

RACINE IN THE EIGHTIES:

HOPE

TAKES ROOT

A Report in Preparation for

NOV. 10, 1983

CONFERENCE

at Siena Center, 5635 Erie St., RACINE, WI

AGENDA
for
RACINE IN THE EIGHTIES CONFERENCE

- 8:00 Registration - Coffee
- 8:30 Welcome and - Sister Brenda Walsh
Overview
- 8:45 Introduce Taskforce Leaders - Jean Mandli
- Unemployment Taskforce - Barney Nelles
Media Report - S. Helen Peddle
Neighborhood Watch - Rosemary Lewis
Economic Development - Bob Gintoft
Local Government - Ruth Foley
Minority Issues - Thelma Orr
Leadership - S. Lois Aceto
Rcv. M. Pable
Brief Analysis - S. Brenda
Jean Mandli
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 Joe Holland of Center of Concern in Washington, D.C.
- "The Challenge of the 80's - a Local Response"
- 11:15 Questions - Discussion
- 11:45 Break
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Small groups: Shaping a new agenda for the remainder of the decade
- 2:30 Break
- 2:45 Reports, Synthesis
- 4:00 Closing Remarks
- 4:15 Adjournment

+++ There is no charge for the day. However, we will welcome any donations, however small, to cover some of the major expenses for planning and hosting the Racine in the Eighties conference.

RACINE IN THE EIGHTIES - HOPE TAKES ROOT

(Racine in the Eighties is co-sponsored by Sisters of Saint Dominic and the Center for Community Concerns.)

Community development, if it is to be effective and long-lasting, must be accomplished in an integrated and comprehensive manner. When one dimension is emphasized at the expense of other dimensions, the end result will be superficial development. The future development of a community must be based on an analysis of current trends and be informed by a vision. Skills need to be provided to enable local people to articulate and accomplish both long and short range goals and objectives. People of all ages and walks of life must be involved in the solutions to the challenges.

Residents of Racine County in the State of Wisconsin felt the need for such integrated development. The county has an area of 337 square miles, with a population of 173,000 people. The county has been hard-hit by unemployment reaching a peak of 21% recorded in 1982. A very slow economic recovery is forecast for the area.

A committee of ten people spent six months getting pertinent facts, figures, features and history of the area. This information was put in booklet form and sent out to 200 invited guests who agreed to attend the one-day conference called Racine in the Eighties - Hope Takes Root. The conference was held at Siena Center in January of 1982. Participants represented labor, church groups, social service agencies, government, business, and other individuals concerned about the future of Racine County.

At the conference, the participants shaped the vision for the county, identified the contradictions or blocks to the accomplishment of the vision, and articulated thirteen proposals to address the contradictions identified. In part the vision stated:

"We dream of a Racine of the future, the rooted community, where apathy will be unknown, where people will form a bonded community, where family, school, and workplace and social contacts will all develop our human potential for the service of a peaceful world. We dream of the meshing of ethnic pride and group co-operation. We dream of lakefront festivals of art and industry in a renewed downtown. We dream of Racine, inventor in the past, inventing again a future, in which our style of community and concern will be our major export. We dream of a county therefore, that is in part already here, and yet calls each of us to bring it once more to birth."

Major challenges identified were a poor self-image, blighted neighborhoods in the city of Racine, along with high crime rate, undirected and exaggerated self-interest, uncoordinated planning, underdeveloped information exchange, and institutionalized prejudicial attitudes.

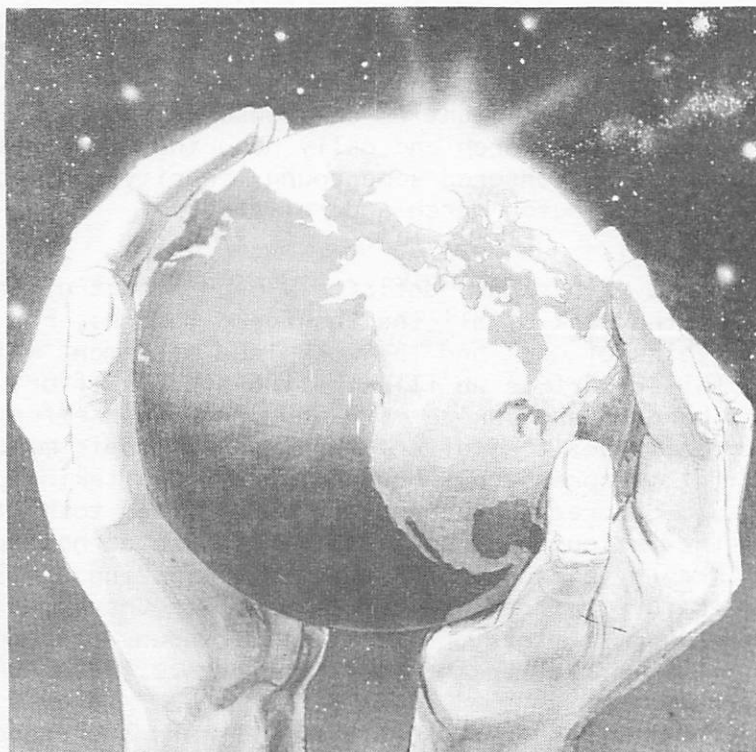
Following the conference, a steering committee established six taskforces to address the issues and concerns raised at the gathering and to implement the proposals. The taskforces dealt with unemployment, economic development, safe neighborhoods, leadership, minority issues, local government, and media. Other areas to be addressed more adequately are spirituality for the eighties and education.

Each taskforce is developing its own agenda and programs. Leaders of the groups come together periodically to evaluate, to get feedback, and plan for the future.

In November of 1983, almost two years after the original Racine in the Eighties conference, the entire workforce and community leaders will come together to reflect on what has gone on and to review the agenda for the remainder of the decade.

Valuable assistance for the preparation, implementation and follow-up to the Racine in the Eighties conference was obtained from the Institute of Cultural Affairs, which is a research, training and demonstration group concerned with the human factor in world development. The group is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation chartered in the State of Illinois.

We believe that the model used for Racine in the Eighties can be effectively used and applied for the revitalization of any community in the United States. We believe also that we must draw upon our spiritual energies and mobilize our resources to address the cultural, economic, and political crises, taking our destiny into our own hands as local communities. We are called to keep the vision alive, by making it concrete and real in the systems and structures created for the benefit of all people in our community.



"This is the porcelain clay of humankind."

— John Dryden, 1690

CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED AT THE 1982 CONFERENCE AND THE RESPONSES GIVEN TO THE CHALLENGES

- RACINE'S POOR SELF-IMAGE:** The local media responded quickly by doing several things to promote Racine as a good place to live. This had a "contagious" effect and was picked up by several other groups who became more conscious of the need to think and speak positively about Racine and the positive aspects of this community. The efforts of the Tourism Council also strengthen this aspect.
- HIGH CRIME RATE IN RACINE:** The Neighborhood Watch program piloted on Racine's Southside is now organized in 101 blocks throughout the city. There are about 1100 blocks in the city and it will take a four to five year period to organize the entire city. Other areas such as Kenosha and Green Bay and other parts of Racine County are using the model developed by local citizens and Racine Police Department.
- HOUSING-BLIGHTED NEIGHBORHOODS:** The Taskforce on Unemployment is working with Methodist Churches, Neighborhood Centers and other concerned individuals in planning a comprehensive one-day seminar on Urban Housing to be held on November 12th. It will deal with many issues such as home foreclosures, discrimination, energy assistance, and relationship between landlords and tenants. More information is forthcoming and action is expected to follow.
- INSTITUTIONALIZED PREJUDICIAL ATTITUDES :** Minorities Committee hosted a celebration to salute our Racine police especially the minority police on the force. Emphasis is being place on helping minority candidates to ready themselves for entrance tests. The issue of sexism and racism in business was also raised. Racine in the Eighties co-sponsored the local JOBS, PEACE, AND FREEDOM march and rally honoring Dr. Martin Luther King and also sponsored some young minority men who attended the Washington march and rally.
- INTRODUCTION OF MORAL VALUES :** Moral values have definitely been a part of the development of the work of all the taskforce members. For example the ethics of work and the workplace statement which is part of this report is an illustration of this effort. Churches are making more and more of an effort to connect the issues that affect the lives of their membership with faith expression. More networking is taking place and real and concrete responses are being given to hurting members of the various congregations. Siena Center hosted a series on Prayer in the Eighties and in the Spring of 1983 a speaker is invited from New York - Rev. Ben Chavis, a United Church of Christ minister of national renown - to address the issue of Spirituality for the Eighties. ... GOD'S CALL AND OUR RESPONSE.
- HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT:** The Taskforce on Unemployment Issues has responded in numerous ways to the needs of the unemployed. They have dealt with such issues as housing, foreclosure, job training, cost of health-care, job seeking skills. In mid October, the Taskforce convened local agencies and church leaders at Wingspread to identify gaps in services and to enhance the local response to the needs of the unemployed.

BALANCED INFORMATION EXCHANGE: The Media Taskforce has promoted adequate coverage of local events. Members of the group have met with media representatives to discuss a variety of issues. Other areas pointed out for coverage were stories of successful planning in other cities, encouragement of more letters to the editor, and editorials. Media spotlight on organizations, and on industry as well as individuals was also recommended. The two latter items have been in progress in the local papers for some time.

NON-INVOLVEMENT AND APATHY: The Local Government Taskforce has had the very difficult task of dealing with this issue. They sponsored a seminar to share practical information that would help women enter the political arena. The issue of the importance of voter registration was raised following the Dr. Martin Luther King March in Washington. This will hopefully be taken seriously at the appropriate time.

YOUTH AND EDUCATION: Great concern was raised about the number of young people who have dropped out of high school, who have never entered or spent a very short time in the workforce, and have very limited skills. Some Human Excellence and Employee Excellence Seminars were held. Presently an effort is being made to identify and train leaders who in turn can lead a seminar for young people. Many referrals have been made to the local literacy programs.

INTEGRATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: The Economic Development Taskforce brought the issue and need to the County Executive and called for a structure to facilitate integrated and countywide economic development. That mechanism is now in place. It is under the direction of the County Executive and a Board of Directors. Concern has also been raised about the inimical attitudes between business and labor and people are searching for solutions to this problem. A small group is planning a conference to which economist Gar Alperowicz is invited to speak about Planning for Economic Development at a Local Level.

AREAS OF CONCERN RAISED in 1982 and to which there has been no follow-up action up to this time:

- The need for more community input in setting goals and priorities for use of community Development Block Grant funds. (See Green Booklet for wording of Proposal.)
- Is education preparing children for the world they will be living in and working in when they graduate?
- Are we paying enough attention to the rural community and to the urban-rural connection?
- What about the family? Its present and future? Does the issue of family need more attention?

REPORT OF THE MEDIA/COMMUNICATIONS TASKFORCE

by Sister Helen Peddle

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE:

Following the Racine in the 80's Conference of January 1982, a group was formed to act on suggestions for media/communications which had surfaced during the brainstorming.

Suggestions included:

1. Use existing media to promote a positive self-image for Racine
2. Encourage responsible editorial policies
3. Speak up for balanced news coverage, more complete information exchange
4. Use radio to promote people-power through dialog

The Taskforce narrowed its objectives to the following: 1) to be in touch with the local media, both praising their efforts to bolster Racine self-confidence and questioning them about their policies; 2) to send to the media releases on Racine in the 80's follow-up activities and to act as a service group for the other taskforces.

Immediately after the Racine in the 80's conference, we received very good coverage in the Racine papers as well as from the Milwaukee Journal. The Catholic Herald in Milwaukee also did three articles at various times on Racine in the 80's. Milwaukee television coverage was disappointing, in that they only interviewed Howard Fuller on Milwaukee issues, making scarcely any connection with a Racine conference or showing the conference in progress. Since the conference, Racine in the 80's has made the Milwaukee TV evening news twice.

From the outset, letters were sent to the media praising them for such positive actions as introduction of the Saturday tabloid COMMUNITY section by the Journal Times; introduction of RA-SCENE for tourism by Royal Publishing Company; the slogan and bumper sticker, Racine--a Great Place To Live. We commended the Shoreline Leader for giving play to positive local happenings of a low-key nature. In June, a letter was sent to Emmert Dose, Special Projects editor of the Journal Times. After congratulating Mr. Dose on his research job in the Community Goals series, we noted a more newsy, eye-catching appearance of the inner pages of the paper, giving more focus on local issues, including development of Downtown.

In May, three members of the taskforce met with Howard Hoffmaster, editor of the Journal Times, to question him about specific policies of the paper. A report of what transpired at the meeting was circulated to the taskforces.

We have publicized meetings and events of the taskforces when asked to do so. One example would be a report on the monthly Memorial Hall public meeting of the Taskforce on Unemployment which provided useful information on educational and training programs available to the unemployed. This was printed in full by the Shoreline Leader and Racine Labor paper. We gave special help in publicizing the December 1982 forum on opportunities for women in local government. Recently, we have done radio spots and press notices on a leadership training series for prospective youth leaders in Human Excellence seminars. One area which seems to be incompletely reported is that of agencies providing services and activities for young people. Nancy Elsmo of the Media taskforce and Racine Public Library prepared a display in October for a parents' meeting at Gilmore Junior High on various activities available to Racine children.

MAJOR CHALLENGES: We want to continue to draw attention to local issues that people can do something about. We find that accurate countywide information on who are the unemployed and what assistance they need is still lacking or has not been disseminated. A major challenge is to develop more of a Racine County mentality, drawing connection between urban and rural problems.

(continued)

FUTURE PLANS: At the Racine in the 80's conference in January of 1982, Mr. Hoffmaster of the Journal Times issued the following challenge--
"Despite the proliferation of media, people are less well-informed about their community, state, nation. The average readership level of Americans has declined from 8th grade level 10 years ago to 6th grade level today. Despite the higher educational level, people know less. This is the mystery and I leave it with you." Perhaps our committee can do some hard thinking about how to get our young people in particular to read the newspapers through sponsoring information contests in the schools or in some other way.

We can pick one of the "Major Challenges" identified above to work on in the coming year, such as developing more of a Racine County mentality.

We need additional members of the Taskforce, with the time to devote to reporting and analyzing. We would certainly welcome more participation in our Media Taskforce.

'Racine in the eighties gaining in momentum

Group leadership courses

**A Community Response
To Unemployment in Racine**

**Cheers for 80's
volunteers**

**'Jobs, jobs, jobs,
demanded
Corporation created**

**Watch program
to be expanded**

Public Office Seminar for Women

Police to be saluted

Hope takes root

Working Together

Opinion

REPORT ON SPIRITUALITY FOR THE EIGHTIES

By Sister Marie Gertrude Mlodzik and
Sister Brenda Walsh

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE: A series on PRAYER FOR THE EIGHTIES was conducted at Siena Center in Spring of 1983. Speakers were local ministers representing a variety of approaches to prayer and how it relates to life. Number in attendance ranged from 15 to 25.

MAJOR CHALLENGES: There is a need to continue to link faith with justice and to be supported by prayer as we engage in the struggle for justice in all the issues that affect people's lives. There is also a need for sharing more on an ecumenical level and to let the feminine aspect of spirituality emerge.

FUTURE PLANS:

Get The Word Out

Mark your calendar now. . . Save May 5, 1984, 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Rev. Benjamin F. Chavis, minister of the United Church of Christ and Director of the UCC National Commission on Racial Justice of New York City, will be at Siena Center for a day of reflection and sharing entitled "LET MY PEOPLE GO: God's Call and Our Response." Reverend Chavis will reflect with us on issues of human rights, justice in our courts, employment, housing, welfare, food, peace, and liberation in our day. He will emphasize our Christian responsibility to be involved in the struggle.

You may recall that Reverend Chavis was the church leader sent to Wilmington, North Carolina, in 1978 at the request of the local white pastor serving in the Black community. He was to assist the Wilmington community as they endeavored to peacefully follow the law calling for integration of the school system after a long history of desegregation. In opposition to the law were two groups causing trouble in Wilmington, the Ku Klux Klan and Rights of White People. After a year of racial disturbances, including fire-bombing of St. Gregory United Church of Christ where Ben and the community met, the Ten --Ben, eight other young Black men, and a white woman who was a poverty worker-- were arrested, charged, prosecuted, convicted, and sentenced to prison for a total of 282 years. Following their conviction, hundreds of civic, social, political and legal organizations across the nation were involved in demanding freedom for the Wilmington Ten.

The Racine Dominican community was part of the outcry. Investigation demonstrated the truth: the WILMINGTON TEN were victims of a miscarriage of justice by a court system biased against the poor and the Black.

BEN CHAVIS is a theologian, activist, poet and family man who has been through the crucible of prison. He will share his vision and, no doubt, inspire us as we seek to continue the struggle for justice here.

The event will be co-sponsored by Racine in the Eighties and the Sisters of St. Dominic.

There will be a small admission charge.

Believe faith, hope, unity vital to future of Racine

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASKFORCE

by Bob Gintoft

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE: Taskforce seeded the formation of a county-wide Economic Development Corporation: By learning what other communities are doing to bolster local economies and to create jobs; by exchanging information through one on one interviews with nearly 100 of Racine's top level leaders; coordinated a forum through the County Executive's leadership at Wingspread for Racine's top level leaders in February of 1983, which provided the local mandate to create an economic development partnership between the public and private sectors.

The Taskforce was most successful with turning around the psychological attitude about the local economy from fragmented despair to one of hope through coordination. Top level representatives from the private and public sectors are working together to stimulate the local economy through a variety of programs and financing mechanisms.

MAJOR CHALLENGES: Currently the original Economic Development Taskforce is inactive. The earlier ambitions of the Taskforce are currently being carried out by the recently formed Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors; Two of the Taskforce members serve on the Board of Directors - Jim DiMarco and Sandra Herre. The Board of Directors is currently raising the resources that will be necessary to employ a professional economic development staff and as a result are currently reviewing resumes for the position of Executive Director. The recommended budget for the Economic Development Corporation is \$100,000 to be funded equally by both public and private sectors.

FUTURE PLANS: During the next two years the corporation will carry out additional economic development activities and are expected to include:

- Develop and implement activities that will help to coordinate the activities of educational institutions and employment training organizations in order to effectively meet the labor force needs of employers in Racine County.
- To coordinate the activities of local units of government concerned with the furthering of recreation and tourism industry in Racine County.
- To develop and implement a program to promote the quality of life and the unique characteristics of Racine County to its existing residents as well as to the areas outside the county.

However, perhaps most importantly the goals of the Taskforce which are hoped to be carried out by the Board of Directors of Racine County new Economic Development Corporation are to create new jobs for Racine County's large unemployed population. To achieve this the Board is currently developing and implementing a county-wide business and industrial retention and expansion program. It is working with financial institutions in the county and state and federal business financing programs to provide low interest financing and venture capital for new and existing businesses in Racine County and finally, the Board is accumulating an inventory and evaluating economic development data and information to make these data and information available to local units of government in Racine County.

NEW DEVELOPMENT:

Following the dissolution of the original Economic Development Taskforce, a new group of four members formed around economic justice issues.

The goal of this group is to bring about an integrated economic development for the benefit of all people in the County, especially for those without power and resources; to move toward a co-operative stance between labor, industry, government and local residents; and to continue to show concern for job creation and training.

One project has been identified and is in progress. A conference is in the planning and Wingspread has been requested to host the conference, the purpose of which is to explore the concept of community-based economic planning, to examine the local community's perception of its needs, and to examine ways of ensuring economic development decisions that are accountable to the local community. These are all challenges posed at the original Racine in the Eighties Conference.

Economic Justice Issues (continued)

Suggested speakers for the conference are Gar Alperowicz, an economist at the national level from Washington, D.C. Barry Bluestone of Boston University, and Archbishop Weakland who is chairing the national bishops committee on work and the economy in the U.S. More information will be forthcoming on this effort.

A theology of work has been developed and is included in this booklet. It was shared with all churches for their reflection and action.

REPORT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TASKFORCE

by Ruth Foley

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE:

The goal of the Taskforce is to reduce apathy toward and increasing awareness and responsibility for local government. Our first meeting was held on 3/9/82. Our committee was composed of fourteen members all of whom are caring, interested, and knowledgeable persons. We have had thirteen meetings and for various reasons the number of committee members dropped to eight. Attempts were made to increase our membership and were not successful.

The activities to date involve sponsoring a workshop for women interested in entering the political arena, and providing media contact lists for local officials while urging them to make greater use of the media. Later the focus became that of discovering ways to make local government more important in our schools and to prepare youth for responsible citizenship. A series of meetings around this issue have been held.

MAJOR CHALLENGES:

From the beginning we have been aware that the nature of our goal was such that no easy answers are available. Apathy is a deterrent to informed participation in government and this is not unique to our community. And while the causes of apathy appear to have changed over the years to some degree, this problem has become greater and it is the reluctant conclusion of our committee that a local Taskforce is not the vehicle to address the problem.

Over the months we have sought out and promulgated the available lines of communication in the community and it is our feeling that there is not a need for more lines, but rather better use of present facilities. We have endeavored to promote a greater use to no avail.

Our committee has investigated the efforts of Racine Unified to interest children of the area in local government and are satisfied that a well coordinated program is in place and secondly, that the study necessary to determine the effectiveness of the program is well beyond the scope of our abilities. The programs in school other than Unified are so varied that it is impossible to generalize. But it appears that they are all making sincere efforts to prepare the students for active participation in their communities - some better than others. With the current turmoil in education those in charge are unlikely to devote much time to yet another challenge.

Our committee sees the sesquientennial celebration as being an opportunity for excitement regarding local government but we do not see any long-term effect upon apathy. Our experience has been frustrating. There is no question but that there is a serious problem. However, we are convinced after very serious consideration that if there is an answer to the problem, it must be found at another level.

TASKFORCE ON MINORITY ISSUES

by Thelma Orr

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE:

One of the concerns of this taskforce has been to involve more minority persons from the Racine area in the Racine Police Force. An event co-sponsored by the group was the reception for community police, highlighting minority members.

Much energy has been devoted to preparing people to take the entrance test for the Department. The emphasis is not on lowering standards but on bringing potential candidates up to par. This has been accomplished and some are now on the waiting list.

Another concern is the future of the George Bray Center and securing sufficient funds to keep the center going and adequately staffed to meet the needs of the area. The hope of the Taskforce is that the George Bray Center will continue to be a vital part of the Racine community.

Along the line of Minority concerns, Sister Lois Aceto mentioned that there is need to service the Hispanic population in the Racine County Jail. Programs designed for their cultural needs are presently lacking and this is an area of concern that needs to be addressed.

MAJOR CHALLENGES:

- Continue the effort to support the George Bray Center.

- A major challenge is to get Minority people into the power structure arena.

- Problems of minority youth need to be addressed to help them find themselves, clarify their values, establish long-range career goals and to follow through with them.

- There is a need to create a supportive base for youth provided by adults within the community.

- There is great concerns for the total family and strengthening the family structure. Specific concerns are teen-age pregnancies, the need for sex education, and parenting skills.

- An ongoing effort is needed to give Senior Citizens a tomorrow to look forward to and to stay in the mainstream of society as long as possible. Seniors in Racine and Kenosha are become a powerful force in addressing issues that affect their own lives and other issues affecting the Community.

FUTURE PLANS:

Strategies will be worked out to continue to address the above issues.

Optimism and the will to act

REPORT OF THE TASKFORCE ON UNEMPLOYMENT ISSUES

By Barney Nelles. and Al Kapocius

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE:

Continuing Activities are the followings:

- Taskforce Office provided through Human Services Department handles the routine activities offering job search and survival help through the office manager. Job leads are sometimes available.
- Direct help for survival is provided by referral to appropriate programs, agencies and other groups to those seeking help.
- Project Facilitator maintains liaison with groups allied to the Taskforce objectives, initiates new projects, and organizes publicity.
- Weekly Monday morning radio program reviewing appropriate scheduled events and discussing applicable topics.
- Barter System to allow the unemployed to exchange services by mutual agreement.
- Jobseeker's Roundtable, a support group which meets weekly and to which resource guests from business and industry are invited to answer questions on how best to present oneself for an interview.
- Monthly Taskforce Meetings open to the public and dedicated to specific topics of interest to the unemployed.
- Counselor for those affected by unemployment has been funded on a part-time basis and operates out of Family Services.
- Other one-time events include seminars for job seekers, support groups organized around specific problems, a Resource Fair, participation in the Phil Donahue Show on a program about unemployment.
- Participated with other groups on two job search workshops, Job-a-thon, a job finding TV event sponsored by Channel 12, Martin Luther King march and rally locally and in Washington, D.C., and a Housing Seminar.

MAJOR CHALLENGES:

- Apathy seems to be the biggest concern and challenge to this group.
- There is a shortage of volunteers to continue to develop the numerous projects needed.
- Reluctance of some business to become aware of and involved in community-wide activities. Some businesses have provided assistance in a variety of ways and this is much appreciated.
- Funding for a project co-ordinator is being sought to keep the numerous programs going and to develop new ones as needed. A grant has been obtained through the Community Development Block Grant. This will be of great assistance to the ongoing efforts of the Taskforce.
- The Taskforce is convening Agency heads, representatives of church, business, and government at Wingspread to assess the needs of the unemployed and to co-ordinate the local response to their needs. Further challenges will be articulated at the Conference.

FUTURE PLANS:

The primary objective of this group is to help the unemployed to help themselves. Taskforce will initiate, encourage, and support projects and activities progressing toward this goal. The Planning Council of the Taskforce and the monthly meetings are a forum for exchanging ideas, finding unmet needs, and providing creative solutions to the needs of the unemployed. These activities complement and support but do not compete with successfully established programs.

The efforts of the Taskforce will continue as long as the local problem lasts. The long range goal is to disband the organization or to re-evaluate objectives to redirect the effort toward helping the socially disadvantaged with similar activities.

There is need to address the causes of unemployment and to challenge our national priorities.

REPORT ON NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

by Rosemary Lewis

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE:

In April of 1982 a taskforce of approximately 18 people representing a broad spectrum of the Racine community was established. This committee worked until July of 1982. At that time the chief of Police requested that all materials be handed in to his department so that his staff could design the program. In October of '82, the Police Department presented the newly designed program to the two sponsoring agencies: the Racine Dominican Sisters and the Center for Community Concerns as well as the Taskforce chairperson. In October of 1983, Rosemary Lewis, chair of taskforce assumed the role of Volunteer Program co-ordinator for Neighborhood Watch. Presently Neighborhood Watch is located at 1501 Villa St.

The later part of 1982 was spent in further defining and refining the program components before we presented the program City-Wide. The program was presented City-Wide in February of 1983. The Program Coordinator projected one-hundred blocks to be organized in 1983. As of October 1, 1983 we have surpassed this goal. We presently have 113 blocks organized.

In July of 1983, Neighborhood Watch became Racine Neighborhood Watch, Inc. The sponsoring groups and the Racine Police Department saw the need for funding the position of Program Coordinator because of the complexity of the program. The position of program coordinator has expanded beyond what can be expected of a volunteer.

The Racine community has benefited in a number of ways:

1. More people have developed a caring and concerned relationship for one another.
2. Our crime rate has constantly been going down. We do not have sufficient statistics, nor enough blocks organized to prove in fact that Neighborhood Watch is responsible for our reduction in crime, but we believe it is an important factor.
3. We have citizens of the community working in a positive manner with city officials on projects such as improved street lighting, posting of private property, erection of stop signs, etc.
4. It has made more people realize and understand that they have an important role to play in working with their neighbor and the police department in crime prevention.
5. It has made many of our citizens feel safer and more secure in the neighborhoods.
6. It has brought neighbors together for the first time, some who haven't spoken in years because of differences.
7. It has brought about a positive support group for the victim and the witness in the court system.

MAJOR CHALLENGES:

The greatest challenge our group is currently dealing with is funding. It wasn't anticipated that our program would expand as rapidly as it has expanded. It soon became evident that the amount of work and the responsibilities which were required of the Program Coordinator were beyond the volunteer level. This program requires continuity and stability. It requires a Coordinator who can provide training meetings for volunteer leaders, educational meetings for the general public, coordination of meetings and speakers, as well as various secretarial kinds of responsibilities. The Racine City Council recently allocated \$20,000 for the program. These monies will become available in approximately April of next year. Several community groups have donated monies to the Racine Neighborhood Watch, Inc.

MAJOR CHALLENGES (continued):

Another challenge we are addressing is, "How do we keep the interest and the enthusiasm continuing within the block organization". It has been very evident that blocks are organized because of a need or a problem. Once the block is organized and that need or problem has been solved there seems to be a lesser involvement of the people. However, when we consider the mobility and the involvement of people today, there seems to be little time left for extra meetings, etc. It may appear to many of us on the surface that there is little involvement, however, many of the block watchers are fulfilling their basic function of being the eyes and ears of the neighborhood, reporting suspicious activity and crimes in progress to the police department immediately. In the future we would like to see people in the blocks expand their role and become more involved in mutual aid and advocacy roles.

FUTURE PLANS:

- To develop at least one hundred blocks per year.
- To strengthen the existing blocks.
- To have greater participation of young people in the program.
- To see statistically a reduction in the crime rate in our city.
- To envision a safer and more secure lifestyle for all persons in the community.
- To increase awareness of burglary through a continuing informational program.
- To train citizens in the means to better property security and assist them in making their property more secure.
- To encourage all citizens to cooperate by working with the Racine Police Department and the Racing Neighborhood Watch, Inc.
- To promote the idea that Neighborhood Watch is not only for the purposes of crime prevention but, also for mutual aid, social events, and advocacy.

TOGETHER
WE CAN
HELP KEEP
"RACINE ON THE
LAKE"
SAFE



REPORT OF THE LEADERSHIP TASKFORCE: Local Leadership Development

By Rev. Martin Pable, Capuchin

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE:

Through the Gateway Technical Institute, the Taskforce members offered a Leadership Training Series--one in English and one in Spanish--for lay people in leadership positions in Racine area churches. The five-part series was given in Spring of 1983 with 26 persons participating. The Spanish program did not materialize as planned. However, Sister Lois Aceto did meet with a small group of Hispanic people at Siena Center for four sessions.

Those who took the training series were very positive in their evaluation. They felt they had gained in confidence as well as skills in areas like communication, decision-making, and problem-solving.

Since most of the participants were chairpersons of Human Concerns committees, their influence extends to areas that concern the quality of life for the larger Racine community.

MAJOR CHALLENGES:

There was some disappointment with the initial response to the efforts of the Leadership Taskforce. The second try demonstrated that there is a need for more leadership development.

Ways of developing leadership in the minority communities is an area identified for further development. For the Hispanic community, some local leaders believe this can be accomplished through the Base Christian Community development. For the Black community, some of this is happening through the Human Excellence Seminars.

Another area identified by some of the participants in the Gateway Leadership Training Program is the necessity of linking Faith and justice and of incorporating that aspect into leadership development.

Leadership training for clergy was identified at the Racine in the Eighties Conference but so far, no specific programs have been offered.

FUTURE PLANS:

Our hope is to sponsor another leadership training series in 1984.

*** There are two parts to the Leadership Training report--the one as described above pertains to local leadership development, and the other relates to Human Excellence Seminars which are described in the next page.

REPORT OF THE LEADERSHIP TASKFORCE: Human Excellence Seminars

By Sister Lois Aceto and Sister Brenda Walsh

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE:

In February 1983 around 60 jail administrators, probation officers, counselors and agency representatives who work with the unemployed convened at Siena Center to hear Mr. Don Frey of the 7th Step Foundation in Cincinnati speak about a program for realigning the values of offenders and ex-offenders and about help that is available for job seekers to enable them to become more successful in seeking, finding, and keeping work.

The program was co-sponsored by Racine in the Eighties and Racine County Sheriff's Department. The two organizations are also co-sponsoring the follow-up activities.

Presently Sister Lois Aceto is teaching a second group of inmates of Racine County Law Enforcement Center. The Human Excellence Seminars are geared toward self-awareness and self-improvement. Two sessions were also completed for Job Seekers and were held at Family Services of Racine and conducted by Barney Nelles and Sister Brenda Walsh. About fifty young men participated in the two sessions. Following up on an optional individual basis has been in progress since the sessions ended. Similar groups are now conducted by Carole Pearce at the George Bray Center.

People attending the February conference felt that the content was good but many expressed a lot of dissatisfaction with the way that Mr. Frey presented his material.

MAJOR CHALLENGES: There are many built-in frustrations in conducting the sessions at the jail. Frequently one of the participants in the sessions is transferred to another facility. This eliminates the possibility of follow-up. There are some very positive effects in evidence in the people who have participated in the program. Plans need to be made to provide continuity and ongoing support when jail inmates leave the institution.

FUTURE PLANS:

A training session was conducted on three evenings in October for a group of potential Human Excellence and Employee Excellence Seminar leaders. The sessions were held at the First Baptist Church and conducted by Sister Lois Aceto. The next step is to set up small groups for young adults which the newly trained leaders will facilitate. More leadership training sessions will be set up in the future.

OTHER AREAS IDENTIFIED FOR ACTION ARE:

- Family counselling for parents of young people attending the sessions. We need a school for parents.
- Human Excellence curriculum could be introduced for Juniors and Seniors in High Schools to prepare youth for the world of work and for living.
- Peace curriculum also needs to be introduced in all schools to enable youth to work co-operatively and deal constructively with conflict.
- The International Year of Youth is planned by the U.N. for 1985. The theme for the year is PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND PEACE. The same themes could be used locally to make an all-out effort to reach young people. Some of the issues being addressed in preparation for the Year of Youth are youth's stake in a peaceful world, housing for young people, youth's role in rural development, youth and the environment, youth and employment, the relevance of today's education for youth, youth and population, problems and opportunities for leadership training, street youth. LOCALLY an all-out effort could be made to make the International Year a time of major concern for development of youth in our community.

Mustard Seeds And Mountains

Racine in the Eighties was represented by Sister Brenda who was one of 150 invited guests from thirteen different States attending the symposium at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, on June 1-3 to share approaches that work at a local level. Programs and projects ranging from renovation of deteriorating downtown areas to solar gardening projects in the inner city to rural development projects were exhibited.

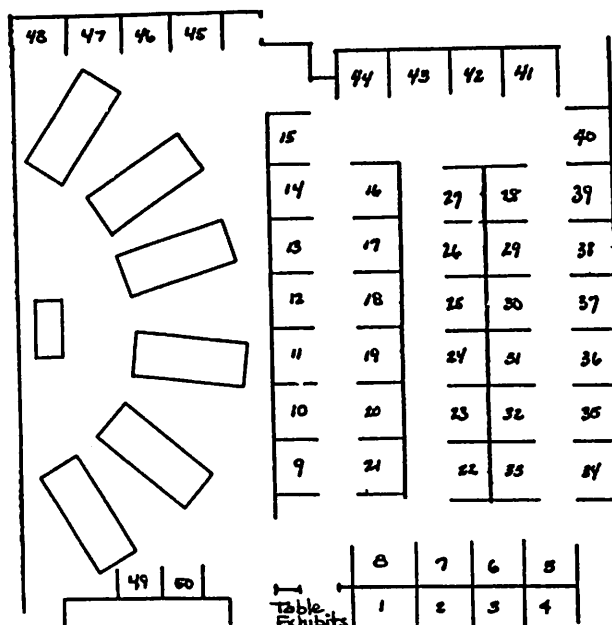
Insights into what makes development work were shared in the symposium. Notable among the participants was the lack of cynicism or despair with the way things are going at a national or a regional level. Gray, one of the founders of the highly successful relief organization known as Oxfam-America, states that the effective leader or organizer does not look outside the system for solutions. One looks inside, taking what looks like a disabling factor and making it into an opportunity. That is what many local people are doing in their own communities.

The midwest symposium at Drake was one of five such events held in North America with the purpose of identifying projects - about 20 from North America - which will be represented at an International Exposition of Community Development in India in February of 1984. The India event is co-sponsored by the United Nations Development Committee and the Institute of Cultural Affairs International as well as other international organizations.

Sister Brenda noted that many people had never heard of Racine, Wisconsin, and she made a special effort to make Racine known as a community of care among the conference participants. Since the conference, ideas and information have been exchanged on a variety of projects. Sharing approaches that work is indeed a way of sharing hope and expertise as applied to local development.



- | Loc. No. | Exhibitor |
|----------|--|
| 1. | International Exposition for Rural Development |
| 2. | Institute of Cultural Affairs |
| 3. | |
| 4. | |
| 5. | BEST |
| 6. | Highland Co. Senior Citizens |
| 7. | RVI Family Farm Vegetable Project |
| 8. | Lebanon Downtown Renovation |
| 9. | Lorimor Human Development Proj. |
| 10. | Iowa Hospice |
| 11. | Prescott Neighborhood Assoc. |
| 12. | Harper Junior College Community Development Center |
| 13. | Logan Co., Ill. |
| 14. | Hesston & Marysville Communities |
| 15. | Jefferson Township Project (Ind) |
| 16. | |
| 17. | University for MAN (Manhattan) |
| 18. | Countryside Council |
| 19. | Land Stewardship Project |
| 20. | Food Bank of Central Iowa |



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|-----|--|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 21. | Oneida Baptist Institue | 31. | |
| 22. | Racine in the 80's | 32. | |
| 23. | Iowa Child Restraint Campaign | 33. | Centrol |
| 24. | Rutan City Farm | 34. | Rural Family Development Project |
| 25. | | 35. | Sustainable Natural Farming Project |
| 26. | Rehabilitation Institute | 36. | Mapleton-Fall Creek Gazette |
| 27. | Westport Cluster: Education for Action | 37. | Red Oak Economic Development |
| 28. | Minnesota Farmstead Cheese | 38. | Willard Community Center |
| 29. | Community Access to Media | 39. | W.A.R.R.E.N., Inc. |
| 30. | | 40. | Jubilee Housing, Inc. |
| | | 41. | Edgemont Solar Garden |
| | | 42. | Ashville Area Historical Society |
| | | 43. | Mount Sterling Growth Center |
| | | 44. | Lenawee County, Mich. |
| | | 45. | Future Farmers of America |
| | | 46. | Peer Helping |
| | | 47. | Mainstay |
| | | 48. | Jackson Child Development Center |
| | | 49. | Fifth City, Chicago, Ill. |
| | | 50. | Training, Inc. |

AN ETHICAL REFLECTION ON WORK AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Work is the creative expression of one's gifts and talents in the service of a world that is peaceful, human, and ecologically safe. Through work, people shape their lives as well as the lives of their families and communities. Stable and meaningful work lays the foundation for security in the family, neighborhood, and society.

The issue of work is becoming increasingly paramount in our day. It is a human issue and therefore a moral and ethical issue.

The right to work belongs to every human being who desires to work. Likewise the right to do meaningful work that improves the quality of life for others is a basic human right. Full employment, which has been discussed for many years but never taken seriously, must be pursued, taking into consideration the rights of minoritieswomen, the handicapped, the aged, and the young. A just wage and safe working conditions for all should likewise be pursued.

We are at a crossroads in the world of work and production, caused by new developments in the economic, political, and technological conditions of our time. At present, the de-industrialization of the U.S. and the shift to an information and service society, the internationalization of production, high technology, is placing the employment and economic future of millions in jeopardy. Locally, the present crisis of plant closings in recent years, resulting in high unemployment, is the most severe economic upheaval of the century, and is likely to last for a long time. Shifts in the structure of the workplace calls for extensive retraining programs and a mechanism for connecting people with employment opportunities that will exist in the future.

The mechanization of work is seen by many as a mixed blessing. On the one hand, it relieves drudgery in the workplace and calls forth new skills, to handle emerging technology. On the other hand, by replacing human labor with machine labor, it renders many job skills obsolete, causes the boredom of unemployment or under-employment, and may limit opportunities for creativity on the job.

Human wellbeing is the appropriate measure of technology. To base our economy on a technology that will be used for total destruction through use of nuclear weaponry is neither a responsible nor moral direction to take. Use and development of technology must be in the best interest of all human beings and not for the maximization of power or profit on behalf of a few. We are called to endow our technological developments with a purpose that will benefit the entire human family, which for the most part is presently lacking in basic needs such as food, health care, housing, and education.

The ideal we are working toward in Racine County is an economic system

- that allows workers to participate in the decision-making processes affecting their work lives
- that promotes cooperation between worker and management
- that provides adequate training and placement opportunities
- that provides a just wage, safe environment, and that protects workers in their workplace
- that is sensitive to urban-rural interconnectedness

(continued next page)

- that considers the rights of minorities, including women, the handicapped, the elderly and the young
- that is devised to serve people and is not allowed to violate the priority of people over profit
- that is not dependent on contracts that contribute to building weaponry of total destruction
- that prepares workers for work needed, and encourages excellence in the workplace as a joint responsibility of employer and employee
- that is accountable to and socially responsible for the local community.

Institutionalized injustice is found in church, culture, and society and within our economic systems. Institutions were shaped by humans and can be re-structured by the same humans in the service of a just, peaceful, and secure world. Our responsibility is to examine our institutions and to work toward that end.

We recall the words of the speaker, Joe Holland, who addressed the Racine in the Eighties conference in January of 1982: "The community must be the foundation of economic, political, and cultural life. We need to affirm co-operation over competition as the foundation of our society. The key principle is to build accountability of capital and technology to the community....This is the vision we have--of people as a community, of a people called by God and accountable to ourselves and to each other and to the rest of the world and above all to the poor and powerless among us. Basically our future is with the community."

Coupled with this local effort, planning and action is needed at a national level by working toward full employment for all, in the service of a world that is human, along with a just and living wage and safe working conditions. Full employment must be the priority human rights issue of the 1980's.

"Economics" in its derivation means "management of the household." Its main goal, therefore, should be to see that all members of the human family have the opportunity to live a full and meaningful existence. Our task is to face our economic contradictions and to ensure that the system services the human family, especially those in greatest need.

