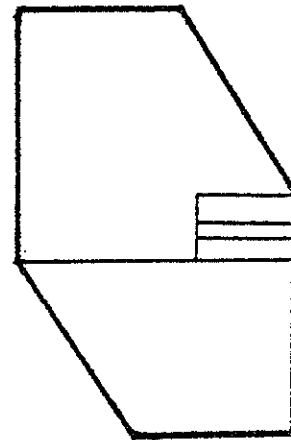


VOGAR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



FIFTEEN MONTHS REPORT

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT KEYSTONES

Rapid, visible economic and social change is a characteristic of effective Human Development Projects. However, more important to the long term success of a Project is eliciting a core of trained leaders and creating a community self-story that relates the Project in service to the world. The following illustrate Vogar's decision to be a community that exemplifies human development.

Vogar Products is more than a 9 to 5 job. Visitors are frequent and are graciously hosted by the women. The employees have worked late at night, when necessary, to turn out orders. Women who have never been out of Manitoba nor left their children have gone on marketing trips across Canada selling WABB-A-WON Quilts. A delegation went to the LEAP Review Board meeting when it considered their proposal for funding. After the meeting, one of the Board members said he noticed a definite change in the women since the last meeting, six months earlier. Then, they were giggling and embarrassed and had little confidence in their plans. Now, they were different. Self-assured, confident and knowledgeable about their proposal, they listened attentively and responded to questions. He was, he decided, now looking at a group of businesswomen.

Ten men, employed on a Canada Works grant, have decided to turn Vogar into a showpiece. After completing the renovation of Vogar Hall by installing a cement foundation, new front steps and shingling the roof, they began to transform the surrounding area. In back of the Hall and Church was a dense thicket which for some time had obscured the Catholic cemetery. They brushed and cleared back to the cemetery, leaving a beautiful grove of large poplar trees. The effect on the community was startling. A space that previously was just background had suddenly become a focal point, providing an effective setting for the buildings and cemetery. In looking at their quarter's timeline, they discovered they had accomplished much more than they thought possible and would be a month ahead of schedule by the end of December. So, while the weather was good, they added a new task: making cement sidewalks around the houses. The home owners furnish the materials and the men provide the labour. This improvement to the homes is a great asset to the community and a fine example of cooperative effort. People have remarked on the confidence and enthusiasm of the crew, on their ability to create and adapt their own timelines, and on the effectiveness of such a group in creating major change in the living environment of the village.

I. Supplementary Education Unit

Summer tutoring involved selected children in a reading program. Two women from Canada Works help in the school as aides and tutors, and an afterschool gym program is held Tuesday and Thursdays for younger children.

II. Vocational Skills Institute

Two men are enrolled in Red River Community College carpentry program, taking their on-the-job training with Vogar Construction Company. An accounting course has provided bookkeepers with skills, and the managers of Vogar businesses are beginning to meet for training in business principles.

III. Adult Training Academy

An employee of Vogar Products went on a 3 week trip to Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa as marketing assistant. Vogar Products Board continues to train its members in managerial and policy making skills. Men of the community are doing research on a new industry and getting practical training in business set-up and marketing.

IV. Civic Information Network

Advisors from Winnipeg businesses and government agencies have actively helped with the men's industry. The Vogar Voice resumed twice a month publication. Twice a week meetings in homes focus on community life here and around the world with global slides, discussions of the Vogar grid, and Christmas plans.

V. Community Promotion Agency

The first year report of the Vogar Human Development Project was published. Vogar has hosted visitors from many groups including the Manitoba Metis Federation, CESO, the Department of Industry and Commerce, the Secretary of State youth group, representatives of several Winnipeg businesses, and staff of all the Canadian offices of the ICA.

VI. Vogar Identity Project

A resident visited the Lorne Human Development Project in New Brunswick and 5th City in Chicago. A Lorne guest in Vogar presented a hooked rug to the sewing factory. The One-Year Celebration in June included a baseball game, picnic, pie eating contest, arm wrestling and a dance with local fiddlers and a jigging contest. T-shirts with "Vogar on the Move" were sold.

VII. Youth Action Corps

The Young Canada Works team helped in the Headstart and swimming program this summer. They painted the Catholic Church and Vogar Hall, built a change shack at the beach, and kept the cemetery

and ditches free of brush. Two hockey teams have been organized. A coach has been named for both the PeeWee Boys and the Mens team; the MMF is helping get equipment; Canada Works will ice the rink and supervise skating; and various events are planned to raise money to pay for the light bill. Gym nights are held twice a week for older youth and adults, supervised by parents.

VIII. General Construction Team

The Canada Works team has put a cement foundation under Vogar Hall, shingled the roof and built new front steps. Two old houses have been torn down and two more renovated for use as storage sheds. Sidewalks have been built around several new homes by Canada Works.

IX. Civic Works Force

The public sidewalks have expanded with the addition of wooden bridges over wet areas. The dump has been bulldozed, and the area around the Church and Hall brushed out. New culverts, donated by the Rural Municipality, have been installed at driveways to facilitate drainage.

X. Public Services Complex

The Provincial dental team worked at the school, screening children and providing treatment. Another water well was drilled at an elder's home.

XI. Industrial Development Corporation

Vogar Construction Company, initiated in the spring with a Special ARDA grant and CEDF loan, now employs 6 men and 1 woman. They have completed their first home in Vogar, a renovation job in Moosehorn, renovation of Vogar Products' new building, and have started two more new houses. Vogar Products received a LEAP grant of \$43,000 and will soon move into a fine facility in a renovated school house. A marketing trip to Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal initiated the eastern market for WABB-A-WON Quilts and Wallhangings and provided an opportunity to test the new colour catalogue. Research continues on a 3rd industry. As a symbol of their decision, the men on the local committee have located suitable land in Vogar and committed their labour as equity toward obtaining a building.

XII. Regional Shopping Centre

The Vogar Store continues to do a brisk business averaging \$8,300 per month cash flow over the summer. A Vogar family has received a Special ARDA grant and CEDF loan to purchase the store. Plans include adding a pool room and small snack bar to the store and starting a repair garage in an adjoining building.

XIII. Diversified Agriculture Cooperative

Pigs and geese have been evident in the community and many families cared for garden plots. Increased beef prices have been a great help to the surrounding farmers.