penalties for traffickers in hard drugs, who, he says, "do nothing but profit from the misery of other people."

Distribution Dimensions

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Community with a Vision

For Herb Odom, volunteerism is not defined as a prescribed time slot wedged into a busy schedule. It is a commitment to a way of life called Fifth City.

The Fifth City Corporation, now celebrating its 20th anniversary is not a corporation in the strictest sense of the word, but a community of residents committed to the philosophy that local people — non-politicians — can be impetus for social and economic change within their neighborhood — even if that population is located in one of the city's most desperate ghettos.

Starting as a neighborhood project to establish a pre-school, residents quickly identified a contaminating decay more discouraging than the surrounding burned-out buildings, litter-strewn lots and fleeing business community. It was the prevailing attitude of helplessness kindled by negative self-images. To attack the problem, the group agreed that the key to revitalizing their neighborhood could be accomplished through collective cooperation, and eventual control of their environment.

Since this birthing point, that pre-school is now recognized as one of the nation's top ten and the story of Fifth City is a series of successes.

Four target projects were cited by the group as the neighborhood's foundation for economic restoration.

—A neighborhood environment group assigned to the *daily* maintenance of the neighborhood including litter removal within the 40 block quadrant, sidewalk snow removal of the commercial areas, and care of vacant lots.

—A business revitalization group designated to provide management consulting and loan packaging services for local businesses.

—A business career group responsible for operating and maintaining a 13 week clerical/business skills course for students meeting a ninth grade reading level requirement.

—An automotive service center project assigned to construct equip and operate a ten bay garage, retail parts store and fully automated carwash.

And, aside from the sparsely staffed administration composed of members of an interdenominational religious organization, the catalysts are local volunteers, like Herb.

Herb came to live in Fifth City in August, 1976. The weekend after moving in, his landlord informed him that he was now a charter member of the Fifth City Safe Streets Patrol. Being totally unfamiliar with his newly acquired membership, Herb investigated further by attending a committee meeting.

As Herb recalls, enthusiasm pervaded his first encounter with Fifth City. The desire to improve the quality of life and the spirit of determination inspired him to not only join in their meeting, but to emerge as a leader when the group named him President in 1978.

Herb's special interest lies in the business careers program which he believes truly attacks Fifth City's problems at its roots. The program was originally designed to admit 30 students per thirteen week session. The requirement for admission — a ninth grade reading level. Students are introduced to data entry, word processing, accounting procedures and office procedures. It is a rigorous course in a very short period, but as Herb explains, it may be the last chance for these students to learn marketable skills. As a result of the 70% placement rate of the students — one of the highest in Chicago — Herb has recently signed a \$135,000 grant from the State to lengthen the program to 16 weeks and to admit students whose reading levels reflect only a sixth grade aptitude. The increased financial support is a testimonial to past achievements of the group and the confidence in Fifth City's continued performance.

But Fifth City is not a utopia. The lack of impenetrable walls and the lack of control as to the cooperation of all residents leave the community prey to vandalism and pessimism harnessing more rapid progress.

Herb's response to these realities is that Fifth City has become a "mind set".

It is the feeling of security and hopefulness as evidenced by a 45% increase in *occupant* ownership of single family dwellings in the last 20 years.

Instead of taking flight from the area, Fifth City is helping residents to dig in.

Herb Odom is an employee of TRW

Westside's Fifth City breaks ground for new auto center

It was announced recently that the Fifth City Industrial Promotion Corporation, a not-for-profit, local development company, will conduct a ground breaking ceremony for the Fifth City Automotive Service Center on Friday, February 18, at 1:00, according to Herbert C. Odom, Jr., President. "This comes after seven years of planning and effort by the local community in partnership with the public and private sectors. We're very proud of this achievement."

The 11,000 square foot facility will house a car wash, service garage and a parts store and will be built at the intersection of Kedzie, Adams and Fifth Ave. in Fifth City which is a part of East Garfield Park neighborhood.

Financing for the one million dollar project is being provided by a grant from the Economic Development Administration and mortgages from the recently formed Local Initiatives Support Corporation and the Seaway National Bank which has a Small Business Administration guarantee. The facility will be leased to a newly formed, minority-owned business, the Fifth City Automotive Service, Inc. which has 21 local community stock holders providing a portion of the working capital needs. The business will open its doors in July of this year and will be operated by Verdell Trice, a long-time Westside businessman. It is expected to create 25 new

jobs in the first year.

This project, the most recent in a series of economic developments in the Fifth City community, is being spotlighted in a national study being conducted by the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, a Washington-based think-tank.

Also under construction in the Fifth City community is the new Bethany Hospital at

Trumbull and Congress Parkway and the CTA bus facility at Kedzie and Van Buren. The owner and developer of the auto center project, the Fifth City Industrial Promotion Corporation, also sponsors the highly successful Fifth City Business Careers, a CETA funded clerical training program with a 70% placement rate.

HEW grant

\$100,000 to CUL for health education plan

James W. Compton, acting executive director of the Chicago Urban League, announced that the League has received a \$100,000 grant from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare for implementation of a CUL proposal for improved comprehensive health education.

Sponsored by the Family Planning Coordinating Council of Metropolitan Chicago, the proposal is entitled the Comprehensive Health Education Project (CHEP), beginning January 15, 1972, and spanning a three-year period to January 14, 1975. CHEP represents a continued attempt at improving the life chances of Black and other low-income minority families.

Compton stated, "specifically, the project will work toward a more in-depth involvement in those families' total human needs for a healthy survival. As such its ultimate aim is to generate a greater awareness and expansion of preventative health care services. CHEP will examine and attempt to satisfy the need for consumer health education on such vital issues as congenital diseases, poison control, nutrition and consumer purchasing."

CHEP will also provide the opportunity to deal more severely with the problem of high-risk and unregulated pregnancies which are an insidious form of genocide that result in a high rate of infant mortality among low-income minority families, and especially Black families.

Carol St. Amant, CUL director of health and social services, stated, "The three-

year period of CHEP's operation will be divided into three phases of one year each. Phase I, beginning January 15th, will be a period of analysis, observation and testing of present needs and the shortcomings of present systems of delivery for those needs. The data gathered in this Phase will be the foundation from which a model plan of comprehensive health education will stem.

"It is for this reason that the Fifth City Chicago Community Corporation has offered to cooperate with us in the implementation of the program. With a major use of their staff and through the use of their facilities on the West Side we will insure the success of the entire project.

"During Phase II, beginning January of 1973, CHEP will expand to include the Mid-South Communities and will solicit the cooperation of community and medical facilities in those areas.

"Phase III, commencing around January, 1974, will signal the final formulation of a proposal, to be drafted by the Chicago Urban League,

for an on-going, city-wide and permanent community health education program. This proposal will then be submitted to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and the Family Planning Coordinating Council of Metropolitan Chicago for review."

\$1.9 million renovation for West Side buildings

FINANCING for a major rehabilitation project involving \$1,995,000 of modernization work on eight West Side buildings in the area of Van Buren Street and Homan Avenue has been arranged by Salk, Ward & Salk, Inc.

The redevelopment work, one of the last FHA-insured mortgage approvals arranged under terms of Section 221 (d) (3) of the National

Housing Act, is being done as a community enterprise initiated by neighborhood leaders and implemented under the direction of the Fifth City Citizens Redevelopment Corp. organized in part by the Ecumenical Institute.

ALL THE BUILDINGS to be totally modernized from roof to basement are two and three-story structures dating

back 40 to 90 years. Purchased from private owners with the aid of loans from the Illinois Housing Development Authority, the buildings have a total of 95 apartments and seven commercial stores.

The mortgage loan insured by FHA will be for 40 years at 3 per cent interest, according to James Davidson, head of the insured loans and multi-family division of Salk.

Work to be done by Banner Tuckpointing and Contracting Co., includes new roofs, dry-wall, painting, plumbing and heating.

ALL NEW KITCHEN equipment will be installed in the apartments, which will rent from \$125 to \$204 monthly when completed.

The eight buildings have 15 one-bedroom units, 26 two-bedroom apartments, 32 with three bedrooms, 15 with four bedrooms and 5 apartments with five bedrooms.

"These apartments are specially suited for larger families, of which there are many in the area. More than 20 per cent of the units have either four or five bedrooms," noted Davidson.

The buildings are located at 3518 W. Congress St., 3531 and 3505 W. Fifth Ave., 3303 W. Jackson Blvd., 3357, 3359 and 3309 W. Adams Street and 3437 W. Madison Street.



Looking over plans for rehabilitation work at apartment building at 3518 W. Congress St. are [from left] Neil R. Vance of the Ecumenical Institute, cosponsor of the redevelopment project; Allyn Adams and Mary Brown of Fifth City Citizens Redevelopment Corp.; James Davidson and Erwin A. Salk of Salk, Ward & Salk, Inc., mortgage bankers.