

## Rent-A-Kid!

A year ago, the West End Neighborhood Service Center initiated a unique program to busy the idle hands and minds of hundreds of jobless, moneyless kids desiring work during the summer. Many of these children were under 16 and financially dependent on themselves. They wanted to earn money so they could go back to school in the fall with adequate money for clothing, transportation to school and lunch money.

Appropriately called Rent-A-Kid, the non-profit program last year operated on a shoestring budget and was able to organize, supervise and place about 400 children in jobs throughout the Atlanta area. The program was so popular with kids themselves that by the end of the summer there were many, many more boys and girls on reserve waiting lists than there were actually working.

This summer, the Mayor's Council on Youth has expanded the Rent-A-Kid program to tap the youth resources in ten underprivileged sections throughout the five county Metropolitan area.

A picture of the average Rent-A-Kid reveals that he is 15 years old, has six brothers and sisters, lives in a household where there is no father and his mother works. He lives in public housing, shares a bed with at least two other children and eats one and a

half meals per day. His family's income is less than \$3,000 per year. He is as eager to work as he is to eat.

Rent-A-Kids can mow lawns, trim shubbery, clean flowerbeds, wash windows, move furniture, clean out basements, attics and garages, paint (with supervision), mend and hem, iron, babysit, wash cars and many other things that are not listed here. Chances are, if the public needs a job to be done that is not listed here, a Rent-A-Kid will be able to fit the bill.

They are available from Mondays through Fridays from 9 to 5 and on Saturdays from 9 to 1. They work on an hourly basis with an average charge of \$1.35 per hour or 75 cents an hour for babysitting during the day. The charge, however, is flexible depending on the type of work to be done.

The kids are willing and eager, but the success of the program depends entirely on the jobs available for them. This is where Metropolitan area residents come in. Look around the house. Look around the yard. Look around the basement or the attic. Look at all that you wish to do and do not have time to do.

Then, think of the many children who beg, "Do you know where I can get a job?"

And call 577-5252. You need the help. . .