

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION -- PRICE NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE CENTER AREA

Citizens participation in the Price Neighborhood Service Center area is relatively wide-spread. From the beginning of our existence, May, 1965, we have had organized neighborhood groups to determine existing problems, and help to find solutions to these problems.

For the last 12 months, we have broadened this community participation to neighborhood participation. We have 25 organized neighborhood groups, or block clubs. These groups meet and discuss neighborhood, as well as, community problems, and at the same time, they are exposed to total city resources and problems. Neighborhood groups also have representation on the over-all Center Advisory Council.

This council serves as a sounding board for all problems from the individual areas as well as an excellent vehicle for the Center staff to relate to the community.

In addition to block organizations, the Center staff has involved scores of neighborhood, social, and church groups at their requests who had specific interests for group needs. We have organized five groups that saw a need for day care services in their community. Two of these groups were successful in getting two large day care centers.

From a nucleus of a small group of businessmen from the area, we organized two business improvement clinics. These clinics, ten sessions, had an average attendance of 50 persons. Two similar-type clinics were organized with residents of the area who managed apartments. These residents wanted to gain knowledge on how to properly care for the property and work with the residents.

In September, 1966, residents of the area, interested in family day care, were organized to conduct training clinics and to help get the existing family day care programs up-graded.

One block club, that saw an over-all need for concentrated attention on many areas of problems, was involved in what we chose to call "Operation Exposure". Representatives from the area block clubs, interested in recreational services, have been involved in area recreational council. This council, during the summer of 1966, made approaches to City officials and land owners, and successfully established two equipped play-lots. This group has held many training sessions in an attempt to learn what is involved in an adequate recreational program and what community resources are presently available.