

THE VILLAGE OF

# SKOKIE

ILLINOIS



HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION  
1970

# ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
SKOKIE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Dr. Herman Bloch

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1970

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Honorable Albert J. Smith, President, and  
Members of the Board of Trustees  
Village of Skokie  
Skokie, Illinois 60076

Dear President Smith and Members of the Board of Trustees:

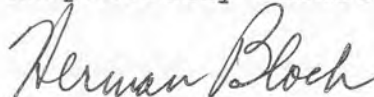
I am please to transmit herewith, for your information and consideration, the 1970 annual report of the Human Relations Commission.

In 1969, I identified before your Board four areas of major concern: inter-racial hostilities, inter-religious problems, the inter-generational gap, and the economic gap. Our problems in these areas are still with us; indeed, an off-shoot of the inter-generational division--the Drug Abuse problem--has assumed major dimensions. However, in each of these areas, the community made heartening progress during 1970. While not all of this is directly attributable to the work of the Commission, we believe that our efforts have helped to create a community climate which has promoted such progress.

The Commission and its committees have mounted active programs in each of the areas of concern, and their effectiveness during 1971 can be expected to become greater as the Executive Director assumes a more active role in formulating and implementing programs of the Commission.

With your continuing cooperation, we believe that our advances during 1970 toward the goals of mutual understanding and respect among the various groups within Skokie will be exceeded in 1971.

Respectfully submitted,



Herman Bloch  
Chairman

COMMENTS BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When I accepted the position as Executive Director of the Human Relations Commission and Youth Welfare Commission, I welcomed the opportunity to develop programs and implement a philosophy in a community with a commitment to the improvement of human relations.

Much time this past year was spent on the collection of data about the past activities of the Commission and other community organizations. In time I was able to understand the orientation of groups and determine the primary concerns of the community. This information has been the basis for specific Commission projects and was instrumental in stimulating activities by other organizations.

The material in the Annual Report reflects our analysis of the information collected. Of primary concern to the Commission and its staff is the need to fill the "vacuum of racial understanding" referred to in the report of the Education Committee by increasing our capacity to ask "hard questions" about the institutions in Skokie.

The problems of human relations in Skokie are not as explicit as those in other communities. Thus we must broaden our view of the *cause and effect* relationship and realize that while the causes of poor human relations may originate in Skokie, their effects are realized within and well beyond our own political boundaries. Those hard questions we have begun to ask focus upon an analysis of the race questions and the way institutional arrangements deny *equal opportunities* to all individuals and frustrate "understanding and respect between residents of Skokie of various racial, religious, and nationality backgrounds."

Harold Goldmeier  
Executive Director

CONTENTS

Introduction . . . . . Page 1

Report of Education Committee . . . . . Page 4

Report of Employment Committee . . . . . Page 7

Report of Housing Committee . . . . . Page 10

Report of Intergroup Committee . . . . . Page 15

Addendum:

Summary of Human Relations Programs Conducted by Other  
Community Organizations . . . . . Page 20

INTRODUCTION

*Dedicated to the belief that  
institutions are made by men and can  
be changed by men. - Let us be about  
the task.*

Knowles & Prewitt

Section 9-43. Purposes - The purposes for which this Commission is created are:

- A. To encourage understanding and respect between residents of Skokie of various racial, religious and nationality backgrounds.
- B. To safeguard the rights of all citizens as defined by our Ordinances, Statutes, and Constitution.

The Skokie Human Relations Commission is committed to a program of human relations which will meet the challenges presented in Section 9-43 of the Village Ordinance which established this Commission. The program of the Commission, and its implementation along the following guidelines, reflects our dedication to these principles:

- 1. to create better human relations requires an active program aimed at the education of individuals and restructuring of those *institutional arrangements* which support and promote racism, destroy inter-faith understanding, and frustrate communication and cooperation.

2. Each and every project requires the active involvement of the participants rather than passive observation--our programs are purposely planned to stimulate responsive acts which will ensure successful attainment of our purposes.

This past year the Commission, in recognition of its changing targets, again undertook the business of "getting ourselves together" for more effective operation. In May, there was a special retreat at which time we reviewed the history and past activities of the Commission, examined our powers, duties, pertinent ordinances, our relationship to other Village offices and bodies, and began to focus on current and future problems and objectives for the Commission.

In April, our Commission called together and hosted the first meeting of seventeen north suburban Human Relations Commissions, because we believed the time to be ripe for an attack on the broad range of human relations problems through cooperative and concerted action on a regional basis. This group met several times in other communities and began to focus on specific problems which could best be met through such cooperative efforts. An educational program for all commissioners from north suburban communities has been planned for early 1971.

There is no doubt that this coming year will bring more intensive examination of basic social issues and more definitive policy statements on specific issues. Our over-all program organization reflects the thinking of Commission members and the realization that the problems of human relations are multi-faceted.



The continuing deterioration of race relations, and, in particular, the role of a largely white suburb in a racially divided metropolitan area are the most significant and crucial problems which demand our immediate and persistent attention. The Commission fully recognizes one of the most important findings of the March 1968 "Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders" to be true and meaningful and a portent for all concerned citizens who desire a stable metropolitan community with liberty and justice for all: *What White Americans have never fully understood--but what the Negro can never forget--is that white society is deeply implicated in the ghetto. White institutions created it, white institutions maintain it, and white society condones it.*

This year-end report is more than a catalogue of past activities; it is a reflection of our evolving philosophy as mirrored in the implementation of our program. Ours is a philosophy and program designed to deracinate the community and to promote intergroup cooperation.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Traditionally, the Education Committee of a Human Relations Commission focuses its efforts on attitudinal change within individuals who may be reached via the community's schools. It may bring community residents together for a series of lectures-discussions with the hopes that through some fortuitous circumstances a) those "who need it" will attend, and b) those who attend will absorb the rationally presented lecture material into their emotionally active souls. Under some circumstances these programs can be quite successful; under most circumstances--even in a good year when "the public" is interested in the subject--the results are narrow in effect.

However, as this committee has learned from our past experiences, if program objectives are broad enough something positive is bound to result. Beginning in February, we co-sponsored with the Nilehi PTAs, Niles Township Human Relations Council, and Skokie Valley PTA Council, District 21, a six-session series entitled "The Challenge of Change." The program brought together serious-minded individuals and outstanding speakers to develop an awareness in the community of the need to better understand one another and to recognize the individual value of each person in our entire society.

It was interesting to note that although four of the five speakers made presentations directly related to black-white relations, the number one and number two most "pressing problems" in the community identified by the participants were *parent-child relationships* and the related *narcotic problem*.

Pursuant to this program we co-sponsored with the Youth Welfare Commission and the Skokie Valley PTA Council a series of "rap" sessions between youths and adults. . . Ultimately there emerged the "Report of the Mayor's Task Force: A Descriptive Analysis of the Drug Culture in Skokie."

The committee's attention has been brought back to *race and education*. We realize the need for our local schools to implement an active program in interracial and interethnic education. We are concerned that our children are growing up in a predominantly white environment too easily adopt the attitudes and preconceptions about America's racial minorities which make it difficult for all Americans to work together in solving those serious social problems confronting the nation.

We are concerned about our young people and the omissions, distortions, and racist assumptions with which they grow up. This committee is concerned that Skokie, like other suburban communities, is contributing to the depressed education of racial minorities in central-city schools and the miseducation of white children in suburban schools. How can this be? Those young people who pass through our schools without having been prepared to recognize, understand, and deal with the racial contradictions in our society, carry their attitudes into their careers, for one example, into the teaching profession. The knowledge they never acquire, or the poor attitudes toward other racial groups they do acquire, have serious effects upon their professional capabilities whether in

education or in other careers. The deracination of Skokie can cause positive repercussions well beyond our own political boundaries. Future programs will help to meet these needs and fill the vacuum of racial understanding that presently exists.

The committee, through the staff of the Commission, met with several groups of parents from School District 65 (which includes portions of Skokie) who remain concerned that neither the children nor their parents have been getting the most out of the School District 65 integrated school plan. The expressed concerns ranged over a wide field including their dissatisfaction with the busing program, because white children from some schools do not have a chance to go through black neighborhoods; the rejection of school PTAs by black parents because they have been excluded from decision making positions for so long; the need for human relations training for all new teachers and more intensive training of experienced teachers and administrators. We also met with the Human Relations Committee Chairmen from the three campuses of Niles Township High School in order to maintain open communication with our teen-age counter-parts.

The Skokie Human Relations Commission is very much involved in finding solutions to these problems.

1970 Annual Report  
SHRC

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS  
203 North Wabash Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60601

and

NILES TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL PTAS  
NILES TOWNSHIP HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL

SKOKIE VALLEY PTA COUNCIL, DISTRICT 21  
SKOKIE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

present

THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE

Wednesday Evenings, 8:00 P.M.  
Niles East High School  
Assembly Room

FEBRUARY 18

NCCJ DISCUSSION LEADERS:  
Mrs. Diana Beliard  
Mrs. H. L. Schuman

UNDERSTANDING PREJUDICE  
Dr. Paul Mundy, Professor  
of Sociology, Loyola University,  
and Consultant to Skokie Human  
Relations Commission

FEBRUARY 25

EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, AND  
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
MINORITIES IN THIS AREA  
Reverend Emory Davis, Professor  
at Kendall College, Evanston

MARCH 4

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO INTEGRATION  
Les Brownlee, Journalist and  
Newscaster ABC-TV

MARCH 11

YOUTH CONFLICTS WITHIN OUR  
COMMUNITY?  
Jim Lewis, Field Director, Youth  
Outreach Services, Leaning Tower  
YMCA, Officer Ken Cody, Skokie  
Police Department, Patricia Weiss,  
Student at Niles West High School,  
Merik Garland, Student at  
Niles West High School

MARCH 18

AMERICA'S CHALLENGE AND THE  
AFRO-AMERICAN  
Everett Colton, Instructor at  
Niles East High School, and  
recently visitor and student in  
Ghana

MARCH 25

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT ALL OF THIS?  
Overview of program series  
How can our community act to  
meet the challenge of change?

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

*Jobs are the live ammunition in the war on poverty,* said Labor Secretary Willard Wirtz. He added, it's up to business and industry to pass the ammunition! Few suburban communities have such an opportunity to play a vital role in equalizing the disproportionate levels of income and the accompanying frustration and alienation between whites and blacks.

"The (1969) Comprehensive Plan" for Skokie states in part:

*There has been a marked increase in the area occupied by commercial development--from 45.7 acres in 1945 to 392.0 acres in 1967 (p. 13).*

*Industrial development absorbed a substantial area between 1945 and 1967--from 137.1 to 718.7 acres . . . . This use now occupies 11.5 percent of the total developed area, which is larger than in many suburban areas and much above the average of seven satellite communities (p. 17).*

In 1970, the Employment Committee identified for attention three major aspects of institutional racism: discrimination in the hiring of blacks and Spanish-speaking people; the underemployment of racial minorities in Skokie facilities; the low level of participation to which the purchasing powers of Skokie businesses, industries, schools, hospitals, parks, and government encourage "Black Capitalism."

The committee is aware that some employers and some unions still practice overt racial discrimination. While we will continue to root-out these racist policies, we will also be concentrating on the more covert types of discrimination.

For instance, one area employer related an incident in which he had hired a black veteran (just returned from Vietnam), but the union business agent demanded, under threat of a strike, that the black man be fired because he did not have a union card. At the same time, the agent refused to register the employee in the union. In this case the employer challenged the union and threatened to take the case to the National Labor Relations Board if the union were to call a strike. There was no strike. Today the black veteran is working as an equipment operator, but is still not a member of the union.

Such factors as in-plant promotion policies, locked-in job assignments, clandestine agreements between employers and employment agencies, and pay-scales of Skokie employers too low to support a family, all bear investigation: *the suburban-area employers support poverty in the city when they pay a man with four to six dependents a salary of \$5,000 per year.*

In an effort to meet our objectives we made a small attempt to have various local employers set aside job slots for trainees involved with the Skokie Valley Training Association. We are pleased to report that the Village Government made three positions available to SVTA.

Finally, we need the cooperation of local business, industry, social service agencies, and government to open bidding for contracts for merchandise and service to minority group businessmen. This is a commitment to the improvement of economic

conditions by the use and development of financial resources in poor communities. Where economic interaction is already occurring it should be expanded; in other cases, new purchasing policies should be implemented. White people control the wealth of this nation, and, therefore, control its institutions. Only through the reform of our employment practices and the exercise of responsible ownership policies will black America fully participate in our economic institutions. So long as the inequities remain, local human relations are strained.



HOUSING COMMITTEE

From our experiences throughout the year, the Housing Committee is learning to understand the tenacious web of patterns and practices in housing discrimination which persist in predominantly white communities such as Skokie. Housing, as an institution, plays a unique role in the climate of human relations. Race prejudice in housing is, first-and-foremost, a denial of the basic constitutional right. The denial of a housing accommodation can often force a man to seek a different job, or deny his children the best education he believes they can get.

Our community has made a firm commitment to correct those patterns and practices of housing discrimination in existing properties and in the construction of new properties. To this end, the Commission made the complete Fair Housing Ordinance available to the public in pamphlet form; produced and is widely distributing the brochure "Your Housing Rights in Skokie" (one employer requested 100 copies to distribute to interested persons in his employ). We enforced Section 10-47 of the Fair Housing Ordinance commonly entitled "An Act Prohibiting Certain Acts of Discrimination by Real Estate Brokers," which requires all licensed brokers to POST and MAINTAIN in a CONSPICUOUS PUBLIC AREA in their place of business the provisions of the ordinance (over 75 percent of all Skokie real estate offices were found to be in compliance while others were given letters of warning and a poster). With the cooperation of *The Skokie Life* and *The Skokie News* newspapers, the following ad has been appearing (courtesy of the papers) weekly in the

real estate section of each paper:

*Skokie has Fair Housing Ordinances which guarantee to all persons an equal opportunity to purchase, lease, rent or occupy housing and other real estate without discrimination based on race, religion, color, national origin or ancestry. These ordinances apply to real estate brokers as well as individual persons. For further information, call 673-0500 x257.*

In accordance with the spirit of our local Fair Housing Ordinances, we attempted to create an atmosphere of conciliation in which all complaints of alleged housing discrimination could be resolved. We were not always successful. We found that strong Fair Housing Ordinances do not automatically ensure equal opportunity in housing. The subtleties of discrimination and the sensitivities of human beings faced with discrimination and frustration play a large role in determining the outcome of a case, regardless of the equities involved.

In 1970, three formal complaints were filed with our office charging individual property owners with violation of the Fair Housing Ordinance. In each case, the same black family-- already Skokie residents for two years and seeking a larger apartment-- was denied the right to rent the apartment of their choice solely because of their race. For six months they had been answering ads but when they went to see the apartments for rent they were told they had already been rented. Frustration compelled the family to seek legal relief in order to secure an accommodation. In all three cases, the Human Relations Commission found probable

cause for the allegations made in the complaints. The first case was conciliated: the owner signed a statement that she "understands the provisions of the Fair Housing Ordinance of Skokie and (intends) to comply with those provisions in the future." A combination of factors allowed for this conciliation agreement: in the course of investigating the charges made in the complaint the apartment in question was rented to a third unknowing party; by the time of the conciliation meeting the complainants were negotiating for another Skokie apartment; and in addition, the complainants felt the antagonism of the owners would make living in the apartment a hardship.

The second case is being litigated in Circuit Court. During the course of investigation of this complaint the Village obtained an injunction which prevented the owners from renting the vacant apartment until the matter was settled. However, the sale of the building frustrated our efforts to secure the apartment for the plaintiff.

The Commission recommended that the third case be taken to Federal Court through the offices of the Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities. In this case, the owners agreed to rent the apartment to the black family who now live in the apartment.

Our experiences made it clear to the Commission that the Rules of Procedure for the enforcement of our present ordinances are too cumbersome to ensure swift and effective resolution of the allegations made in housing complaints. We are now revising the Rules of Procedure so that the intentions of our ordinances can

be fulfilled more promptly and justly. In summary, the following improvements are presently under discussion:

a) the Director of Human Resources would be empowered to determine probable cause for the allegations made in a housing complaint, eliminating the need for calling a special Commission meeting;

b) upon finding probable cause a panel of 3 commissioners and any licensed attorney would conduct a conciliation conference, at which time all involved parties would review the situation and attempt to reach an equitable solution. If no agreement were reached, the panel would consider their findings of fact in executive session immediately upon conclusion of the conciliation conference, and prepare its recommendations - *in place of holding a public hearing on the complaint.* These recommendations could include dismissal of the complaint, a request to the Village Manager that the Corporation Counsel institute court action for the enforcement of the ordinances, or other appropriate action.

We are attempting to go beyond compliance - *by discussion, publicity and other means of public education we hope to create an atmosphere of agreement with and acceptance of both the letter and the spirit of Skokie's Fair Housing Ordinances.* Our objective is to provide every individual an equal opportunity to a decent place to live.

There have been discussions about the need to relieve inadequate accommodations and over-crowding in the cities by building low and moderate income housing in the suburbs. This

committee believes that a sincere effort should be made to increase the supply of housing to low and moderate income families. The committee will continue to inform the public of the facts that the nation-wide crisis in housing arises from discrimination and the meager availability of accommodations.

INTERGROUP RELATIONS COMMITTEE

We are living in an age of co-presence. Pluralism has replaced assimilationism as the watchword of the day. The ability of different racial and cultural groups to live in peace with one another is reflective of each group's contentment with its own station.

In one sense, intergroup relations in Skokie are satisfactory. There are few outward manifestations of the tensions that have on past occasions surfaced between Jews, Catholics, and Protestants. Problems which were called to our attention this past year most often had to do with name-calling of an ethnic nature and usually involved children.

In December, a meeting of Social Action Committee representatives from religious institutions and Skokie-area schools was held. It was suggested that many inter-faith problems result from class antagonisms, and that any active program designed to promote inter-faith understanding must, as Rev. Norman Roberts suggested, be taken "out of the hands of the clergy and into the hands of the lay people if we want things to happen."

Noteworthy efforts were made to better inter-faith relations: during the Jewish New Year, St. Peter's Catholic Church posted a large sign on the front of the church wishing a "Happy New Year To Our Jewish Friends." Temple Judea reciprocated by placing a Christmas greeting sign outside the temple. Certain lay leaders met to develop programs which will open the lines of communication between individual Protestants and Catholics and Jews. The clergy launched a pilot inter-faith service at which different

religious beliefs and practices were explained.

This committee urges the continuation of all programs which will encourage understanding of other peoples. It should be noted that an advisory committee to the Human Relations Commission has been formed from among those who were invited to the inter-faith meeting. We hope that they will provide the Commissioners with new insights, and that we can all share ideas in organizing inter-group and inter-institutional programs to create better relations.

Over-all, the anxieties and threatening psychological factors which cause mistrust between different religious groups--while still present at the national level--appear to have been reduced at the local level because of the following two elements:

1. those factors threatening to particular groups caused by and/or heightened by their economic instability have diminished as the level of income and, therefore, their feelings of security rose; and,
2. inter-faith relations were overshadowed by inter-generational conflicts which were problems common to Jewish and Christian families alike.

This committee is particularly concerned about that broad middle group of young people who appear to have become disenchanted with our community life and middle class values. While most young people have not adopted the new life-styles espoused by "hippies," they are adopting new social and political allegiances and philosophies which will continue to produce anxieties among adults. Such psychological threats to the adult population can

cause profound cleavages between young people and their parents. We urge the adults to deal realistically with these issues as they arise rather than (as the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights fears) "blaming social problems on minority groups, or projecting traits one wants to suppress in oneself upon members of such groups, or gaining feelings of solidarity with other whites by uniting in greater antagonism against (all young people and) nonwhites, or emphasizing the inferiority of others to reassure oneself about one's own worth." There is an urgent need to intensively examine and re-direct community institutions in order to alleviate the alienation and create an atmosphere of involvement of youth and young adults.

One manifestation of the disorientation of young people from the mores of their parents is the rapid spread of the use and abuse of drugs among youngsters. The Commission has appointed an ad hoc Committee to interact with the Youth Welfare Commission and other community groups involved in the problem. Both the Chairman of this committee (Mrs. Gorell) and the Executive Director are currently active participants in a village-wide effort, led by Mayor Smith, to find effective means for coping with this problem.

During the year, also, we became concerned about the attitudes of our police toward minority groups, and, by conference with Chief Chamberlain, satisfied ourselves that the training and behavior of our police toward such groups is better than that of most police forces. Means of further improvement are under discussion.



Finally, we have developed a program to reach some of Skokie's poor - those who are Senior Citizens. A recent Park District survey revealed that about one of every six homes has a senior citizen living with the family. Very often seniors have little money and are denied the availability of goods and services easily accessible to other residents. The low-rent senior citizen housing development in Skokie will be a welcome addition in providing a necessary service for seniors who have nowhere else else to live.

In an attempt to meet some surface needs, we co-sponsored a Senior Citizen Day with the Leaning Tower YMCA. Over 275 seniors attended the program which was designed to answer many questions they had about Social Security and Medicare, money management, health needs and care, community participation, and other more subtle questions. Many local social service agencies arranged display tables and had representatives present to explain the services available to seniors.

Another aspect of this program was the implementation of special reduced rates on prescription medicines for seniors who present their Medicare card to the pharmacist. In a four month period Katz Pharmacy, Township Pharmacy, and Church Street Pharmacy filled over 350 prescriptions for 250 senior citizens at cost plus a \$1.00 handling charge. Response to this program was excellent.

The example of senior citizens calls to our attention the fact that our institutions are not geared to adequately meet

the social needs of poor people. This committee will continue to strive to meet those needs. We are submitting a report of their activities in the area of human relations for this past year. We apologize to any organization which did not receive a questionnaire, and ask that it call our attention to the omission. Following are the responses we did receive \* \* \* \*

### Activities Reports

#### 1. Central United Methodist Church

- Co-operation with Christian Churches in this community for Daily Vacation Church School
- Septen Series of 1970
  - 1. Program given by Avon Gillespie
  - 2. Program on generation gap
- Preparations made for School of Human Dignity to be held on January 16, 1971
- Marcy-Skokis Camp at Peok Home, Polo, Illinois. (Black) (White)
- Participated in People Need People Program
- Encouragement and participation in Service of Christian Unity-- which could become an ongoing project
- W.S.C.S. Brotherhood Meeting  
"Bonds and Bounds For Us"
- Jewish-Christian Panel Discussions
- Participation in World Day of Prayer
- Church Sign in Front - "Wishing a Happy New Year to Our Jewish Friends and Neighbors."

ADDENDUM

The Commission sent a questionnaire to more than 50 community organizations requesting a report of their activities in the area of human relations for this past year. We apologize to any organization which did not receive a questionnaire, and ask that it call our attention to the omission. Following are the responses we did receive:

Activities Reports

1. Central United Methodist Church

- Co-operation with Christian Churches in this community for Daily Vacation Church School
- Senten Series of 1970
  - 1. Program given by Avon Gillespie
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"Bonds and Bounds For Us"  
Jewish-Christian Panel Discussions
- Participation in World Day of Prayer
- Church Sign in Front - "Wishing a Happy New Year to Our Jewish Friends and Neighbors."

- Brotherhood Meeting with Men's Clubs of Temple Judea and St. Peter's United Church of Christ
  - Confirmation class attended a Passover Sedar at Niles Township Jewish Congregation
  - Confirmation class attended a guitar mass at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church
  - Food Collection sent to Operation Breadbasket South Side Storehouse
  - Warm Clothing Drive for Operation Breadbasket American Indian Center on North Side
  - Participation with neighboring Methodist churches on dialogue with Spanish-speaking cultures held in Park Ridge
2. Fairview Schools PTA - Human Relations Course
- The Human Relations program at the Fairview South School was initiated by the Human Relations committee of the Fairview PTA with full cooperation from the administrative staff of the school. Classes were taught by Applied Behavioral Science, Inc. of Chicago and financing was provided by the Sears-Roebuck Foundation.
  - Two series of classes were held with the first group of fourteen, seventh and eighth grade students beginning classes on January 26, 1970 and the second group of eleven students on April 6, 1970. Classes were held twice each week--Monday and Wednesday after the completion of the regular school day.
- Needless to say, none of this would have been possible without the help and cooperation of Russel J. Mills, Superintendent

of the Fairview Schools, and Richard Medlock and Raymond Whitehead, Assistant Superintendent and Principal.

Classes ranged in subject matter from "Who Am I?" to relationships with peers, parents, other ethnic groups and those with different social backgrounds. Understanding and communication were the main objectives. Classes were structured to this end with a great deal of time for discussion and inter-action. During the fourth week a group of black seventh and eighth graders visited the school and participated in an exchange of views both on a group and a one-to-one basis. In the second session of classes, the Fairview students visited an all black school.

3. The Suburban Division of S.C.L.C.'s Operation Breadbasket

- The Suburban Division of Operation Breadbasket is made up of people from the suburbs who are interested in supporting the programs, philosophy and goals of S.C.L.C.'s Operation Breadbasket. The division was formed in April, 1968. Today it has members in nearly 40 communities and a mailing list of over 2,000 families.
- The Division is made up of several committees which direct their activities in relations to the program areas of Operation Breadbasket. We seek economic, educational, and political power for minorities, and make every effort to eradicate institutional racism in the suburbs.

Committees:

- The Hunger-Poverty Committee provided a large portion of the food and money for Breadbasket's Hunger Breakfast

Feeding Program. They are presently maintaining collections to foster Breadbasket's ongoing effort to feed hungry people. Educating the suburban public about hunger and awakening citizens and political representatives to be responsible for the needs of all citizens is a priority of this committee.

- The Direct Action Committee stands ready to participate in consumer withdrawal campaigns against major companies (i.e. grape, lettuce, and National Tea Boycott).
- The Political Action Committee serves to promote responsible action on the part of the people and elected representatives concerning the priorities of the people.
- The Black Economic Development Committee is exploring and researching companies on the north shore in respect to employment practices as well as their concern for housing. They will study the loaning practices of banks for business and personal needs. The committee also schedules black product demonstration for interested groups.
- The Community Education Committee publishes our monthly newsletter, prepares educational materials, such as pamphlets on welfare myths, and sends members of our Speakers Bureau to groups on request.
- The Fund Raising Committee coordinates events from which all proceeds are given to S.C.L.C.'s Operation Breadbasket for its projects.

- The Youth Committee enables students from various communities to work together on their own projects, in addition to participating in inter-group relations programs.
  - Religious Action keeps churches and synagogues informed of events and coordinates their support.
4. Niles Township Community High Schools PTA
- Co-sponsor of "Meeting the Challenge of Change" with the Skokie Human Relations Commission and Niles Township Human Relations Council
5. St. Peter's Catholic Church Women's Club
- Self-Education Series included Sister Helen Garvey B.V.M., Counselor from Flower High School in Chicago helped us explore, question and discover our social awareness quotient in reference to the "Other America." (Black Americans)
  - Deacon James Dluge led a lively discussion on the "Revolutionary Young Priest."
  - Rabbi Nathan Levinson of Congregation Kol Emeth spoke to us and answered questions on the "Passover as it is Understood and Celebrated in the Jewish Tradition." (The Catholic Women's Club and Human Relations Council of St. Peter's co-sponsored this program.)
  - Dr. Bart Heffernan, Dr. Gloria Heffernan, and Attorney Dennis Horan--members of the Illinois Right to Life Committee--discussed the "Rights of the Unborn Child." This was an open meeting. Invitations were sent to all

Jewish Synagogues and Christian Churches in the area.

6. St. Peter's Catholic Church Human Relations Committee

- The Human Relations and Ecumanism Committee of St. Peter's has been active in its first year of existance primarily in the area of ecumanism. To help foster a mutual understanding of the way in which Catholics and Jews worship, a group of students from Congregation B'nai Emunah led by Rabbi Stern, attended a Chrismas (season) Mass at St. Peter's. Also, a group of parishioners from St. Peter's attended an evening service at B'nai Emunah. On each occasion the respective groups remained after the services to ask questions relevant to the meaning of the services.
- In another attempt to help increase Catholic's understanding of the Jewish Passover the Committee invited Rabbi Nathan Levinson of Congregation Kol Emeth to speak to a group at St. Peter's on the significance of Passover.
- The people of St. Peter's are indeed fortunate to have an excellent group of guitarists who unselfishly donate their time every Sunday to lead the singing for the 10 a.m. Mass. Early in the year, the Human Relations and Ecumanism Committee sponsored a breakfast in honor of the guitarists to show them our appreciation for their services.
- Late in the year, at the suggestion of Mr. Thomas McElligot, and the approval of the Parish Council, the Human Relations and Ecumanism Committee implemented the placement of a sign over the front entrance of the Church which wished a



Happy New Year to our Jewish friends from the people of St. Peter's.

7. Skokie Valley Community Hospital

- A vigorous volunteer program involving residents of both sexes and an exceedingly broad range of ages (15-70's) in activities that benefit and enrich the services for the patient (and also help reduce costs for the patient through their services). This program includes managerial, as well as more mundane tasks, utilizing many talents, i.e., volunteers totally manage and staff reception-information desk in the hospital lobby - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day of the year; volunteers totally manage and staff the Gift, Snack and Thrift Shop providing needed services for the hospital family and making possible significant proceeds therefrom, and volunteers manage the blood bank function under the direction of the hospital pathologist, in addition to many other activities.
- The policies of the hospital specifically encourage and practically have achieved, a wide range of participation of all types of people, with various religions, races, and nationalities represented on the medical staff, trustees and employees. Housing patterns in the community seemingly restrict the participation of blacks on the medical staff and trustees because those members must reside in or primarily work in the Skokie Valley area. This localization requirement is a protection for the majority of the people who depend on and use these

medical facilities. Several black employees have held supervisory positions at SVCH.

- This hospital has been quite effective in employing elderly people with talent, in a broad range of positions, with quite a few very effective employees in their seventies.

- Free pre-natal classes are offered almost year around for expectant parents; a medical careers information program was organized in 1970 (and is being implemented in 1971) with the high schools. Health fair participation for the last few years, pamphlets on a broad range of health subjects are made available for patients, and visitors are resources we endeavor to enhance. An increased program of community education and involvement in the hospital and health care in general is continuing to be improved through the FRIENDS program as finances permit.

- SVCH is a locally inspired, completely voluntary, community service. The existence, continuation, high quality of care and growth of this hospital is one of the best human relations services in this area in and of itself.

#### 8. Skokie Valley Training Association

- The Skokie Valley Training Association began a program to hire, train and provide a means by which a disadvantaged person could compete on an equal basis with others in the labor market for entry level positions, and to effectively move up to more meaningful employment.

Pending the approval of a JOBS '70 proposal which is being reviewed by the Department of Labor, a formalized training class will be conducted at our new training facilities located at 605 Davis Street, Evanston, Illinois.

- Our organization has expanded from the initial five companies to the present ten organizations. We are always looking for new and interested parties to join, however, timing is of particular concern. New member organizations will be added to our JOBS '70 contract as an amendment some time in April or May. Any inquiries relative to membership should be directed to either K. Bowes, of G.D. Searle & Co., or G. Biefeldt of A.B. Dick & Co.

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