



Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc.

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Mayor Ivan Allen Jr., has proclaimed the week of January 12 "START NOW ATLANTA WEEK," urging all Atlantans to invest in the city's future by becoming involved in Economic Opportunity Atlanta's neighborhood information and volunteer programs.

In his proclamation Mayor Allen states that even though Atlanta is one of the most progressive cities in the United States, some 160,000 citizens have not shared in Atlanta's growth and progress. The severe problems caused by this wasted human and economic potential cannot be solved without the immediate help of all citizens, according to the Mayor.

To assist those who want to become personally involved in solving these problems, Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc., Atlanta's anti-poverty agency, is introducing two new programs during "START NOW ATLANTA WEEK." One program offers poverty area tours led by residents of the area and the other offers new kinds of volunteer jobs.

I. POVERTY TOURS. For those who want first hand information about Atlanta's slums, twenty-two poverty area residents have volunteered to lead tours in their neighborhoods to show what progress

they have made through their own efforts and what obstacles they still face. They call themselves V.I.P.'s, or Volunteer Information People, and are members of EOA neighborhood self-help groups in 14 low-income areas served by EOA neighborhood centers.

Groups or individuals interested in arranging tours should contact Mrs. Mary Lu Mitchell, EOA Public Information Director, 525-4262.

II. VOLUNTEERS. For those who want to assist the poor in their self-help efforts, EOA is coordinating a new volunteer program. Volunteers will either develop their own projects, work in partnership with block clubs in low-income areas, organize study groups in their own neighborhoods or accept specific assignments at agencies or centers.

The first training program for volunteers will be conducted on January 22, 23 and 24.

Groups or individuals interested in volunteering should contact Mrs. June Sammons, EOA Volunteer Coordinator at 525-4262.