



IVY CITY HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS • PROGRAM CONSULTANT
1900 Gallaudet St., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

(202) 529-5620

Global Health Acceleration Team Report IVY CITY HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

September 28 - October 9, 1977

The Global Health Acceleration Team spent an exciting twelve days among the people of Ivy City in Washington D.C. The team gathered on Wednesday, September 28 at the Project Headquarters. Team members included Kenneth Gilbert, M.D. and Ruth Gilbert, Health Educator from Chicago, Illinois; Judy Harvey, Public Health Nurse from Seacord, New York; Cecilia Messersmith, Public Health Nurse, Richmond, Virginia; Barbara Keller, Family Planner, Appleton, Wisconsin; Deborah Mosely, Child Counselor, Milwaukee, Wisconsin and DeBorah Owens, Ivy City Project Health Outpost Coordinator.

The major accomplishment of this twelve days has been the creation of a system of Neighborhood Health Advocates for Ivy City. Fifteen people, most of whom had not previously held active leadership roles in the community, have committed themselves to regularly visit families within the community, to help link Ivy City effectively to the agencies of Washington, to participate in ongoing training as Health Advocates, and to develop preventative health emphasis programming for Ivy City. The week of training during the Health Teams visit included 5 sessions of 2 hours each, daily visitation and a final session of planning for their continuing training and programming of community activities.

The Global Health Team prepared an Agency Resource booklet for the Health Advocates from the many contacts made with agencies across the city. The Advocates also received a notebook which included maps of the community by individual household units and forms and materials for problem-solving and planning.

The two-week consultation was marked by a luncheon for Agency personnel. Twenty-five people gathered to discuss urban health and the Ivy City project. It was a great opportunity for dialogue between Agency Personnel and Ivy City residents. Several agencies volunteered rather extensive information on services which they had to offer Ivy City.

The day of the Fair was cold and rainy, but nevertheless, 150 residents attended the Ivy City Health Fair. Blood pressure checks and eye tests captured people's interest; they also stopped by to get information at agency booths, to look at large displays on nutrition and health statistics, to buy nutritious snacks, and to

play games related to health and vitality. Balloons and music helped create a sense of celebration. Eleven different agencies played significant roles in this event. It was a great day!

During the final afternoon, Health Advocates, Project Staff, Health Team members and Patrons from across the Area gathered in workshops to plan training of Health Advocates and Project programming in the arena of health for the next year. At the end of the day the Ivy City Neighborhood Health Advocates were given certificates in recognition of their decision to take on this role and their commitment to training and care for the community. They were then commissioned to care for Ivy City through the creation of preventative health care structures.

It has been clear during our time in Ivy City that not only does the vitality of any community depend on the creation of a broad scope of preventative health care structures, but that in our time one of the major issues has to do with the delivery of care to the local situation.