

*2nd Annual  
Dinner and Dance*

Friday, October 22, 1971

7:00 P.M. to 1 A. M.

V. F. W.

516 Northampton St., Easton, Pa.

*Join the Action Team !!!*

**EASTON AREA NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS, INC.**

Component of C.A.C.L.V. (Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley)



I welcome this opportunity to again have the privilege to extend my most sincere gratitude to those of our Easton Area, who have in anyway aligned themselves to the services rendered by the Easton Area Neighborhood Centers, Inc. Your involvement has been an important aspect in our program.

Even though we have endured adversities along the way, I feel our accomplishments are overwhelming. As we near the completion of our fourth year, it is one to be held in high esteem.

Easton Area Neighborhood Centers, Inc. will prevail; for those we service have a voice and a unique part in its operation.

A combined total community effort cannot fail. It is our permanent interest to improve the plight of those we serve. Therefore instilling dignity and pride in self, through wholesome activities and participation in our Community affairs.

Our door stands open to you to Join the Action Team and become involved in community progress through Easton Area Neighborhood Centers.

Nora Washington Kannon  
*Chairwoman Board of Directors*



Greetings:

If you are an observant commuter from Bethlehem to Easton via route 22, about mid journey, you would see a billboard which reads:

**“STOP IN THE EASTON AREA”**  
**THE COMMUNITY WITH**  
**100,000 HAPPY PEOPLE**

Now I believe you will agree with me that from all social indications this statement does not, by any stretch of the imagination, capture the essence or aggregate figure of our city.

I am convinced that whoever is the gentleman who so ably penned this sign, he had problems with it. Workmen have been known to fall from their ladders as a result of encounters with less inaccurate statements.

Very well, so there are some obvious questions of authenticity on the above statement, but it is conceivable that there are occasions when 100,000 Eastonians (let us accept the figure) could become a very happy people and, although we have not made provisions for so many, our second annual dinner dance is about to capture the festival spirit that could become a pervasive and widespread epidemic throughout our city. Most certainly, this is one of those happy occasions.

At this most festive time, on behalf of the members of our board, staff, friends and well wishers, I extend to our city government, churches, civic and private organizations and the many philanthropists who have faithfully responded to the call for a better community, Our sincere greetings and appreciation for the fine support received during the last year; most of all, to you the residents of our community whose positive social protest must win the spotlight, on behalf of the action team, I greet you.

It is to you that we, with humility, continue to hold the mandate of service; more importantly, in the knowledge that *the effectiveness of Community Action will become whatever you make it*, we say with great confidence: We will not fail you in tasks which lie ahead.



Mr. Robert Gilbert receives good wishes from Mrs. Smith and others at a farewell buffet held at the South Side Neighborhood Center. Mr. Gilbert resigned after two years as Executive Director of Easton Area Neighborhood Centers Inc. to accept a similar post in Chatham, Virginia.

## NEW LOOK AT SOUTH SIDE

Construction on the new addition to and renovation of the South Side Neighborhood Center began in October, 1970. Progress was slow because of weather and a strike, but through the coordinated efforts of funds from the Department of Community Affairs and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, we now have a new addition to our building and a newly-constructed in-city park with playground facilities. This is a step in the right direction to build, grow, and live together.

### Scholarship Fund

With the combined efforts of staff, teens, volunteers, and our local Food Lane Stores, our scholarship fund is growing. This again shows what community action is. The residents save their tapes for us, and we, in return, total the receipts and turn them in to the Food Lane for a percentage of the receipts. At present one scholarship has been made to one scholar to Lafayette College. Hopefully there will be more scholarships granted for the second semester.

### Tutoring Program

This is a coordinated effort between our Center, Lafayette College, and the Easton Area school district. Last year we had 165 children and 165 tutors from Lafayette College on a one-to-one basis in our tutoring program. This program is for children who have identifiable academic problems. The program will begin in November.

### Adult Education

Adult education was held in Shull Junior High School last fall. Twelve persons participated in this program to prepare for their G.E.D. (General Equivalency Diploma). Since the Easton Area School District discontinued this much-needed program for this year, the Community College is negotiating for funds to offer the program. The starting date will be announced soon.

### Day Camp

The Red Cross sponsored and financed a four-week Day Camp, which was well planned by Director, Carlos Diaz, and the staff of the Easton Area Neighborhood Centers. The camp, in its third year, provided

daily recreation for 135 girls and boys between the ages of 5 to 13. Cooperating with the Red Cross and the Easton Area Neighborhood Center were the City Recreation Bureau, the Redevelopment Authority, the First Presbyterian Church, and the College Hill Presbyterian Church, which provided additional paid staff, plus volunteers from different agencies. Our bus was used to transport children over from Center City and to the pool. After the closing of our Day Camp, we continued on an informal basis with ProJeCt Summer '71. Our bus provided the transportation for field trips and to Heil Pool.

### **Emergencies**

Between 300-400 families have received emergency assistance through our Centers in one form or another. Food vouchers were provided by First Presbyterian Church and food donated by St. John's Lutheran Church, St. Francis Friary and St. Joseph's Church.

We were also able to secure housing for some needy families and provided some financial aid to others, plus toys and mittens were donated to us to help make Christmas a little happier for the children in the area.

Donations of clothing and furniture to us is also given to the needy. Furniture and children's clothing is desperately needed here at the Center for people in need.

### **Street Ministry**

Two boys were hired through the Easton Area Neighborhood Centers and ProJeCt to work with the youths in the streets. They dealt with drug users, run-a-ways and the problems in the circle. This we feel a very worth while experiment and we would like to see it continue.

### **Housing**

Housing is a major problem in the Easton Area. (Continuation of housing on Center City's report with total overview.)

### **Employment**

Between 40-50 persons were placed on jobs or in training programs throughout the Easton Area.

### **Neighborhood Youth Corps I**

The City of Easton and other non-profit organizations provided summer jobs for 110 children between the ages of 14-17 through the Neighborhood Youth Corps I program. Upon recommendations from the Supervisor in the Easton Area, 8 children were placed in jobs in the N. Y. C. I in-school program.

### **Neighborhood Youth Corps II**

The Neighborhood Youth Corps II program is a program designed for drop-outs who must attend remedial classes and a certain number of hours of work experience and vocational training to better themselves. At the present time there are 10 persons participating in this program. There were people in the program but many have returned to school.

## CENTER CITY BRANCH—1971 PROGRESS REPORT

In December of 1970 at 511 Northampton St. we commenced the operation of our program. With able assistance from Mrs. Thelma Crowell, our program director; Mrs. Patricia Dunkirk, our neighborhood aid; and Mrs. Mary Lou James of Easton Area Volunteer Association, our tutoring program was developed.

Tutors were provided through the E.A.V.A. and the A.A.U.W. (American Association of University Women) Mrs. James of the Trinity Episcopal Church provided the use of the church's educational building on Spring Garden St. She was able to match tutor's with the number of enrollees in the program.

Our program centered around the coordination of services with our manpower agencies. Employment for drop outs and in-schoolers was provided by the Neighborhood Youth Corps and Job Corps programs. Approximately (35) to (45) high school students had jobs throughout the summer months. Jobs were provided with the City of Easton, public and private agencies. The in-school program of N.Y.C. unfortunately provided only (30) and not (300) as was anticipated for the Lehigh Valley area. Consequently, Easton received (9) to (10) openings. The N.Y.C. program also has provisions for school drop outs.

Through our day camp at the South Side Center, a program which provided breakfast, swimming, arts and crafts, games, lunches, and bus transportation to and from the center, children from Center City between (5) and (13) years, received recreational and other benefits. The Easton Area Jaycees sponsored two field trips and over (100) children benefited from these sponsored trips.

Regretably, our successes in the areas of employment and housing, very much the priority concerns of Easton, have been minimal on account of national economic problems beyond our control. (i.e., particularly in the area of employment). Through the persistent efforts of Mr. Gilbert; our former director, some workers were placed at Baker, Ingersoll Rand, American Can and Metropolitan Edison Company.

Housing is in such a deplorable state for the poor in Easton that we tried to develop an escrow agency, but after meeting with members of city council in April, we had to concede that it was impossible to set up such an agency. However, 1971-72 promises a deeper look at this unhappy situation. Presently, construction is not gravitating towards housing the poor, and when land lords improve their property they must raise the rent in order to make a modest 200% profit.

There is some hope exemplified in our scholarship fund. The Easton Kiwanis Club donated (five) \$150.00 scholarships to be used by those in need. Further more, through the collection and return of food tapes to the Food Lane stores, a percentage of the aggregate bill is returned. In spite of our many problems which appear at times insurmountable we believe that within the last two years a light of promise has appeared in the spirit of fraternal benevolence. May it burn brighter in our city.

## WHAT OUR CENTERS DO

### Activities at Neighborhood Center:

#### 1. SERVICES AVAILABLE:

- a. Legal aide (free legal advice & counseling or low income residents).
- b. Job placement & counseling ( HRD & BES, screens & counsels, and place residents on meaningful jobs & in training programs).
- c. Children's Bureau Counselor (on duty each week to counsel youths with special problems).
- d. Educational Programs;  
Basic Education Program for adults  
Tutorial Programs for grades 1 thru 12  
G.E.D. ( Graduation Equivalency Diploma )  
All are coordinated by the Neighborhood Center and Comm.
- e. Library—offers a good quiet place for study and reading.  
A good collection of children and adult books, plus an excellent selection of reference books.
- f. Cooking Facilities— a big, well equipped kitchen for cooking classes or demonstrations, etc.
- g. Recreation— indoor and outdoor space for children, adult and the elderly to conduct a broad range of programs.  
Comprehensive summer Day Camp for children, ages 5 thru 13.
- h. Meeting space— a meeting place for any community, non-profit groups, especially those working toward community needs.
- i. PBX training (switchboard operator training)

#### 2. ACTION GROUPS ORGANIZED THROUGH CENTER:

- a. Housing Action
- b. Health Action (Well Baby Clinic)
- c. Recreation Association
- d. Willing Worker's Club
- e. Trojan Mother's Club
- f. Delaware Terrace Improvement Association
- g. Senior Citizen's Club
- h. Teen Programs

- (1) Social Activities
- (2) Summer Day Camps

- i. Federal Credit Union- (presently in formative stage, but expected to be operational by December, 1970). A consumer education program will be set up for the union membership.

## CREDIT UNION IS BORN HERE

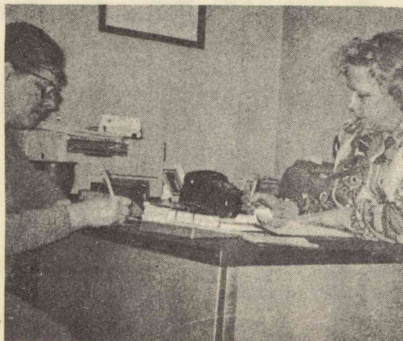
After a year of planning and a lot of foot work, a unique federal credit union was born at the South Side Neighborhood Center. Called the E.A.N.C. (Easton Area Neighborhood Centers) Federal Credit Union, the South Side group is one of only a handful of Pennsylvania unions which are organized out of Neighborhood Centers. A federal credit union is a group of people who save money together and lend money to each other. Our credit union is considered special because most members will be lower income people united by the "common bond" of living on Easton's South Side.

Under the guiding hands of a state credit union league representative, a core group of founders took on the titles and responsibilities of the newly formed financial institution. At the first organizational meeting, Mrs. Rachel Higgins was elected chief financial officer. Also at that meeting to everyone's surprise a non-resident purchased \$1,000 worth of shares. This action was made possible by a bill recently signed by President Richard M. Nixon which permits non-members to save but not to borrow from credit unions. At the close of the first organizational meeting 15 residents were paid members. After 10 months of operation we have 201 members and total liabilities and capital \$5,717.91. We have made 15 loans with a loan balance of \$1,092.55.

Mr. R. Wakefield Roberts, executive director of C.A.C.L.V. was pleased with the new institution because as he explained, this is the kind of self-help program that the Federal Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) had hoped to stimulate, "the very beautiful thing about the federal credit union is that it is a community people effort."

We also have 7 board members and a fine credit committee who acts on all loans plus a supervisory committee.

We have Mr. Robert Gilbert to thank for this Credit Union. This was a dream of his and it came true. Although we are still small we are growing.

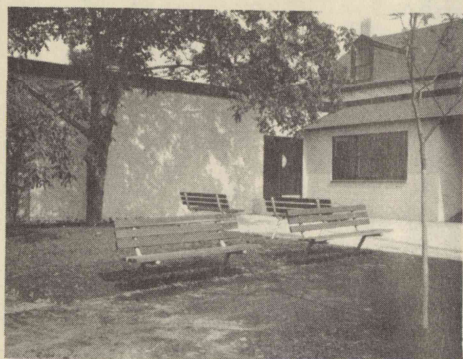


Mrs. Doris Hammerstone, 504-E Charles Street is being signed up as a member of the E.A.N.C. Federal Credit Union by the treasurer, Mrs. Rachel Higgins.





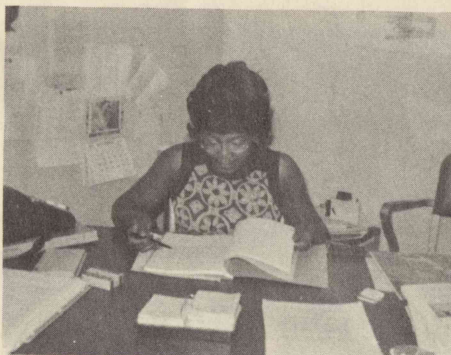
Board of Directors meets monthly to decide on policies, functions and operations of the Easton Area Neighborhood Centers.



Our New Look!



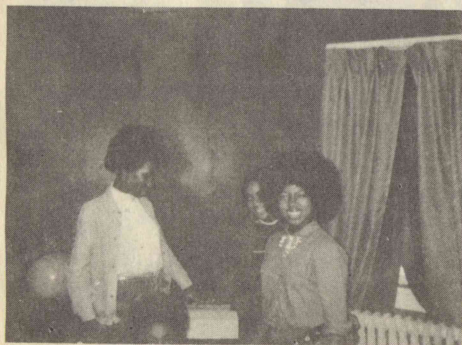
Minnie Smith, Program Director, assigns work schedule for the day.



Thelma Crowell, Program Director, Center City and aide Patricia Dunkirk reviewing SAPS II.



The Action Group—Delaware Terrace Improvement Association meets with Mr. Bob Rute.



A team dedicated to quality of action under the direction of Miss Joan Lockhart.

## BOARD MEMBERS

Mrs. Nora Kannon

Mr. Thomas Bright

Mrs. Penny Apgar

Mrs. Gloria Brown

Mrs. Lena Mason

Mr. Marvin Boyer, Jr.

Mr. Robert Davis

Mrs. Lillie Alford

Mrs. Pearl Griffin

Mr. Morris White

Mrs. Alice Gass

Mrs. Marion Seymore

Mrs. Ann Simmons

Mr. Jack Berry

Dr. Seidel

Mrs. Nocy Johnson

Mr. Ralph Litzenberger

Mrs. Helen Magee

Mrs. Bea Cohen

Mr. Robert Hertz

Mr. Herbert Wynn

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Dr. W. D. R. L.

APRIL 23 30