



Guy Bartolacci

Doris Whitehead

Clarine Boyer

Father Peter Vandergeest

Open house marks 15th anniversary

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Neighborhood Center honors 5 persons

The Easton Area Neighborhood Center is celebrating its 15th anniversary. Last night the private, non-profit community organization held an open house in honor of this milestone.

A short program included a review of the center's history and the presentation of community service awards to five area persons.

The center was founded in 1967 as a result of two separate events. One involved a survey of youth living on Easton's South Side. The survey was conducted by the Youth Committee of the Easton Area branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The survey found a need for a gathering place for young people on the South Side. The City of Easton responded to a request for help by providing the building and playground facilities currently used by the center.

At about the same time, the Community Action movement came to the area with the formation of the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley, Inc. Community Action programs were mandated by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to insure the provision of necessary human services to low-income individuals. CACLV subcontracted with the center to provide

these services in Easton. This relationship continues today.

The center's goal always has been to increase the independence and self-sufficiency of low-income residents. On the individual level, the center reaches out to people, determines their needs, refers them to appropriate agencies and provides support counseling.

On the group level, it helps in the formation of community groups in its target areas — Delaware Terrace, Kennedy Gardens and Dutchtown/Gallows Hill — and works with them to resolve community problems.

The center also provides community programming for children, adults and senior citizen.

In 1970, members of the South Side community banded together to form the Easton Area Neighborhood Center Federal Credit Union. The credit union has encouraged many area residents to deposit money on a regular basis, and has provided loans to persons who would not be able to borrow elsewhere.

In 1977, the neighborhood center expanded its operations by opening an office in the Dutchtown/Gallows Hill area in support of Easton's revitalization efforts. The office provides the same services as available at the main office at 902

Philadelphia Road on the South Side.

During Thursday night's program, community service awards were presented to the following persons:

• Clarine Boyer, for her activity in many community organizations. She is secretary of the board of directors of both the neighborhood center and the credit union. She also is a board member of Project Aware of Northampton County Area Community College and the Boys Club of Easton, and is secretary of the Easton branch of the NAACP.

• Guy Bartolacci, president and chief operating officer of Laneco Inc., for his support of many community organizations, including the neighborhood center.

• Miriam Tibbetts, for her involvement on the board of directors of both the center and the credit union, and for other volunteer work in the community.

• Doris Whitehead, Living Section editor of The Express, for her support of the neighborhood center as coordinator of the annual menswear fashion show cosponsored by The Express and Easton area merchants. Proceeds from the show benefit the center.

• Father Peter Vandergeest, former pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, South Side, for his support

of many of the center's programs.

"These five individuals are being honored tonight because of their outstanding service to the community and to organizations like the neighborhood center," said Rafael Newell, president of the neighborhood center.

"Due to the budget cutbacks affecting social services around the country, people such as these will play an increasingly important role in the future of the neighborhood center."



Miriam Tibbetts