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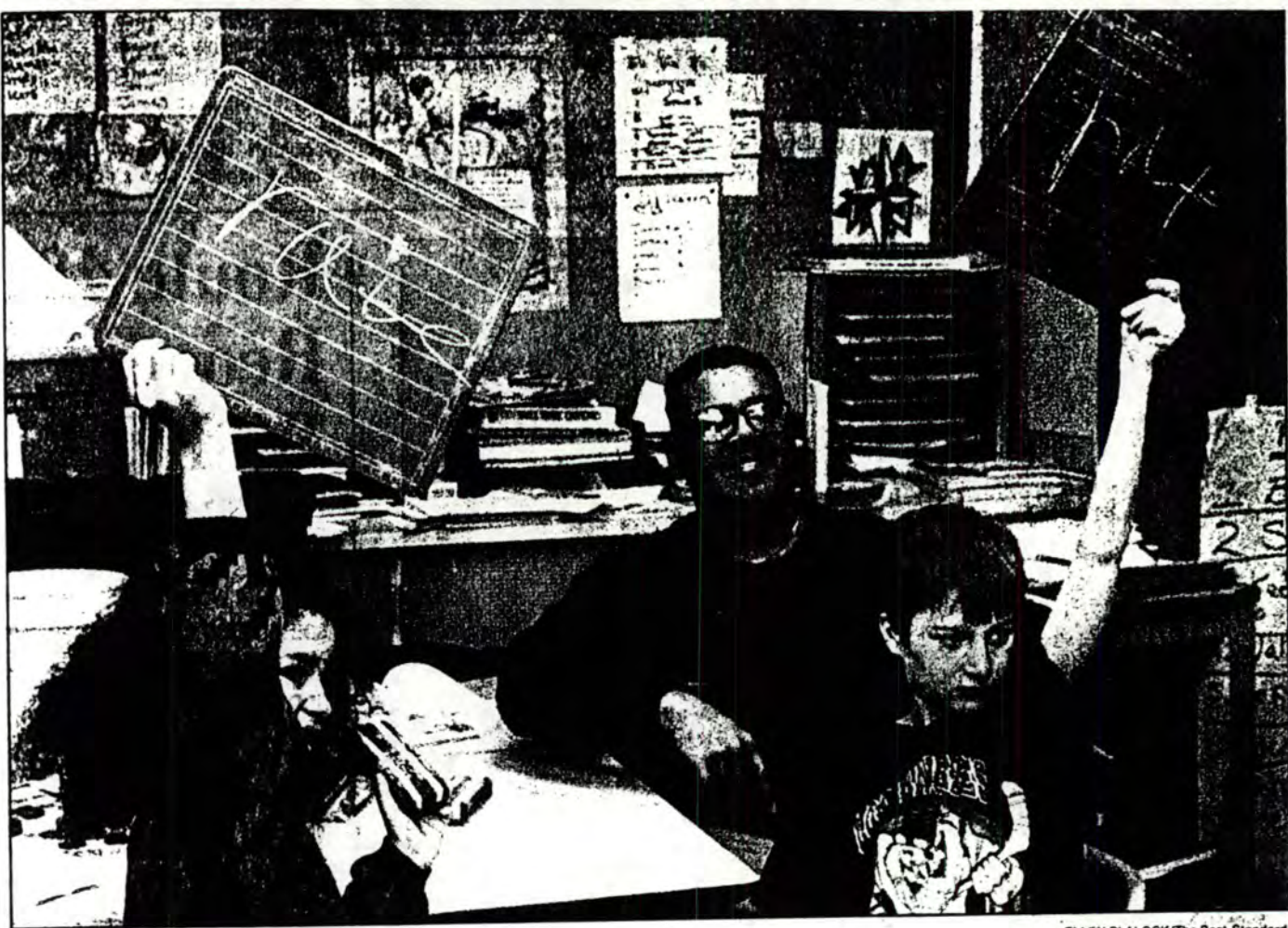
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ELLEN BLALOCK/The Post-Standard

Year Round Syracuse member Derrick Bacon, center, helps Juanita Copes, 8, and Steven Silvernail, 9, during their spelling class at Seymour Elementary School.

VOLUNTEERS DO THE WRITE THING

■ In tough economic times, a city elementary school gets a windfall — six volunteers from Syracuse's youth corps.

2/16/93

By PAUL RIEDE
The Post-Standard

With schools across the region struggling with fewer teachers and growing class sizes, Seymour Elementary has suddenly struck it rich.

Since Feb. 1, the school on Syracuse's near west side has been home to six volunteers from Year Round Syracuse, the city's version of a community Peace Corps.

Four days a week for the rest of the school year, the volunteers will help out in their assigned classrooms — tutoring, mentoring and even taking over classes for short periods.

For teachers like Johnny Williams, whose 30 students are packed together in tight rows and who "drive me crazy by asking questions every five minutes," the constant presence of volunteers like 17-year-old Melissa Clarke is a "blessing."

"It makes an awful lot of difference," he said. "Sometimes you can't talk to people the way you want to . . . One body is a lot of help."



ELLEN BLALOCK/The Post-Standard

Corey Pullen of Year Round Syracuse, helps fifth-grader Tanya Sanchez with her classwork at Seymour Elementary School.

That is particularly true at Seymour, a "continuous progress" school where students of widely varying ability levels are grouped together. Students in Williams' class Wednesday, for instance, were work-

ing on five different math assignments depending on their academic level.

"They've become indispensable, imme-

(See SEYMOUR, Page C-2)

Seymour Students Benefit Year Round

(SEYMOUR, from Page C-1)
diately," Principal Annemarie Spadafora said of the volunteers. "Now we wonder how we ever lived without them, when the need is so great."

She said she cleared the project with the school's teacher union representatives, who welcomed the volunteers. Mark Bailey, operations director for Year Round Syracuse, said his workers "try to assist, not to take over jobs."

Year Round, which in its first year has 41 young people working at various community locations, chose Seymour as its first school project because it serves a diverse and needy student population, Bailey said. The group hopes to expand the number of volunteers at Seymour to 10 next year, following the lead of its model organization, City Year of Boston.

City Year has 10 volunteers

each in four city schools, he said. Bailey, Spadafora and others visited one of those schools in November.

Year Round's volunteers commit to nine months of work in the community at \$100 a week in return for a \$4,000 grant for college.

Clarke, who plans to combine her last year of high school and first year of college in a program at Onondaga Community College next fall, spends her days moving around the classroom, helping students individually with their math and other work. But she said she is learning as much as they are.

"It's a learning experience twice that of high school," she said. "I really enjoy growing with kids."

She is only five or six years older than the students she works

with, and says she believes she can act as a "liaison" between the students and their teacher.

"I can remember more of what it's like to be in sixth grade," she said. "Actually, it's all coming back to me."

Another Year Round volunteer, 20-year-old Derrick Bacon, who will attend the State University at Buffalo next year, helps out in teacher Jay Guss's special education class. Wednesday, he sat in the back of the room, watching the lesson and talking quietly from time to time with students who approached him. He said he knows what many of them are going through.

Bacon's solution is to "pump 'em up with a lot of self-esteem."

"I try to give them all individual attention," he said. "If they get a right answer, they know they get a high five from me."

SYRACUSE HERALD-JOURNAL

"Ignoring party politics and pursuing an independent course, we shall not hesitate to discuss public questions and to support such men and measures as seem best calculated to advance the best interests of the people." ARTHUR JENKINS, Founder, in first issue of Herald, Jan. 15, 1877.

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IN OUR OPINION

YEAR ROUND SYRACUSE

Taking pride in first graduates

I challenge a new generation of young Americans to a season of service — to act on your idealism by helping troubled children, keeping company with those in need, reconnecting our torn communities. There is so much to be done...

With those words, President Clinton pitched his plans for national youth service in his January inaugural address. Our community can take special pride in already having a similar program — one that proves what a worthwhile contribution young people can make.

At 2 p.m. Friday, the first graduates of Year Round Syracuse will be honored in the Harry and Lillian Marley Education Center at Irving and Waverly avenues. The program's participants are pioneers in what we hope becomes an institution in Onondaga County — a corps of youths always available to help those who need it most here.

Forty of them, between the ages of 17 and 22, joined hands last September. Each agreed to accept \$100 a week to tackle local problems in Peace Corps-style. For nine months, they performed an amazing amount of work:

They filled more than 10,000 sandbags during the flooding. Tutored Latino families in conversational English and basic reading. Fed the hungry and homeless. Shoveled out snow-bound senior citizens after the Blizzard of '93. Acted as teachers' aides and mentors for elementary school pupils. Cleaned up neighborhoods and parks.

They worked more than 40,000 hours for many organizations, including the West Side Learning Center, Food Bank of Central New York, Ida Benderson Senior Center, Catholic Charities and the Rescue Mission.

What's more, they did this while proving the power of diversity. Their faces were roughly a mirror to our community. They included Vietnamese, a Native American, African-Americans, Latinos and European-Americans. Working in small groups, they learned from each other as they focused on common goals.

Their program, first proposed by Syracuse Mayor Thomas Young and modeled after one in Boston, has been a sterling example of public and private cooperation. Scores of local companies contributed generously to launch Year Round Syracuse, which offers \$4,000 scholarships to its graduates.

Of the original 40, all but eight stuck with the program, said its Executive Director Terrence Quigley. Others quickly filled all but one of those vacancies. Now, Quigley and his associates have the difficult but happy task of choosing 40 new corps members from 125 applicants for next year's program.

Clearly, the word has gotten around. This is a fine program. It's something special for youths and something very special for our community. These young people are performing a real service, filling the inevitable gaps in the services large communities require.

Knowing how hard these corps members have worked and how wide-ranging their experiences have been throughout Onondaga County makes us more hopeful for our community's future. Many of these same young people undoubtedly will become the leaders on which Onondaga County will depend in the future.

We only can hope Year Round Syracuse stays around. It's off to a great start.

LOCAL NEWS

Ceremony Honors 39 Volunteers in Urban Peace Corps

■ 'Year Round Syracuse' members receive \$100 a week for engaging in a variety of community service work throughout the county.

By MIKE FISH
The Post-Standard

In the last nine months, Melanie Doctor taught pre-K classes, administered after-school programs for elementary school students, instructed English as a second language to other students at a church, picked vegetables from fields to supply a food bank, and set up a new clothing distribution center for the poor.

And when rising waters flooded families living on Oneida Lake this spring, she joined hundreds of others who helped homeowners protect their property with sandbags.

But the highlight of Doctor's recent community service came in January, when she worked side-by-side with counselors of women inmates at Jamesville Correctional Facility. The experience heightened Doctor's desire to continue pursuing a sociology degree from

State University of New York at Cortland next year so she can return to prison counseling full-time some day.

The other prison counselors at Jamesville "treated me like an equal," said Doctor, a 1991 graduate of LaFayette High School. "It was great."

Doctor is one of 39 inaugural members of Year Round Syracuse, a sort of urban peace corps designed to get young people interested in community service while providing various community agencies with low-cost workers. They received certificates during a graduation ceremony Friday afternoon at Crouse Irving Memorial Hospital's Marley Education Center.

"You have met the challenges that have been neglected for too long in this country," said keynote speaker Christine Varney, a Syracuse native and lawyer who is secretary to President Clinton's cabinet. "Service is nothing less than the American way to change America."

Year Round Syracuse was initiated by Syracuse Mayor Tom Young, who unveiled the idea in his 1992 State of the City address. It is modeled after a program in Boston



KIM BAULDREE/The Post-Standard

Melanie Bartowski, a member of Year Round Syracuse, laughs as she shows her plaque to team leader Carolyn Gramstorff at the organization's graduation ceremony Friday at Crouse Irving Memorial Hospital's Marley Education Center.

called City Year, which has been hailed by Clinton as a model for the entire nation.

In exchange for their community service, participants ages 17 to 25 were paid \$100 a week and are now eligible to receive a \$4,000 stipend toward college or vocational school.

The program's first-year budget was about \$650,000. Of that, \$250,000 came from federal and state governments, \$50,000 from the city, \$25,000 from Onondaga County and the balance from pri-

ivate donors such as local companies and foundations.

The program began last year with 40 members. One or two dropped out on their own, and another five were asked to leave because they failed to live up to some "common-sense" rules, such as showing up on time for work and working hard, said Mark Bailey, director of Year Round Syracuse. Seven of those eight were replaced with new members.

Except for some administrative glitches that should be ironed out

over time, the first year was very successful, according to both members and agencies for whom they worked.

"We were delighted" by work done by the corps members, said Kathy Scholl, director of community relations for the Food Bank of Central New York, which used the young adults to harvest left-over vegetable crops from farmers' fields last fall.

Those interested in applying for the 1993-94 class can call Year Round Syracuse at 472-1950.



KIM BAULDREE/Contributing photographer

DICK MacPHERSON, former Syracuse University football coach, talks to the graduating class of Year Round Syracuse.

Wrapping up a year of community service

► Year Round Syracuse graduates told: "You represent America at its best."

June 5, 1993

By Frank Herron
Staff Writer

Herald-Journal

Melissa Clarke's former classmates at Nottingham High School will graduate on June 24.

Clarke, 18, received a diploma Friday.

Along with 38 others from ages 17 to 25, she was honored for completing a one-year community service program called Year Round Syracuse.

The piece of paper does not replace a high school diploma. She will likely earn that when she takes a GED test in July.

She has no regrets about forsaking a senior prom, math and a "Participation in Government" class.

"While classmates are in there listening, I'm out here doing," she said. "It's not for everybody, but it was right for me."

One of the highlights for Clarke was a four-month stint as a student teacher at Syracuse's Seymour Elementary School.

"I didn't realize I could work with children," she said.

In addition to earning a \$100-a-week stipend through the program, Clarke qualified for a \$4,000 grant to help pay for further education and training. She will attend Onondaga Community College

in September. She expects to pursue a career in child psychology or child advocacy.

Clarke and her fellow participants were praised Friday during graduation ceremonies in Crouse Irving Memorial Hospital's Marley Education Center.

"You represent America at its best," said Christine Varney, a Syracuse native who is secretary to the cabinet of President Clinton.

Varney, and others, acknowledged that the Year Round Syracuse project fits well with the President's vision of a nationwide service program for youths.

"You are reinventing America," said Varney.

Bruce Leslie, chairman of Year Round Syracuse's board of directors, said there is no guarantee the program will continue next year.

About 150 have applied to participate in the program next year.

"We would like to have the same size class of 40, but until we know what our funding will be, we don't know if we can have a group that size or perhaps larger," Leslie said.

Fund raising for the project continues to be a major effort, Leslie said. The program has a budget of \$640,000.

There are plans to give each youth the \$4,000 promised upon completion of their year's service, Leslie said, but there is some confusion over what that pledge was.

Leslie said the \$4,000 was meant to be used for each youth's education. The par-

ticipants completing service Friday were asked to fill out an application for the money, explaining how they planned to use it.

The program directors will then send the money to the school or institution the youth has indicated.

Alanda Davis, 23, a 1989 graduate of Corcoran High School, plans to enroll in the Simmons Institute of Funeral Service on South Avenue in Syracuse.

Yarvon Wright, 23, quit a job at Syracuse University to participate in the program. Wright said he was delighted to see how a diverse group of people could work together.

"A lot of people don't think that can happen," he said.

Students who graduated Friday included: Derrick Bacon; Latisha Barnett; Melanie Bartowski; Andria Bennett; Tiffani Bennett; Kathleen Burns; Anna Cerullo; Melissa Clarke; Jamie Clark-Stacey; Carrie Cummings; Alanda Davis; Archie Davis; Melanie Doctor; Vanessa Ellis; Rebecca Fuller; April Goodsell; Alon Hergenhan; Chanda Hicks; Diana Hong; David Honis; Shannon James; Heather Jordan; Becky King; William Laux III; Renee Loperfido; John Ludington; Kevin McIntyre; Roylan Nguyen; Brian Nichols; Corey Pullen; Robert Schlachter; Sharon Seaton; Leonard Shanes; Gretchen Slater; Laura Strojnowski; Jennifer Tarnacki; Kerri Topp; Shedrick Williams; and Yarvon Wright.

— Staff Writer Gary Gerew contributed to this report.

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• a year of community service

CORPS MEMBER APPLICATION

✓Are you interested in improving your community?

✓Do you live in the greater Syracuse area?

✓Are you 17 to 25 years old?

✓A team player?

What are your plans next September:

College? Job hunting? Working?

How about joining our team and serving your community?

This September, YEAR ROUND SYRACUSE plans to change the face of Syracuse.

Here's how:

You could be one of the corps members of YEAR ROUND SYRACUSE—greater Syracuse's "urban Peace Corps."

YEAR ROUND SYRACUSE joins young people from across greater Syracuse for an exciting and challenging year of community service. Working in small teams on useful service projects in and around Syracuse, you will repair housing for homeless people and help feed the hungry...or mentor children in classrooms and community centers...or care for the elderly and ill...or improve and beautify our urban environment.

And more. From September till June, you'll provide a full-time commitment, 9am-5pm, to making a difference in your community.

But while helping others, you'll also be helping yourself. You'll meet with community and business leaders, learn how our city works and what it needs. You'll gain real skills, like how to

rehabilitate low-income homes, plant trees and flowers to beautify our urban environment, and how to care effectively for both young and old people.

You'll be given the opportunity to pursue unique leadership and educational opportunities. You'll earn a \$100 a week living allowance, along with a \$4,000 higher education scholarship after your service. And when you graduate from YEAR ROUND SYRACUSE, your future college or job applica-

tion will stand out from the crowd.

More important, you'll be getting the leadership, work ethic, and life enrichment experiences of a lifetime.

It will be hard work. But it's team work. If you are up to the challenge, we encourage you to apply. Just fill out this application and send it back to us. The earlier you apply, the sooner you'll know—and the better your chances are of being selected.

*"Everybody can
be great, because
everybody can
serve."*

**Dr. Martin Luther
King, Jr.**

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• a year of community service

SERVICE PROJECT APPLICATION

EACH September, teams of young adults are sent into the community to meet some of the toughest challenges in greater Syracuse.

These young adults, ages 17 to 25, are the corps members of YEAR ROUND SYRACUSE—greater Syracuse's full-time youth service program.

In the spirit of a domestic Peace Corps, the program challenges young people to spend a year helping others, expanding their own horizons and graduating to become lifelong community volunteers.

YEAR ROUND SYRACUSE corps members work full-time, Monday through Thursday, on service projects lasting from one week to three months. Fridays are set aside for the entire group to come together for in-service training on various educational issues that affect their field service and life after service. From time to time, all teams work together on a short term project. Each team is supervised by a full-time team leader.

Corps members come from diverse backgrounds and experiences to spend a year giving something to their community. We believe that youth from different socio-economic, ethnic, and geographic backgrounds working together

in teams of 10 will gain from the experience, as they serve their community.

Corps members will be trained to perform vitally needed community service projects—including human services for senior citizens, homeless families, and youth in our schools. They will also be trained to revitalize neighborhoods.

Corps members receive a weekly training allowance and year-end service awards. They also develop new friendships, have hands-on experiences, and gain a better understanding of the needs of their community. More importantly, they have the opportunity to discover that one person can make a difference—and that young people, working together, have a lot to offer their community.

Funding for the program comes from federal, state, county, city and private sector entities, along with foundations and individuals.

The teams of YEAR ROUND SYRACUSE are putting their idealism to work. They could be working with your agency.

If you have a challenging service project that could be accomplished by a team of highly motivated young people, we hope you will complete and return this service project application.

Call (315)472-1950 for additional information.

***How can
we be of
service?***



DAVID WILKINS/Staff photographer

ALANDA DAVIS, 23, a tutor with Year Round Syracuse, helps Roger Flagg, 7, with his homework at the Southwest Community Center's homework club. Says

Davis, "We do more one-on-one work. That's important to building self-esteem at a young age." Davis plans to study to become a funeral director.

'Urban Peace Corps' helps participants

By Gary Gerew
Staff Writer

Dec. 21, 1992
Herald-Journal

Most Year Round Syracuse members talk about the different aspects of life they're seeing. Jamie Clark-Stacey talks about how differently people are seeing her.

"I'm an easy person to get along with, but some things have always been a challenge to me because I have

Good WORK PART 1

a learning disability, and when I get excited it's hard for me to talk," said Clark-Stacey.

"Because of this program, I've been able to help other people, hang out with people my own age, get a little experience and build up friendships and my self-esteem," said Clark-Stacey.

Clark-Stacey, 22, of 1402 Ivy Ridge Road sums up what Mayor Thomas Young had in mind when he proposed the Year Round Syracuse program in 1991.

Young said he wanted an "urban peace corps" to benefit the community and the individuals involved.

Those picked for the program are paid \$100 a week and given a \$4,000 education grant at the end of their year's service. Clark-Stacey plans to use her grant for a computer programming training course.

Forty people between ages 17 and 22 are hired. This year's program has 15 men and 25 women. They are divided

From Carrie Cummings' journal

"Not every day in the corps starts with eager anticipation. Especially when you wake up late and have no time to make a lunch. . . .

"A fight with a fellow corps member comes next, usually followed by the breakdown of your multi-cultural curriculum class.

"The kids don't listen or sit still and seem to have a lesson plan of their own.

"When you're ready to give up and ask God why you're there, something happens.

"My something's name was Derrick. Ever since the first day I met Derrick, I saw something special in him.

"I had tried to show him that he was loved by someone who had no one reason to love him except for the fact that he is.

"Then comes that horrible, no-good day when nothing goes right and you want to give up.

"That's when Derrick comes up and says, 'Will you help me read this book?'

"Derrick and I went outside and sat under a big tree together. Derrick sat on my lap for over an hour, carefully sounding out each word.

"The concentration on his face amazed me. On the very hard words, he would look up to me for reassurance of his efforts.

"Derrick learned so much that day.

"By the end of the book he knew words by sight that he had to sound out in the first few pages.

"A miracle. That's what happened to me on that horrible day.

"We, as corps members, may never see the results of our work, but they will come and be more far-reaching than we ever imagined."

— Carrie Cummings,
101 Ehrenbeck Road, East Syracuse,
member of the Harriet Tubman team

into four racially and socially diverse teams to tackle projects as a unit.

Clark-Stacey is one of 10 people assigned to the Year Round Syracuse program's Harriet Tubman team that this month has been working at the Southwest Community Center supervising recreation projects and helping children with school work.

"When people see that I can do this, I think they'll have a big difference in how they look at things," said Clark-Stacey, a graduate of West Genesee High School.

Alanda Davis, 23, of 515 Cortland Ave. said he's happy to be helping the community where he grew up.

"I used to come here when I was a kid," said Davis as he watched children settle down for a daily meeting of his homework club. "A lot of inner-city kids have no role models, and here they have a chance to think positive about us and what we're doing."

Davis said the team members also provide extra aid so more children can be helped at the center.

Davis had attended the Pittsburgh Art Institute but was working as a security guard in Syracuse when he heard about the Year Round Syracuse program last summer.

They're learning from the real world

► Year Round Syracuse staffers gain experience they won't find in college.

By Gary Gerew *Dec 22, 1992*
Staff Writer *Herald-Journal*

Johnny Polanco believes he has found a gold mine in an \$18,000 job.

"Every day is a learning experience," said Polanco, breaking off a conversation with a patron at the Ida Benderson Senior Center. "A lot of people believe college is knowledge, but there's more knowledge out here that can't be taught in school. This is a little gold mine of information."

Good WORK PART 2

Polanco, 23, of 60 Presidential Plaza graduated this year from Syracuse University with a degree in political science. While considering graduate

studies, Polanco heard about the Year Round Syracuse program and decided to apply for the city's community youth service corps.

He is now the leader of the corps' Eleanor Roosevelt Team, helping direct the 10-member unit as it tutors pre-schoolers at the Brighton Family Center, prepares meals at Hopps Memorial CME Church, and helps with activities at the senior center.

As a team leader, Polanco earns more than the \$100 per week the others do. He also can stay with the program when the team disbands next spring and prepare youths for the next Year Round Syracuse program.

"I'll be with this as long as they want me," said Polanco. "Ten or 20 years from now, this is going to be a big program because there's always going to be a need for it. And I'll be able to say that I was there when it started."

Polanco said the youths in Year Round Syracuse also act as role models for children in the community. He



CHANDA HICKS talks with Anna Osada, right, at the Ida Benderson Senior Center. Hicks is part of Year Round Syracuse's Eleanor Roosevelt

DAVID LASSMAN/Staff photographer

Team, which tutors pre-schoolers at a family center, prepares meals at a church and helps with activities at the senior center.

About the program

In Year Round Syracuse, a local "urban Peace Corps," 40 youths between ages 17 and 22 receive \$100 a week for nine months of work at social agencies. Then, corps members are given a \$4,000 educational grant.

Youths also receive team training, counseling, and a month-long independent, inter-agency placement to

meet their career goals.

The program's \$760,000 budget is paid equally with public and private money. It still needs \$280,000 from the private sector to meet its budget.

Those interested in applying for the program or making contributions may call 472-1950.

From Melissa Clarke's journal

"The sight of 35 people performing jumping-jacks at 8:30 in the morning would seem strange for some, but for me this type of physical training is an everyday occurrence.

"Soldiers for a better community, we are uniformed in blue sweat shirts and khaki pants.

"Even though our dress is alike, our personalities, ambitions and backgrounds contrast. We are uniform in one cause but are driven by different life experiences.

"Concluding the physical training, we gather together hand-in-hand. With a quote for the day and positive cheer, we let our hands and spirits fly.

"The Ida Benderson Center is for senior citizens pursuing a social climate as well as activities and lunch. There, I interview senior citizens about their life experiences and the Syracuse of yesterday.

"At 11:30, other corps members help serve a hot lunch. John Luddington, also a corps member, plays his guitar while we all sing along.

"After the the Ida Benderson Center, we meet at the Brighton Family Center 'club house.' In accordance with HIV/AIDS Awareness Week, we discuss our fear and knowledge of the

epidemic.

"At the end of the meeting, Roylan Nguyen and I discussed the curriculum we planned for children at the Nedrow Family Center.

"Each week, a different pair of corps members is assigned the task of planning the curriculum for a workshop we're teaching there on anger and conflict resolution and alternatives to violence.

"It is especially important that it is refreshing and an unforgettable lesson because it's crucial the children retain these lessons for everyday life.

"The children talk about pictures of things that make them angry. We talk about calming techniques to minimize anger.

"Year Round Syracuse has given me, and other corps members, the opportunity to return to the community what it has so graciously given to us throughout the years.

"It offers service, exposure to occupations in service organizations, a chance to make friends and a spectrum of lessons applicable to life.

— Melissa Clarke, 133 Niven St., of the Eleanor Roosevelt team

Learning from the real world

■ LEARNING

Continued from Page B1

hopes the youngsters will pick up the idea of community service.

"They always think they are supposed to get an education and then get an office job," said Polanco. "This is something that adds to education."

Rita Fratto, director of the Benderson Center, said patrons were suspicious of the youths at first, seeing many as threatening. She wasn't sure what work the youths would do.

"What's really been great about this is the socializing," said Fratto. "They are seeing young, viable, active people who are treating them with respect. When I saw that, my reluctance about having them work here changed."

The youths have helped Fratto survey center patrons to find out where they live and what help they need and reorganize the center's library. They also put together biographies of the people they meet at the center.

"I've realized that these people have added to the history of Syracuse," said Polanco. "One guy here used to be a boxer, another was a singer, and a lot of people have forgotten about that."

Derrick Bacon, 20, of 913 S. State St. said the work he's doing now will be useful to him in the radio and television career he wants later.

"Here, I'm getting great experience," Bacon said. "I'm getting more in nine months than others receive in the first three to five years on the job. What I'm learning is understanding and how to work with people, and that's going to help a lot."

Polanco also sees his work as a way of advancing in whatever career he picks.

"I'll always want to work with people," said Polanco. "I don't want to be confined to working with a machine in some office and here I'm developing rapport with people."

Mixing in with folks from a city community

► Year Round Syracuse workers overcome prejudices about urban living.

By Gary Gerew
Staff Writer

Dec 23, 1992
Herald-Journal

The job for the day was to start filling the blank walls of the North Salina Street Catholic Youth Organization gym with a mural. But for members of the city's Year Round Syracuse program, the work also was filling blanks in their knowledge.

"When we first started, people weren't aware of the program and just thought we were some kids getting together," said Yarvon Wright. "They didn't know that many of us are older, have an education and want to do something for the community."

Good WORK PART 3

Wright, 23, of 136 Pierce St. was attending State University College at Fredonia when he heard about Mayor Thomas Young's "urban Peace Corps" and decided to apply for one of 40 spots with Year Round Syracuse.

As part of the Martin Luther King Jr. team, Wright earns \$100 a week for teaching children, helping at the Rescue Mission and creating a mural depicting 40 years of history at the North Side CYO, 529 N. Salina St.

When his nine-month stint ends in June, Wright will be given a \$4,000 grant to resume his studies. He said he'll also take away lots of experience.

"There are things I didn't know about the community, and I've also been able to learn to work with different groups and (see) people not as labels but as clients and individuals," said Wright.

Robert Schlachter, 17, of Plantation Boulevard, Liverpool, said the teaching experience surprised him.

"I really thought we would be doing more hands-on work like building houses or going out on the street to help the homeless," said Schlachter, a



MELANIE DOCTOR, 19, prepares to paint a mural on the gymnasium walls at the North Salina Street Catholic

Youth Organization, Doctor, a LaFayette High School graduate, is a member of Year Round Syracuse.

CARL J. SINGLE/Staff photographer

graduate of Nottingham High School. "I thought there would be more physical labor involved."

William Laux, 20, of 139 Grumbach Ave., said his work teaching children at the CYO centers to read has given him a new idea about a career. Laux, who earned a high school equivalency diploma last year, said he originally intended to be an electrician or repair computers.

"This has helped me learn about teaching kids," said Laux. "Now I want to become a teaching assistant and teach in elementary school."

Of the corps' 40 members, 29 are city residents; the rest live in the suburbs.

The corps has 15 men and 25 women. Eighteen are minorities.

Program officials said part of their goal was to mix people of different social and ethnic groups to show how the community can work together.

Archie Davis, 20, of 122 Rugby Road said that's something he'll remember long after the mural is done.

"I joined because I felt this was a way of giving back to the community," said Davis. "What I'm going to walk away with is the idea of not having prejudice. At first I wondered how we would work together, but we went on a retreat when this program first started and everything went along fine after that."

About the program

In Year Round Syracuse, a local "urban Peace Corps," 40 youths between ages 17 and 22 receive \$100 a week for nine months of work at social agencies. Then, corps members are given a \$4,000 educational grant.

Youths also receive team training, counseling, and a month-long independent internship designed to meet their career goals.

The program's \$760,000 budget is paid equally with public and private money. It still needs \$280,000 from the private sector to meet its budget.

Those interested in applying for the program or making contributions may call 472-1950.

From Latisha Barnett's journal

"I arrive at corps headquarters between 7:45 and 8:15 a.m. The entire corps, all 40 members, head for Clinton Square to do physical training and feel that spirit.

"We do numerous exercises and leave for our respective sites. My team goes to the Northside Catholic Youth Organization where all 10 team members plus our team leader plan our agenda for the day.

"On Thursday morning, a fellow corps member and myself present nutrition to preschoolers for two classes. I get so excited being with the children. They welcome us with open arms.

Thursday afternoon, we teach another nutrition class. Some of the les-

sons we've planned for the children were (about) peanut butter and jelly, fruit bowls and a book titled, 'More Spaghetti, I say.'

"Last, we have a small group of elementary school children who come for the Read to Succeed program. The kids enjoy reading the stories and being read to. We give the attention they may not get otherwise.

"At 4:30 p.m., we meet and talk about our day and then depart for home.

"I await the next day to encounter a new growing experience."

— Latisha Barnett,
120 Berwyn Ave.,
of the Martin Luther King Jr. team



DAWN HONG, a member of Year Round Syracuse, sorts canned goods donated to the Salvation Army. Her team

prepared some of the 3,000 Christmas food baskets handed out by the Salvation Army this year.

AL CAMPANIE/Staff photographer

Service corps seeks recognition

► Year Round Syracuse workers aim to prove their worth to the community.

By Gary Gerew
Staff Writer

Dec. 24, 1992

Herald-Journal

As Carolyn Gramstorff watched county prisoners sort potatoes for Salvation Army food baskets, she chuckled about the times her team of Year Round Syracuse participants have been mistaken for others wearing government-issued clothes.

"People have thought we were from some drug rehabilitation program, runaway teens, all sorts of things like that," Gramstorff said while helping prepare the baskets at the OnCenter. "But now we're getting more recogni-

tion and everyone knows the spiel of who we are and what we're doing so we can explain it to anyone who asks."

Tiffani Bennett, 20, of 201 W. Brighton Ave. is one of the 10 people in Gramstorff's team wearing blue sweat shirts marked with the Year Round Syracuse logo. Bennett agrees the program has been misunderstood since its members started working for social agencies in September.

"It's an urban Peace Corps, but I call it a training program, and people still misunderstand me," said Bennett. "I think we need to be in the public

**Good
WORK
PART 4**

more."

For the past two weeks, Bennett and the other members of the program's John F. Kennedy team have been preparing some of the 3,000 Christmas food baskets being handed out by the Salvation Army this year.

Earlier projects involved helping at the Salvation Army's homeless shelter, senior citizen centers and child-care programs.

"Through this, I've learned to be a leader, create my own ideas and carry them out," said Bennett. "And the experience is going to look real good when I go apply for a job."

Bennett joined the Year Round Syracuse program for the \$4,000 education grant it provides. She said she wants the money to study social sciences at the State University of New York College at Morrisville and eventually go to work as a social worker or psychologist.

Service corps works to improve its identity

■ SERVICE

Continued from Page B1

The work she's doing now should help her in either case, Bennett said.

"It started off rocky, but now it's going great," she said. "When we began, we were 10 people who are all different, but we've become a team working together every day."

Bennett said without the program, she probably would be working as a cashier somewhere.

"I would be working with different people there, too, but the idea here is different," said Bennett.

Gramstorff, who earns \$18,000 as a team leader, said molding the 10 people into a unit was the program's first challenge. That's been accomplished through a summer retreat at a Skaneateles camp where team members got to know each other and through regular review sessions where the participants talk about the problems and successes they've had during the week.

"Everyone comes to this with different baggage, but what we've learned is that we're all basically the same despite those differences," said Gramstorff.

Gramstorff, 22, of 212 Kensington Place graduated from Syracuse University this spring with a degree in sports medicine.

"I'd like to do this for a couple of years and then go to graduate school for education administration," she said. "Or maybe I'll join the Peace Corps."

From Becky King's journal

"I am currently working in the Salvation Army's emergency shelter. I am going to lend a hand in the situation."

"We then proceeded to rent a U-Haul. Thursday was moving day."

"We went and picked up the truck. Then, just the two of us, put everything she had at the shelter into the truck."

"With the help of three other shelter residents, we picked up a refrigerator and some beds."

"Every day when I came into the shelter to work, she would ask me to help her find furniture or a way to move it."

"Later that afternoon, Carolyn took us grocery shopping, and then it was time to go to her apartment."

"I was always trying to think of a way that Year Round could help her out."

"She (the shelter resident) gave me a big hug and said it was all happening because of me."

"On Monday, she came to me crying. The shelter was getting to her. She had been there for three months and ready to get out."

"This was the best feeling I've ever had."

"I went and talked to Carolyn, my team leader, and she gave me permis-

— Becky King

4507 Brickyard Road, Manlius,
of the John F. Kennedy team

About the program

In Year Round Syracuse, 40 people between ages 17 and 22 receive \$100 a week for nine months of work at social agencies. Then, corps members are given a \$4,000 educational grant.

Participants also receive team training, counseling, and a month-long independent internship designed to meet their career goals.

The program's \$760,000 budget is paid equally with public and private money. It still needs \$280,000 from the private sector to meet its budget.

Those interested in applying for the program or making contributions may call 472-1950.



HAVING A BALL

Leonard Shanes, 21, pops a volleyball into the air during a picnic and volleyball tournament on the new Syracuse Inner Harbor/South Shore Park Friday. The event was sponsored by Year Round Syracuse, to celebrate the opening of the new park.

Post Standard Sept. 10, 1993

TRACY MACK/The Post-Standard



ELLEN BLALOCK/Staff photographer

TEAM SPIRIT: Youths participating in Year Round Syracuse begin their first day of work Tuesday with calisthenics in Clinton Square. The program, modeled on the Peace Corps, will pay 40

young people \$100 a week to perform community service. The program was proposed last year by Mayor Thomas Young. Businesses donated most of the \$700,000 budget. The city and county paid the rest.

True 'Service' Can't Be Coerced

August 2, 1992
NY Times

Youth service: two educational buzzwords for the 90's. They describe a way to teach youngsters that, in a democracy, rights and responsibilities go hand in hand.

Now, Maryland has become the first state to require its high school students to perform 75 hours of service. The idea of encouraging students to help those who may be old, disabled or homeless is admirable. But states and school districts need to consider carefully whether mandated service is the best approach.

Though the idea of youth service has been around for years, it is enjoying renewed interest around the nation. Mandatory service programs are operating in about 200 private and public schools, including systems in Atlanta and Detroit. Voluntary service projects are much more common.

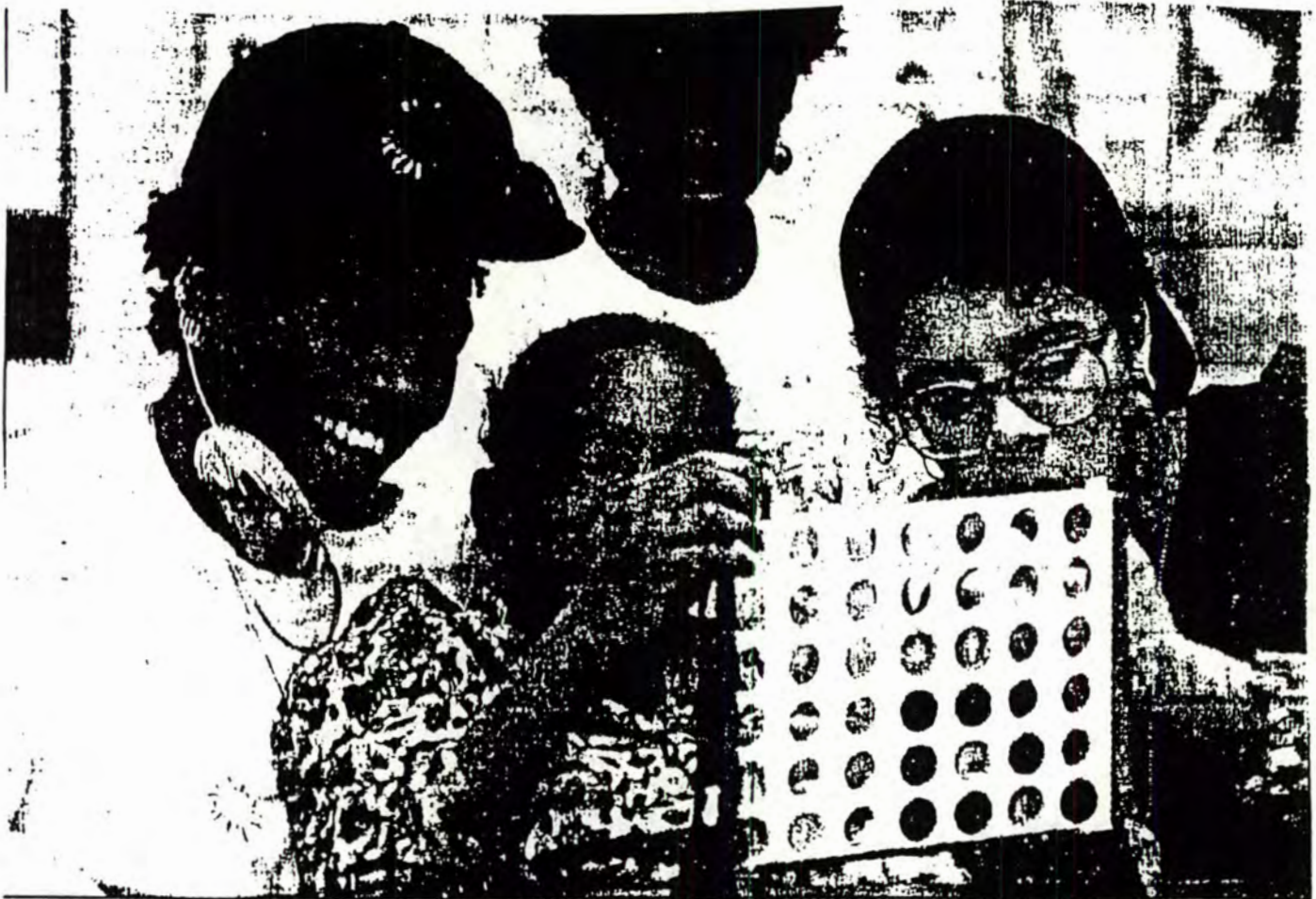
Encouraging student service can be a way of dealing with adolescent alienation and the desire of many teenagers to connect with a larger community. How best to achieve that? Maryland has taken the coercive approach. The State Board of Education voted last week to mandate service, starting with students entering ninth grade in September

1993. It's part of a larger effort by the state to impose stiffer graduation requirements — including more units of science and technology — to better prepare students for college and work.

But what about students who hold outside jobs or who may find it more difficult to maintain their academic standing? The Maryland plan does allow local school districts some flexibility in designing the service component. For example, some students might fulfill their requirement during school hours through activities like recycling, cleaning up the cafeteria or tutoring.

But why mandate such activities at all? Does it help the beneficiaries of community service if students are forced to participate? To instill the value of service, why not integrate it more into the curriculum? Students might write papers about their experiences, helping others. Or incentives could be devised to make service as desirable a goal as athletic and academic achievement.

Maryland's approach will surely get 100 percent participation. But other schools might look for more creative ways to achieve the same result from the bottom up, not from the top down.



ELLEN BLALOCK/Staff photographer

YEAR-ROUND FUN: Year Round Syracuse, a program that pays young adults \$100 a month for community service, took time for a Halloween party Tuesday at the Brighton Family Center on Edmund Avenue. Detra Williams, 8, sits on Arlene Davis' lap to play a game, while 7-year-old

Barbara Jenkins and Heather Jordan wait their turn. Players take turns putting colored discs into the holder, trying to line them up tick-tack-toe style. Year Round Syracuse members will move to the Southwest Community Center next week. After nine months of service, they receive \$4,000 scholarships for college or job training.

October 29, 1992 Herald-Journal

Domestic Peace Corps Hits the Streets of Syracuse

■ Year Round Syracuse serves the community by providing social agencies with young workers for a low cost.

Post-Standard, Dec. 26, 1992
By STEPHANIE THORNTON
Contributing Writer

Ted LeGacy was floundering. He had graduated from high school, spent a little time at college and was working as a waiter, but he wasn't satisfied.

"I was working in a lot of jobs that I didn't find too interesting," he said.

Instead of running from table to table, LeGacy is now doing everything from putting together food baskets to helping refugees resettle in the area.

While he's only making \$100 a week, there's a \$4,000 scholarship payoff at the end of his service. LeGacy, who is interested in social work, plans on using the money to return to college.

Every weekday, LeGacy and 39 other young people start their day with 15 minutes of group calisthenics in downtown Syracuse and then head off to jobs at social service or government agencies.

LeGacy is a member of Year Round Syracuse. The goals of the program are to get the members interested in serving their community and provide the agencies with low-cost workers.

"It's sort of a domestic Peace Corps," said Mark Bailey, director of operations.

The program brings together college-age people from all social and economic backgrounds as part of its cross-cultural aim.

Twenty-two of the members are white, 14 are black, two are Native American and two are Asian. Bailey said some of the members come from middle-class homes while others are from poorer neighborhoods.

Members receive their \$4,000 education and job-training scholarship when their nine months of service ends.

Some of the members are recent high school graduates who plan on using the money for college, while the college graduates in the group will use the money to attend graduate school.

The members work an eight-hour day Monday through Friday at a number of service projects. Each



DAVID LASSMAN/The Post-Standard

Year Round Syracuse program participants perform calisthenics outside the Federal Building in Syracuse before starting the work day. Facing the group are team leaders Derrick Bacon, left, and Johnny Palanco. Melanie Doctor, left, and Archie Davis have their backs to the camera.

of four teams spends two months at a particular agency, then moves on to another.

The teams have been working since September at a variety of jobs.

The members have taught nursery school children, dealt with violence prevention and conducted food drives at such places as the Southwest Community Center,

Northside CYO and the Salvation Army.

The John F. Kennedy team, of which LeGacy is a member, has been working at the Salvation Army since November.

On a recent day, the team was sorting through boxes of donated food, which were eventually turned into food baskets and distributed at the ONCenter Exhibit Hall.

Corps member Jennifer Tarnacki, 23, looked forward to handing out the food baskets. "When you give it to the people, it totally makes up for the menial work," said the recent University of Buffalo graduate.

Tom Knox, director of development for the Salvation Army, said the corps members have been a welcome addition.

"It helps enable us to take care of the increased demand we're seeing, especially around this time of year. It's a type of situation where everyone can win."

TOM KNOX
Salvation Army

"It helps enable us to take care of the increased demand we're seeing, especially around this time of year," Knox said. "It's a type of situation where everyone can win."

"It's been interesting watching the team develop as a group, and right now, I think we're a strong, cohesive group," said Carolyn Gramstorff, 22, a recent Syracuse University graduate. Her position as team leader is salaried and she receives \$18,000 for her year of service.

Each morning, sun or snow, the corps members meet outside in Clinton Square or in front of the Federal Building and do calisthenics.

The members jog in place and do jumping jacks to get their blood pumping in preparation for the day's work. The exercise sessions also help build a feeling of camaraderie.

"It's sort of a bonding and team building to instill discipline in them," Bailey said of the daily workouts.

Year Round Syracuse is based on a program called City Year Boston that has been in operation there for four years.

Syracuse's program is the result of a task force set up by Mayor Tom Young to study the idea of having youth work to help solve the city's problems.

The program has a \$750,000 budget. Bailey said about half of the funding comes from local corporate donations and the other half is from city, county, state and federal governments.

Bailey said the corps members get more out of their work than they would with an ordinary job.

"They learn about different problems in Syracuse," he said. "They learn more about themselves."

Year Round Syracuse really goes to town

Successful youth service corps kicks off its fund-raising drive for 1993-94

By Margaret LeBrun
Staff Writer

August 10, 1993
Post-Standard

Syracuse's youth service corps was a success in its first year, any way you look at it.

Year Round Syracuse corps members tutored school children, helped the Red Cross and shoveled snow for disabled elderly, among scores of other jobs throughout the city.

All but eight of the original 40 corps members stuck with it through June. Others filled all but one of those vacancies.

Then why is Year Round Syracuse dropping its enrollment to 30 young recruits this year?

Budget cuts, plain and simple.

The city program lost \$152,000 in state funding this year.

Like a domestic urban Peace Corps, Year Round Syracuse employs people ages 17 to 25 to pitch in wherever city agencies needed extra help. They earn \$100 a week and receive a \$4,000 scholarship at the end of their nine-month, 40-hour per week tour of duty.

Budget cuts don't beleaguer Terrence Quigley, executive director of Year Round Syracuse, a program under the city's Community Services office. He sees a smaller corps in the second year as a realistic goal, given its 1993-94 budget of \$550,000.

Within the next few weeks, he'll gather a group of community business leaders to head a private fund-raising campaign. Their goal: to raise \$360,000.

"We're looking to develop a groundswell of support," says Quigley.

The corps will advertise its need for donations on 30-second TV spots starting in

"We help corps members develop their own self-esteem, let them know what their community is really like and how they can make it a better place to live."

— Terrence Quigley
Executive Director

September. It will also promote "Serve-a-Thon," a national fund-raising event for youth service corps set for Oct. 23.

Individuals will spend a day doing community service or pledge donations. Locally, all proceeds will benefit Year Round Syracuse.

If President Clinton's proposed National Service Trust Act of 1993 is approved by Congress, Year Round Syracuse could tie into that program and add more young people to its service corps as early as January.

It could also become a truly year-round program by continuing through each summer. Quigley hopes to expand local enrollment to 80 youths within five years.

Clinton's program was launched this summer as an experiment in the nation's largest cities, with 1,500 youths participating in the Summer of Service. The National Service Trust Act pays its corps members \$170 per week and a scholarship of up to \$9,500 earned over two years.

Year Round Syracuse is modeled after a program in Boston called City Year, the service corps Clinton considers a model for the one he's proposing. The Syracuse and Boston programs rely on a mix of public and private funding.

Most of the 3,000-odd other youth service and job corps programs nationwide rely almost entirely on public funding and target disadvantaged youth.

The Boston and Syracuse service corps also recruit a mix of young people from widely different ethnic, educational and socio-economic backgrounds; half are whites and half are minorities. In Syracuse, most are high school graduates. Some have technical school or college experience and a few are college graduates.

"Diversity is important," says Quigley. "We wanted not only the brightest and the best, but people who could benefit from this. We help corps members develop their own self-esteem, let them know what their community is really like and how they can make it a better place to live."

That's exactly what one member of the corps says he learned with Year Round Syracuse. Leonard Shanes, 21, worked in the corps part of last year and will return this fall through December.

"I'm more alert as to what's going on," says Shanes. "Looking around, seeing problems — I'm a lot more keen on what they are now."

Through last year's program, Shanes became certified in first aid and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. His team helped assess area schools and other sites that could be used for emergency disaster services, among many other jobs.

Shanes hopes to study business administration at Onondaga Community College in January.

"This semester, I want to learn as much as I can," Shanes says. "I want to learn the economics of Syracuse, and how everything works."

Youth Corps sets out

They'll do public service for \$100 a week. The program is seen as an urban peace corps.

by David Clary
Contributing Writer

Forty young people will go to work in Syracuse Tuesday for \$100 a week as the city begins a service program modeled on the Peace Corps.

The Year Round Syracuse program was proposed last year by Mayor Thomas Young in his state of the city speech. It will put 40 people to work cleaning up the city, building playgrounds, helping the elderly and the ill, and conducting after-school programs about drugs abuse.

The members, ages 17 to 22, were chosen from 115 applicants. They will work in teams of 10 under the guidance of an adult leader with a social work background.

Each team member will receive a \$100 weekly stipend for 40 hours of work and, upon successful completion of the program, a \$4,000 higher education scholarship. Local businesses have donated most of the money, said program director Mark Bailey.

The county and city make up the balance of the \$700,000 annual budget.

The team members are at Lourdes Camp near Skaneateles this week to get acquainted and to learn what they will be doing over the next nine months.

Chanda Myette Hicks, 21, a 1990 graduate of Nottingham High School, is most interested in working with children.

She said the biggest problem in the city is drugs.

"The children need other role models to look up to instead of drug dealers," Myette said. "This will, hopefully, give them better role models."

She said the possibility of receiving a \$4,000 scholarship is an attractive part of the city program.

Myette plans to graduate from Onondaga Community College in December and transfer to another college next fall.

Rich Anderson, 19, a 1991 graduate of Bishop Ludden High School, calls Year Round Syracuse "a perfect opportunity for kids who can't afford college right away."



MARY KANE, Syracuse's director of community services, shares a smile with recruits for Year Round Syracuse, a program described as an

Another team member, Laura Strojnowski, 17, postponed college so she can participate in Year Round Syracuse.

In early May, officials from City Hall held a presentation at Marcellus High School, where Strojnowski was a senior. She was excited about what she heard.

Although her parents wanted her to go to college right away, Strojnowski felt she couldn't pass up this opportunity.

"This will give me a chance to work with people I've never been exposed to, which will be a positive thing," she said. "I always wanted to go into the Peace Corps, but I was intimidated about going overseas."

urban Peace Corps. From left are Becky King, 18, of Manlius; Jennifer Tarnacki, 22, of Kirkville; and Carrie Cummings, 20, of East Syracuse.

Strojnowski sees Year Round Syracuse as a chance to spread good will and services to her community.

Rebecca Fuller, 18, a 1991 graduate of Cicero-North Syracuse High School, also had thought about joining the Peace Corps, but being active in Year Round Syracuse sounded even better to her.

"After we're done, we can see the good the project did because we live right here," said Fuller, a student at Genesee Community College.

Bailey, the program director, was a Peace Corps volunteer from 1987 to 1989 in Africa, where he taught sanitation and health.

Bailey said both programs attract people who want to learn about people and help them in a positive way.

of work as I did in the Peace Corps, working with people on a grassroots level," he said.

John Ludington, 18, is particularly eager to come in contact with the homeless, the elderly and children. The '92 graduate of Liverpool High School is the chief songwriter of the Barefoot Gravediggers, a local rock band that plays at Lost Horizon, Cafe Margot, The Orange Grove and other clubs.

"I'm expecting people in other cities to follow what we are doing," Ludington said. "Hopefully, every single person will be involved in their community as a result."

About a year-and-a-half ago,

Young read an article about a program in Boston called City Year. Soon afterward, Young convened a task force in the hope of starting a program in Syracuse that would enlist young people to help solve the city's problems.

There are similarities between the Syracuse and Boston programs.

Tyler Chapman, education coordinator of the 4-year-old City Year, said Boston's program offers scholarships, was originally funded entirely by private donations and involves young people in community service.

Neither Boston nor Syracuse targets people of particular ethnic, geographic or socioeconomic backgrounds.

"The biggest change from other youth programs was to make City Year a diverse group," Chapman said. "That was a first for youth service."

The status of the nation's urban areas, highlighted by the Los Angeles riots in May, has received close attention in this presidential election year and caused politicians to search for new solutions and ideas.

"A lot of youth service corps are popping up around the country," Bailey said. "People are starting to recognize that young people have a lot to offer. Programs like this are the wave of the future."



ON THE team of Year Round Syracuse are Jennifer Bartok of New York City, right, and Alanda Davis of Syracuse, a Corcoran High School grad.



AT LOURDES Camp, Skaneateles, members of Year Round Syracuse take part in an icebreaker as part of their introduction. They'll receive a weekly stipend and a scholarship in exchange for such jobs as building playgrounds and speaking to youngsters about drug abuse.

City's youth corps set to begin work Tuesday

Urban proposals

Here's what the presidential candidates are saying about urban problems:

■ **George Bush:** The president's urban policy includes Job Training 2000; the Youth Apprenticeship Act of 1992; AMERICA 2000, an education plan promoting school choice and voluntary achievement tests; a 20 percent increase in money to fight violent crime; and welfare reform.

■ **Bill Clinton:** The Democratic presidential nominee has an eight-point plan. One idea is the establishment of a National Service Trust Fund, which would replace the student loan program. Clinton said, "Those who borrow from the fund will be able to choose how to repay the balance — either as a small percentage of their earnings over time, or by returning to serve their communities for one or two years..."

— David Clary

HERALD JOURNAL 9/2/92

TASTING THE REAL WORLD

By MAUREEN NOLAN
The Post-Standard

SHE APPLIED to four colleges and had her pick of them. Money would be the hard part, although she was ready to shoulder debt to continue her education.

But when Melanie Bartowski flipped her tassel Saturday and walked out of the Mulroy Civic Center a Fowler High School graduate, she had put aside plans laid throughout most of her senior year.

When campuses fill with freshmen next fall, Bartowski will remain in her west side, Polish neighborhood. The vice president of the Fowler Class of '92, who likes physics almost as much as English, is staying put for a \$100-a-week job.

"I'm not much ruled by money. I'm used to not having much in my pocket," Bartowski said.

She is one of 20 young people who have signed on for a new program styled as a sort of urban Peace Corps. To Bartowski, it sounded like a chance to experience the real world, in a college-prep sort of way.

She figures what she learns in nine months of community service will help focus her college career.

"It is sort of like a kick in the butt because it is the real world out there and you are going to have to deal with it when you leave college. And you might as well get a taste of it before," Bartowski said.

The public and private effort is called Year Round Syracuse and modeled after a program in Boston.

If the money comes through, it will pay participants \$100 a week for community service in the city. After nine months, participants are supposed to receive a \$4,000 scholarship toward higher education or job training.

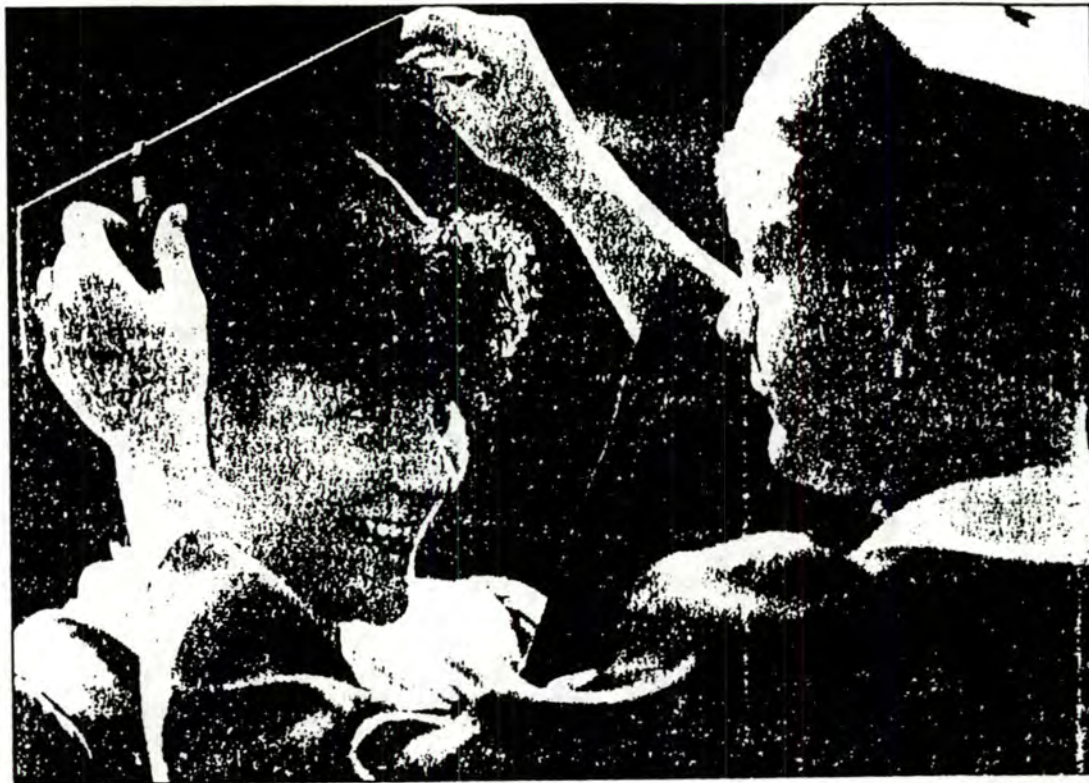
City Community Services Director Mary Kane said about 85 people have applied and 20 have been accepted. But the money for the \$770,000 program has not yet been secured.

"We feel very confident that the money will be in place," Kane said.

It will come from a variety of public and private sources, she said. James Maher, president of Crouse Irving Memorial Hospital, said he is handling the fund-raising at the request of the mayor.

The city will contribute about \$80,000, Maher said. Applications are in for another \$330,000 in state and federal grants, but Maher said he will not know until August whether that money will come through.

That leaves \$360,000 to be raised locally in the private sector, Maher said. So far, he said, a little more than \$100,000 has been contributed.



AL CAMPANIE/The Post-Standard

Heather Smith, right, helps Melanie Bartowski adjust her cap before Fowler High School graduation ceremonies. Bartowski, class vice president, will spend the next year in a local version of the Peace Corps, called Year Round Syracuse, before starting her college career.

At the moment, the program launched by Mayor Tom Young is based in City Hall, directed by city employee Mark Bailey, who once served in the Peace Corps.

Year Round Syracuse is working to become a private, non-profit corporation. When that happens, it will be independent of City Hall, Bailey and Maher said.

Bailey said he expects within two months Year Round will have its own office, probably on the north side. Then, Bailey said, he will leave the city payroll to be its executive director with a staff of eight or nine.

In its first year, the \$770,000 budget allows for hiring 40 people between the ages of 17 and 22 from the city and its suburbs. Most will have high school diplomas; a few will not.

A key element of the project, Bailey said, is to enlist a racially and socially diverse crew of young people who will be put on teams of 10 to tackle projects as a unit.

"If you bring a young adult, say, from Manlius or Marcellus, in to work with someone from the inner city, where they might not have had much exposure before, they are going to learn about some of the problems in the city and the coun-

ty," Bailey said. "They are going to learn from each other."

Louches Powell, executive director of Dunbar Center, said he thinks the program will provide inner-city kids much needed employment. The \$100-a-week pay is not a lot, Powell said, but that is only part of the package.

"The thing is, too, the community networking and the developing of a social conscience," Powell said.

Becky King, 18, just graduated from Fayetteville-Manlius High School, where the enrollment is primarily white. She said she looks forward to working side by side with a variety of young people.

She had been primed to attend Onondaga Community College next fall when she learned about about Year Round during a school assembly. King said she was leaning toward a career in social work and thought Year Round sounded like a way to test the waters.

And get wet for real.

"Not just sitting in a classroom. Doing things with people and experiencing the situations and not just studying them," King said.

In Westvale, Heather Jordan, 18, needed a bit of convincing to join.

The Westhill High School grad said she wasn't exactly sure what to do with her life. Her dad, Clarence Jordan, who runs the Rescue Mission, urged her to look into Year Round.

Jordan did. The more she learned, the more sense it made. She said she loves meeting new people and likes to help others.

"I think this is going to help me decide what I want to do," she said.

Bailey said the teams will take on projects ranging from outdoor work, such as cleaning up a park or painting houses, to human-service work, such as being mentors to students.

There's a spot in Bartowski's neighborhood, a shortcut to Fowler High School, that needs to be cleaned of garbage, glass and debris. She said she wouldn't mind having a hand in that.

"They know that kids walk through there, and I just think that's awful," she said.

Jordan said she would like to help build something, maybe a place for the homeless — something she could drive by years from now and remember having a part in.

"It would feel good, at least, to contribute something, and that is what I like to do," she said.

ON THE COVER: Melanie Bartowski, left, chats with substitute teacher Diane Popek prior to Fowler High School graduation ceremonies. Instead of going to college, Bartowski will join Year Round Syracuse for the coming year.

SYRACUSE HERALD-JOURNAL

"Ignoring party politics and pursuing an independent course, we shall not hesitate to discuss public questions and to support such men and measures as seem best calculated to advance the best interests of the people." ARTHUR JENKINS, Founder, in first issue of Herald, Jan. 15, 1877.

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YEAR ROUND SYRACUSE

Youth corps merits support

Tapping the energy and enthusiasm of youth to make our community a better place to live isn't a novel idea.

Putting the idea into action in a cohesive, well thought-out program is.

Year Round Syracuse looks like just such a program.

Modeled after a similar effort in Boston, Year Round Syracuse would pay 40 people between the ages of 17 and 22 \$100 a week to tackle the problems of the city in Peace Corps style. At the end of their nine-month, 40-hour work-week tour of duty — building playgrounds, feeding the elderly, working with refugees — they'd also land a \$4,000 scholarship.

Sound familiar? The U.S. armed forces also offer similar scholarship incentive programs for high school graduates.

We like the idea of a corps of young people in Year Round Syracuse battling problems, fixing lives and bringing us all a little closer together a little closer to home.

What makes this especially appealing is the openness to all people from all walks of life, not just those from the city. It is important for

all Central New Yorkers, especially those who don't live within Syracuse's boundaries, to realize the city isn't a collection of buildings where you go to work; it's the heart of the community. When it works, we all work.

Now we reach the hard part. In order to get Year Round Syracuse off the ground by its targeted Sept. 8 launch, the city has to come up with \$300,000. That money has to come from local companies and foundations. That is a tricky proposition and a lofty goal.

But it is a worthy goal. How city politicians will make serious headway with potential donors in these tough times is a mystery. Corporations and foundations are cutting back or cutting out their donations. Groups that rely on this money are finding the going tougher when the purse strings are tighter. Just ask the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra.

It's important that the people making the decisions to give money to these causes look hard at Year Round Syracuse. Short term, the program's payoff could blossom in the people Year Round Syracuse may help; in the long term, it could be planting the seeds for productive, helpful community leaders of tomorrow.

YEAR ROUND SYRACUSE CORPS MEMBER PROFILE: 1993-94

Year Round Syracuse has a total of 32 participants in our youth service Corps.

The following is a profile of the overall program participants based on their various age, sex, geographic, education, and ethnic backgrounds.

SEX OF CORPS MEMBERS

FEMALES..... 16

MALES..... 16

MEAN AGE OF CORPS MEMBERS

FEMALES..... 20

MALES..... 21

RESIDENCY AREAS OF CORPS MEMBERS

COUNTY OF ONONDAGA..... 32

CITY OF SYRACUSE..... 12

ETHNICITY OF CORPS MEMBERS

CAUCASIAN..... 17

AFRICAN-AMERICAN..... 8

LATINO-AMERICAN..... 5

NATIVE-AMERICAN..... 1

ASIAN-AMERICAN..... 1

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF CORPS MEMBERS

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE..... 29

COLLEGE GRADUATES..... 8

NO HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA..... 3