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Youth Service Project, Inc.

Responding to Changing Youth Needs

Nancy M. Abbate
Executive Director

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Youth Service Project, Inc.

3942 West North Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60647 (312) 772-6270

Y

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P

Youth Service Project, Inc., a not-for-profit community based agency, has been working in the Greater Humboldt Park area, on Chicago's northwest side, since 1975. We work with primarily Hispanic and Black young people and their families to confront neighborhood problems and provide constructive alternatives. Through nine bicultural, bilingual programs that take place in community schools, churches, libraries and homes we reach more than 3000 young people 12 to 21 years old each year. Together, YSP, young people and their families build a stronger community.

YSP



Youth Service Project, Inc.
Responding to Changing Youth Needs
3942 W. North Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60647
(312) 772-6270
Nancy M. Abbate
Executive Director

**Youth Service Project
Program Guide**

Teens Adapting to Parenting (TAP)

Pregnant teens, teen fathers, and teens with young children participate in:

- Weekly support groups for teen parents,
- Health, nutrition and parenting classes,
- Home visits by skilled workers,
- Day care for infants of teen mothers who go back to work or to school,
- Academic programs especially for teen mothers,
- Casework services,
- Male responsibility groups and activities.

Substance Abuse Program

Young people abusing drugs or alcohol receive:

- Individual counseling,
- Group counseling,
- Help in returning to school,
- Free medical examination (by referral),
- Weekly Narcotics Anonymous meetings.

To prevent substance abuse YSP offers:

- community seminars,
- school seminars,
- individual and group counseling,
- alternative, healthy activities.

Neighborhood Response Counseling (NRC)

Young people with adjustment problems at local public schools benefit from:

- Delinquency prevention counseling for young people and families,
- Teen pregnancy prevention through games,
- Topical group discussions,
- Advocacy services to courts, schools and other agencies,
- Home visits and casework to assist families in crisis.

Second Chance

Young people in gangs or victimized by gangs participate in:

- Home visits and casework,
- Confidential group and individual counseling,
- Sports teams,
- Recreation and field trips,
- Community restitution, including graffiti removal.

Enrichment for Latinas Leading to Advancement (ELLA)

Hispanic girls stay in school and go on to college or other training through:

- Career counseling,
- Student-run business ventures,
- Parents' receptions,
- Meetings with Hispanic professional women,
- Field trips to colleges and businesses,
- Part-time job training and placement.

Reading Enables Achievement and Direction (READ)

Community residents can learn reading and English skills through classes in:

- Basic literacy (up to 6th grade level),
- GED (high school equivalency),
- English as a Second Language.

Community Organizing

YSP offers technical assistance to local block clubs and other community organizations. Residents learn how to:

- Define issues,
- Set up meeting agendas,
- Run meetings,
- Improve city services,
- Constructively tackle problems of local concern.

Economic Development for Youth (EDY)

Young people looking for work receive:

- Job Readiness Training (defining career goals, learning to find a job and preparing for employment responsibilities),
- Extensive personal assistance in getting and keeping a job,

Employers receive:

- Consultation to assess their personnel needs,
- Young workers who are motivated, conscientious and ready to work,
- Assistance in keeping young people on jobs.

Summer and After-School Employment and Activities

Young people enjoy leisure time with YSP. We offer:

- Jobs for young people 16–21,
- Work on public art projects, including a community mural,
- Opportunities to tutor or to learn reading and math,
- Sports teams,
- Mini-Olympics.

Through these programs Youth Service Project fulfills its mission: to help youth realize their potential and create more meaningful lives. YSP's professional staff, drawn from the community, understands the issues youth and their families face in the Humboldt Park area.

YSP and the young people we work with need your support. The help *you* give to Youth Service Project (time, dollars or jobs) can make the difference between a young life filled with integrity and purpose – or one that simply could have been.

Happy New Year!

TODAY'S WEATHER
Partly sunny, 30s

Weekend Chicago Defender

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Saturday, January 2, 1993

60¢ Outside Chic

news



Glasnost at Youth Service Project

Nancy M. Abbate (second from left), executive director of Youth Service Project (YSP), along with (second from left) Dr. Mary E. Davidson, director of the School of Social Work for Southern Illinois University; and Congressman-elect Luis Gutierrez; welcome a three-member Russian delegation to YSP. From left, the visiting team consists of Dr. Arkadii Nekrassov, president of the Association of Social Workers and head of the Division on International Social Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Russian Federation; Dr. Sergei N. Puzin, chief of the Institute on Disability Problems, Ministry of Social Protection; and Dr. Edward A. Abgaryan, chair of the Department of Philosophy and Sociology, Moscow Business University.



EXTRA

BILINGUAL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS-SPANISH/ENGLISH - NORTH SIDE EDITIONS - DECEMBER 24, 1992

EXTRA Dec. 24 - Dec. 31, 1992 P. 3

METRO

Russian group stops in Humboldt Park to meet community leaders

by Christine Nielsen Craig

The Humboldt Park community got a visit last week from three Russians who are touring the United States to learn about social services and schools of social work in this country.

The delegation stopped by the Youth Service Project, 3942 W. North Avenue, on Dec. 14, following a visit to the Chicago Urban League, an African-African research institute.

"We want to see how social service organizations work in the United States, and how to apply your ideas to democracy in Russia," said Arkadii Nekrassov, at the meeting.



Russian visit: Arkadii Nekrassov (far right), head of a Russian delegation visiting social service agencies in the United States, talks with local community leaders at Youth Service Project, 3942 W. North Ave. Also pictured are (l to r): Nancy Abbate, YSP executive director; Congressman-elect Luis Gutierrez; Mary E. Davidson, director of the School of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Carbondale. (Extra photo by Christine Nielsen Craig)

The Russian president of Association of Social Workers addressed a group of local leaders which included Congressmen-elect Luis Gutierrez, YSP executive director Nancy Abbate, and several YSP board members.

Nekrassov, who heads the International Social Cooperation division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Russian federation, is critical of Russian President Boris

reform. He says the shift from a planned to a market economy is short-sighted because it is too drastic, and doesn't account for the great hardship suffered by the people.

The social safety net in the former Soviet Union has unraveled since a failed coup by hard-line communists in 1991, which led to the dissolution of the Soviet Union and its bureaucracy. Yeltsin's current economic reforms, which have abolished the government support of most Soviet industry, have left many unemployed.

Despite his criticisms, however, Nekrassov says there are bright spots.

"On the positive side, we have more openness, more human rights," Nekrassov said.

Leading the delegation's four is Mary E. Davidson, director of the School of Social Work department at the University of Illinois at Carbondale. UIC-Carbondale is one of five American universities working in partnership with Russian leaders to help them develop an undergraduate social work program. Nekrassov says he hopes that, eventually, Russia will have a graduate program in social work as well.

Davidson, who has visited Russia, said the country is like the United States in that people in poor areas, particularly outside the cities are suffering.

As leader of the tour, Davidson told the group she brought them to the Urban League and to YSP to give the Russian guests an accurate picture of the people of United States, particularly those involved in social service and community organizing.

"I wanted to make sure you saw that the United States is more than white males—that there are brown and black people, too," Davidson said.

The two other Russian visitors touring with Nekrassov are Dr. Sergei Puzin, chief of the Institute on Disability Problems of the Ministry of Social Protection; and, Dr. Edward Abgaryan, chair of the Department of Philosophy and Sociology at Moscow

EXTRA

Y SPANISH - ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS - NORTH SIDE EDITIONS - JANUARY 21, 1993

Local activist takes lesson from communities in South Africa

Mary Scott Boria, Youth Service Project (YSP) associate director, recently spent two weeks in South Africa for a look at how social change is achieved there through community activism.

Boria travelled through the country staying with families in the black townships, including Johannesburg, Soweto, Alexander, Druban, and Kwazulu.

Boria returned with a few ideas she says can be implemented at local social service organizations.

"Our Block Club Federation in Humboldt Park bears a similar resemblance to 'Civics' in South Africa, mainly because

they manage from the bottom up, not the top down," says Boria. "At its highest level, the South African National Civic Organization (SANCO) is involved in negotiations for creating the country's new constitution.

Explaining that the NCO sends local representatives to discuss local issues at a higher administrative level of the NCO, Boria called the system a democracy in its most basic form.

Boria plans to invite a South African Civic representation to observe the Block Club Federation here and exchange ideas that would benefit both groups.

EXTRA

Un periódico

NEWSPAPERS-SPANISH/ENGLISH · NORTH SIDE EDITIONS · JANUARY 7, 1993 · 25 Cents

Mounting Violence Denounced



Nancy Abbate
Executive Director
YOUTH SERVICE
PROJECT

"Tenemos instituciones que funcionan... si solo damos un poco más de nosotros mismos eso ayudaría a la infancia de nuestra comunidad."

"We've got institutions that aren't working... if we would all just extend ourselves a bit more—that would help kids in the community."

The solution to violence sweeping the city is as close as can be, says Nancy Abbate, executive director of the YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT, a Humboldt Park youth organization. She maintains that it is up to every person to care, particularly since traditional support systems have declined.

"We've got institutions that aren't working," Abbate says. "If we would all just extend ourselves a bit more—that would help kids in the community. ... I hope that 1993 is less violent than 1992. It will be if we work together."

THE BOTTOM LINE



United Way of Chicago

Winter—January, 1993

Gangs in Chicago

United Way member agencies provide positive alternatives

Dantrell Davis' short life ended suddenly and senselessly in October of last year.

The tragedy shocked a city that, it seemed, could not be shocked by anything anymore. The death of a seven-year-old boy, who was with his mother on his way to school when he was hit by gang crossfire, sparked a cry for an end to gang violence.

Many United Way of Chicago member agencies have been responding to gang problems for years. Their positive, constructive alternatives have steered many youths away from gangs and on to jobs and productive lives. The one reality that all such agency staff know: Their job isn't easy.

One United Way of Chicago member agency works full-time to fight the influence of gangs. That agency is B.U.I.L.D. Inc., which was founded in 1969, and today works in seven Near North and Westside communities.

"Our desire is to mobilize groups in the community and help residents rid their communities of gangs," said Daniel Swope, the agency's executive director. "Gangs thrive in poor neighborhoods,

where young people don't see a lot of options for their own lives."

Swope has been fighting gangs for some 30 years, and he knows his enemy. Gangs today, he said, compared to those of 20 or 30 years ago, are more violent and more pervasive. But their fundamental appeal is still the same: They give kids a sense of power and belonging.

Swope has seen many success stories—stories of former gang members turning their lives around. But the statistics aren't there: Anti-gang programs need long-term studies that measure success in adult life. Those studies simply haven't been done yet.

"Our program essentially tries to cure a 'disease,' but when we're finished, we have to return the 'patient' to the same environment," Swope said. Back in that environment, he said, the same problems crop up: no jobs, no hope, no future. The gang offers a way out.

The tragedy, said Swope, is that the youths are capable of much more. "These kids are extremely bright," he said. "They just haven't had the opportunities to develop

themselves through traditional, middle class channels.

"A lot of these young people are really just looking for 'the good life,'" said Swope.

In poor neighborhoods, gang members live better than others, he said. Many have the material goods—the nice clothes and fancy cars that are associated with "the good life."

"The gang offers a young person a lot of hollow promises," said Swope. "It's those promises that we're fighting."

Swope and the 10-member B.U.I.L.D. staff take a number of preventive measures. They go into the schools and lay out to elementary school kids the cold facts about gangs. And there is remediation, making contacts with current gang members.

Swope urges parents not to blame themselves for their child's gang involvement.

"We used to think that neglect or abuse led to gang activity, but that notion has proven to be false," he said.

Yet, another notion appears to be true: Human service agencies may be able to work with individual gang members.

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

However, they don't have the power to fight criminals. That's the opinion shared by Swope and Jose Morales of Chicago Commons, another UWC member agency.

"Do we have the ability to fight people who are part of criminal organizations?" Morales, who heads the agency's anti-gang program, asked. "Absolutely not. That is a police matter. Our staff is not prepared or trained to deal with criminals."

Chicago Commons' two-year-old program, said Morales, takes kids who are disruptive, violent or have had skirmishes with the law. By caring about and understanding them, the agency helps socialize the youths.

Many agencies have reached young people through sports. Put the kids on a basketball court or a baseball diamond, and they'll forget about gangs for a while and have fun competing.

"Ours is a long-term commitment to the people in public housing," said Robert Hassin, president of the Boys and Girls Club of Chicago. The agency has been working for youths since the 1930s.

"We have midnight basketball leagues in public housing," he said. Away from the basketball court, the agency—like many member agencies—provides job counseling and job referrals.

A similar philosophy guides the Better Boys Foundation in North Lawndale.

With a Chicago Initiative grant last summer, the agency sponsored a 10-week basketball and softball clinic and tournament. Some 2,000 youths used the facilities, and the agency hired neighborhood teens to lead the activities. It ended with an awards banquet in September.

"There aren't a lot of recreational facilities around here," said Gary



A Youth Service Project counselor chats with teens participating in a drug prevention program. (Photo courtesy of Youth Service Project, Inc.)

Mayberry, the agency's executive vice president. "So this was a great opportunity for all of us.

"There were no fights," he added. "Everybody worked together."

At Youth Service Project, Inc., staff work together for the youths of Humboldt Park.

"We approach the gang problem at a personal level," said Executive Director Nancy Abbate. "We work individually with young people, connecting them with a caring adult model.

"So many of these young people have never expressed what's inside them," she said.

Abbate noted that problems on the street have a lot to do with economic problems and lack of school and job opportunities. "Fixing those things is a slow process," she said.

Last summer the agency received a Chicago Initiative grant, which gave several teenage girls a chance to create a weekly newsletter.

"They published several issues over the summer," said Abbate. "It was a successful project because it raised their self-esteem."

Abbate has seen transformations in many youths who visit the center.

"We had a few young males, all former gang members, go through our program," she said. "As they talked about themselves, they began to see for the first time the pain in their lives."

Staff at member agency Youth Guidance, with facilities at elementary schools near Cabrini Green, faced the difficult task of helping children at Dantrell's grade school cope with the loss of their friend and the violence in their lives.

"The kids were angry, frustrated and scared," said Bill Smart, a social worker who manages the Youth Guidance effort at Cabrini. "They know there have been other murders in this area but never one of their friends in the middle of the day."

Youth Guidance facilitates during crisis situations and works, in the long term, for the children's development.

"We help them find something they enjoy doing," said Smart.

All United Way of Chicago members that are fighting gangs—those noted here and many more—are tackling a complex, multi-layered problem. Their realistic goals are to see the mountain, understand it and chip away at it, not necessarily tear it down. ■

EXTRA

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS-SPANISH/ENGLISH - NORTH SIDE EDITIONS - DECEMBER 31, 1992 - 25 Cents

City gives streets to gangs

Community outraged at
slashed anti-crime programs



No solution: Carlos Miranda, a Youth Service Project (YSP) program coordinator and Block Club Federation volunteer, wipes off a graffitied wall on the 4200 block of West Wrightwood that residents have cleaned various times, but that area gang members continue to deface. The elimination of the CIN program, Miranda fears, will only lead to more graffiti and gang violence. (EXTRA Photo by Armando Saleh)



Chicago Tribune

Chicago
Sports Final

16 Section 3 Chicago Tribune, Thursday, December 17, 1992 N S

Humboldt area waits for library 3 years after fire, residents are promised a replacement

By Cheryl W. Thompson

Chicago Public Library officials have vowed to speed up plans to replace a Humboldt Park-area branch library that was destroyed in a Christmas Day fire three years ago.

After pleas from residents and schoolchildren, members of the Chicago Public Library Board agreed Tuesday to forge ahead and construct the library by mid-1994. The proposed site is a vacant lot at North Avenue and Troy Street. A land-acquisition request was forwarded to the City Council in October.

"The wheels move slowly, we admit," said board President Cindy Pritzker, "but we will do everything we can to prod them along."

Elaine Rodriguez, 12, a 7th grader at Stowe Elementary School, said she was disappointed by the apparent lack of interest by city officials to build a new facility.

"We have no place to go and read and no place where we can go to learn more about the things we

are taught in school," Rodriguez told the board. "We have been promised over and over again that we would get a new library in our community and we still don't have it."

Nancy Abbate, executive director of the Youth Service Project, a Humboldt Park social-service agency, said she was baffled by the three-year delay in building a new library.

"It does not take three years to find a site and do an assessment," Abbate said. "We're just really, really frustrated."

Magdalena Martinez, treasurer of Humboldt Park's Block Club Federation, accused library officials of "child neglect" by stalling on the construction of a new facility.

"The ... Humboldt area has suffered enough," said Martinez, who handed board members a stack of completed library card applications. "It's time for the children to have a library."

Acting Library Commissioner Robert Remey blamed the delay on

the inability to find a suitable location. Site selection has been difficult because the library system is no longer building small neighborhood branches like the one that was destroyed.

"We, like you, are eager to get going on the new library," he told residents. "But the land has been very difficult to find."

After the fire, the community created design and site committees for the new library. Three million dollars has been budgeted for its construction, Remey said.

"As far as we're concerned, it's a go," he said.

In 1989, the old 6,500-square-foot North Pulaski branch library was destroyed after a fire broke out in an upstairs apartment and quickly spread to the library, according to librarian Haig Depoian.

After the fire, which destroyed most of the 32,000 books, the library moved into a 1,500-square-foot storefront building at 1330 N. Pulaski Rd. next to Walgreens, Depoian said.

EXTRA

BILINGUAL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS-SPANISH/ENGLISH - NORTH SIDE EDITIONS - DECEMBER 3, 1992 - 25 Cents



Nuevo mural: Nancy Abbate, directora de Youth Service Project (YSP), muestra el mural creado por los jóvenes voluntarios en las paredes del viaducto de Pulaski Road y Wabansia Avenue. Con ella, el concejal Ray Suárez; el Rep. Estatal Miguel Santiago; el presidente de la directiva de YSP Salvador González; y el Sen. estatal Miguel del Valle.

New Mural: Nancy Abbate, Youth Service Project (YSP) director, shows off the mural completed by youth volunteers on the walls of a viaduct on Pulaski Road and Wabansia Avenue. With her are Ald. Ray Suarez (31st); State Rep. Miguel Santiago; YSP Board President Salvador Gonzales; and State Sen. Miguel del Valle.

EXTRA

BILINGUAL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS-SPANISH/ENGLISH - NORTH SIDE EDITIONS - NOVEMBER 26, 1992 - 25 Cents

"Lista Negra"

p.4

Abandoned Building
"Hit List"

¡Construyan nuestra biblioteca!

Comunidad exige acelerar proceso

por Christine Nielsen Craig

Alumnos de varias escuelas del sector noroeste fueron llevados en autobús al futuro sitio de la nueva biblioteca de Humboldt Park, el 20 de Nov. para unirse al llamado comunitario para acelerar la construcción.

Wanda Alvarez, de 7º grado y de la escuela Pablo Casals, 3501 W. Potomac dijo que le gustaría que hubiera una biblioteca más cerca de su casa para trabajar en su proyecto de ciencia.

Alvarez destacó la necesidad de que los alumnos tengan un lugar donde ir luego de la escuela, al dirigirse a la gente reunida en el sitio vacío. Los participantes en el rally incluyeron a líderes del comercio local y del gobierno así como miembros de Block Club Federation, y Youth Service Project, que organizó el evento.

"Me identifico con todo grupo que necesita una biblioteca," dice Magdalena Martínez, de

Ver Biblioteca, pág. 5

Build our library!

by Christine Nielsen Craig

Students from several Northwest Side schools were bused to the future site of a new Humboldt Park library, Nov. 20, to join the community's call for the library's speedy construction.

Wanda Alvarez, a 7th grader at Pablo Casals school, 3501 W. Potomac said she wishes there

was one close to her house so she could work on her science project.

Alvarez stressed the need for students to have a place to go after school, in her address to the crowd gathered at the empty lot. Participants in the rally included local businesses and government leaders and members of the Block

See Library, pg. 5



Bibliotēca

Viene pág. 1

Block Club Federation. Martínez ha sido defensora por mucho tiempo de la biblioteca.

"No se puede leer en ninguna parte cerca de aquí," dijo John Roeser, de la Cámara de Comercio de North Pulaski. "Es difícil combatir las drogas cuando no hay un lugar para estimular la mente." Roeser es el dueño de Roeser's Bakery, 3216 W. North Ave.

El Cabildo dio la aprobación el mes pasado al departamento de servicios generales para comenzar a negociar el precio para la propiedad ubicada en la esquina de 3100 W. North Ave. Pero desde que se quemó la biblioteca anterior de North-Pulaski en 1989, los servicios en el área han estado limitados a una pequeña biblioteca de transición, ubicada en Grand Avenue cerca de Pulaski Road y la actual biblioteca de Humboldt, ubicada en 1626 N. California.

Library

From pg. 1

Club Federation, and Youth Service Project. — "I organized the event."

"I feel for any group that needs a library," says Magdalena Martínez, of the Block Club Federation. Martínez has been a longtime advocate of the new library.

"You can't go read anywhere around here," said John Roeser, of the North Pulaski Chamber of Commerce. "It's hard to fight drugs when there's no place to develop your mind." Roeser is the owner of Roeser's Bakery, 3216 W. North Ave.

City Council last month gave the general services department the go-ahead to begin negotiating a price for the property, located on a corner lot at 3100 W. North Ave. But since the former North-Pulaski library branch burned in 1989, library services in the area have been limited to a small transitional library located on Grand Avenue near Pulaski Road, and the current Humboldt library, located at 1626 N. California.



Chicago Tribune

Monday, November 23, 1992

Chicago
Sports Final

50¢ Newsstand 40¢ Home Delivery

★ S N Chicago Tribune, Monday, November 23, 1992 Section 2 3

Chicagoland

3 years after fire, Humboldt Park on way to a new library

By Melita Marie Garza

Humboldt Park residents appear to be winning their three-year battle to get a new library, a cause they have fought for since their old library was destroyed in a 1989 fire on Christmas Day.

A vacant lot at North Avenue and Troy Street, where 500 area students from four schools demonstrated last week, is a viable site for the library, acting Library Commissioner Bob Remer said Saturday.

Remer said he would meet this

week to discuss the proposed library with Ald. Luis Gutierrez (26th), now a congressman-elect, and Ald. Ray Suarez (31st), who he said proposed the site.

The library can't come soon enough for the children, parents and members of the neighborhood Block Club Federation. At a demonstration, they prayed and waved placards that said: "No politics, just books."

"I am here today to ask one simple question. Why, after three years, do we still not have a li-

brary in Humboldt Park?" asked Wanda Alvarez, a 7th grader at Casals Elementary School, 3501 W. Potomac Ave.

"We are waiting, and we don't want to wait much longer. We are the young people of Humboldt Park and don't want to be known as gangbangers, drug dealers or criminals.

"We are people who live in this community, and we care about learning," the 11-year-old told the crowd.

Other students cheered her on, chanting: "What do we want? A library! When do we want it? Now!"

Wanda said she used to go to the old library at North Avenue and Pulaski Road at least four times a week.

Now her mother drives her once a week to a library in another neighborhood.

After the fire, the community established design and site committees for the new library, said

Magdalena Martinez, treasurer of the Block Club Federation. A design has been waiting while the community has been wrangling with the city over the site, she said.

Site selection has been difficult because the library system is no longer building small neighborhood branches like the one that burned, Martinez said. They wanted a larger library and it has to be built on a main street, accessible by bus and with available parking.

"It's true that a library located

off on a side street that is not visible will get little use," she said. "That's why we think the North and Troy site will be very good."

Nancy Abbate, executive director of the Youth Service Project, a Humboldt Park social-service agency that organized the rally, said the new library was critical for the area and the children who attend more than a dozen schools.

"There are few safe places for kids in communities like this," she said. "The library is seen as one of those few safe places."

EXTRA

BILINGUAL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS-SPANISH/ENGLISH - NORTH SIDE EDITIONS - NOVEMBER 12, 1992 - 25 Cents

\$38 million to prevent high school dropouts

The U.S. Education Department has awarded 86 grants totalling \$38 million to help reduce the number of school dropouts. An additional \$2 million contract was awarded to fund the second year of an extensive evaluation of dropout prevention projects.

Among the recipients of the grants were: the Illinois Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities—\$467,940; the Chicago Public Schools—\$542,516; and Youth Service Project—\$112,068.

Of the grants, \$30 million will continue 65 projects started in 1991, and \$8 million will support 21 new projects.

Under the program, grantees establish and demonstrate effective ways to: identify potential dropouts and prevent them from leaving school; encourage dropouts to re-enter school; identify and assist at-risk students in the elementary and early secondary grades; and collect and report data on dropouts to school officials.

The awards are authorized by the School Dropout Demonstration Assistance Program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

EXTRA

BILINGUAL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS-SPANISH/ENGLISH • NORTH SIDE EDITIONS • OCTOBER 8, 1992 • 25 Cents

Noticias Locales/Local News

NORTHWEST



Service request: Block Club Federation member Tony Murphy points to the need for building inspection efforts to be stepped up in some areas of the community during the 31st Ward meeting at the Mozart Park fieldhouse, Sept. 29. (Extra photo by Christine Nielsen Craig)

Piden servicios: El miembro de la Federación de Clubes de la Cuadra Tony Murphy destaca la necesidad de acelerar inspecciones de edificios en algunas áreas durante la reunión del distrito 31 en la casa club de Mozart Park el 29 de Sept. (Foto Extra por Christine Nielsen Craig)

Ward residents demand new community policing meeting

by Christine Nielsen Craig

Police and crime issues were among the top concerns at the 31st Ward community meeting, Sept. 29, held at the Mozart Park fieldhouse, 3840 W. Armitage.

In addition to requests for more protection in high crime areas, several local residents asked for a meeting on community policing for Districts 14 and 25. They complained that a regional meeting on the issue was overtaken by 15th District residents, who came by the busload to protest rumors that the Austin station would be converted to an auxiliary facility under the community policing plan.

"We need another meeting in this area,"

said Margarita Martinez, a member of the Block Club Federation. "We are ready for community policing, but we need information on it."

Martinez also asked that more bilingual staff be hired in city offices, to better service the Latino community.

This was the second 31st Ward meeting sponsored by the Mayor's Office of Inquiry and Information.

There were 166 complaints filed during the first meeting, held in March. Of those, 11 are major projects and area still being addressed, according to Bob Wysocki, spokesman for the department.

To file a complaint or service request with the city, call the district service coordinator's office, 747-8621.

Chicago Defender

SEPT 12, 1992



The writing's on the wall

As part of the summer employment program at Youth Service Project, teens of Humboldt Park worked with artists from Chicago Public Art Group on a mural titled "It Is Time to Remember." Located at the underpass located on Pulaski at Wabansia and Bloomingdale, the mural contains images of the major ethnic groups in the community: Latino, Black and European.

EXTRA

NORTHWEST

SEPT 10, 1992



Maestros jóvenes: Emma Rivera de 15 años (en medio) enseña lectura y habilidades matemáticas a Sabriela Pérez, Anthony Pedraza, Gregorio García y Arturo Pérez como parte de Youth Service Project (YSP) en su programa de verano. Unos 32 jóvenes han sido empleados por YSP y más de 60 niños participaron.

Young teachers: 15-year-old Emma Rivera (middle) teaches reading and math skills to Sabriela Perez, Anthony Pedraza, Gregorio Garcia, and Arturo Perez as part of Youth Service Project (YSP) Summer Employment Program. Some 32 teens were employed by YSP and over 60 kids participated.

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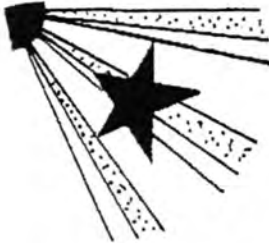
Newsline

Newsletter of the
Illinois Collaboration on Youth
and the
Youth Network Council of Chicago

Summer 1992
Volume 1, Number 1

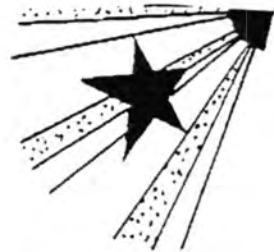


- Administrative Office ● 506 South Wabash ● Suite 504 ● Chicago, Illinois 60605
- State Office ● 321 1/2 South Sixth Street ● Suite 200 ● Springfield, Illinois 62701



YSP Agency "SPOLIGHT"

Youth Service Project, Inc.



The Greater Humboldt Park area on Chicago's northwest side is a community known through media attention as one with an escalating youth gang crime rate, open street drug trafficking and a school drop-out rate that reaches 70 percent for youth.

Since its founding in 1975, Youth Service Project, Inc. (YSP) has worked diligently to build a stronger Humboldt Park community. The mission of the organization, in fact, is to strengthen the community by helping young people realize their full potential, thereby creating more meaningful lives and a healthy neighborhood.

Some 3,000 Latino and African-American youth ages 12-21 participate each year, according to Nancy M. Abbate, founder and executive director of the agency. The youth and their families get involved through a variety of services including individual support groups, classes, home visits, individual and group counseling, employment training and placement, sports and recreation, anti-gang counseling and activities, and community improvement projects.

YSP offers nine bicultural, bilingual programs, which take place in community schools, churches, libraries and homes. The programs are Teens Adapting to Parenting (TAP); Substance Abuse Program; Neighborhood Response Counseling (NRC); Second Chance; ELLA (Enrichment for Latinos Leading to Advancement); READ (Reading Enables Achievement and Direction); Community Organizing; EDY (Economic Development for Youth); and Summer and After-School Employment and Activities.

Within these programs are specific projects, each of which has helped unify and strengthen the area through assisting youth. For example, the annual mural project, now in its 15th year, provides local teens with the opportunity to assist in the creation of a major public artwork -- a mural -- on a building located in the area.

The annual Back-to-School Parade in August is an outgrowth of YSP's community partnership efforts. The parade brings together nearly 1,000 parents, youth, and civic and business leaders in an effort to drive home the concept that an education is important and reinforces existing anti-dropout messages.

YSP was also instrumental in forming the Block Club Federation, a grass roots group comprised of local residents for whom YSP provides all organizing assistance and technical support. YSP became involved in community organizing when it saw that

direct service alone wasn't getting at the direct cause of youth problems. The Federation has identified problems in Humboldt that need attention and is working to help address them.

The united community, led by YSP, made a difference in 1989 when the North-Pulaski Branch Public Library burned, thus depriving local youth of a safe and enriching institution. The Library Board seriously considered not reopening the facility. However, through the efforts of YSP, a community campaign was organized to communicate the importance of the library branch in the life of youth. A new facility was opened within a year. "We knew the library represented a safe place for kids away from gangs and drug dealers. It was essential that we, as a community, work to save this important institution in Humboldt Park," Abbate said.

YSP's scholarship program (named by the YSP board as the Nancy M. Abbate Scholarship) has already helped further bond community residents. Each year two Humboldt Park teens receive a four-year, \$20,000 scholarship to the college of their choice. A committee of local residents screens and recommends candidates. With such significant financial support, the winners are virtually guaranteed a college education and a successful career.

YSP's staff of 50 is comprised almost entirely of Humboldt Park residents. The organization's majority/minority board of 15 members oversees an organization whose budget has grown to \$2 million annually.

"True to its beginnings, YSP has been intimately linked with the neighborhood," Abbate said. "Community involvement is critical. We are proud of the impact YSP has had in Humboldt Park and plan for continued involvement in the future."

For further information on Youth Service Project, call YSP at (312) 772-6270. ♦

*Miracles are instantaneous,
they cannot be summoned,
but come of themselves,
usually at unlikely moments
to those who least expect them.*

-Katherine Anne Porter

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THE COMMUNICATOR

WINTER/INVIERNO

EL COMUNICADOR

VOL. 3 NO. 2

THE NEED FOR COMMUNITY POLICING

by Magdalena Martinez,
3200-3300 W. Pierce Resilience
Block Club

Assisted by Ani Russell, Chicago
Alliance for Neighborhood Safety

The mission of the **Block Club Federation** is very specific when it relates to the Chicago Police Department and their work in our community. We are mandated by that mission to seek out the best possible ways to improve the working relationship between the residents of our community and our Police Department. These are dangerous times for everyone in our communities and we are fortunate to be in a position to influence and give direction to the re-organization of the Chicago Police Department.

Community-Oriented Policing is the direction in which the Chicago Police Department seems to be heading. **Community Policing** promises safer neighborhoods through a partnership between the community, the Police and other agencies working together to decrease neighborhood crime and improve the quality of life.

In 1993, the City is taking a first step in the right direction by creating 5 prototype districts with more and smaller beats and beat teams responsible for controlling crime in their area. The program will be implemented city-wide in 1994. The City calls this program a "**Neighborhood-Based Strategy**." It assumes that:

- "Police service should be organized around neighborhoods."
- "Partnerships with the neighborhoods can be effective in arresting crime."

Our position on Community Policing is very favorable, as long as we the community are involved providing solid input into the reorganization process. The hearing held on Sept. 3, 1992 at Hanson Park



YSP's new Mural at Bloomingdale and Pulaski was dedicated on September 19, 1992. Present to dedicate this symbol of community tradition and partnership were local officials, youth artists, Chicago Public Art Group, YSP Staff and community residents.

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The issue was overshadowed by 15th Police District residents who feared the scaling down of their Police District Station.

Arrangements are being made to meet with Police Superintendent Matt Rodriguez to address Community Policing and ways to strengthen the relationship with the Police. If you want to get involved, call the Community Organizers from Youth Service Project, Inc. at 772-6270.

LA NECESIDAD PARA POLICIA COMUNITARIA

Artículo sometido por Magdalena
Martinez, 3200-3300 W. Pierce
Resilience Block Club

Ayudado por Ani Russell, Chicago
Alliance for Neighborhood Safety

La misión de la Federación de Clubes de Cuadra es bien específica cuando se trata del Departamento de Policía de Chicago y su trabajo en nuestra comunidad. La misión nos ordena buscar los mejores medios posibles para mejorar la relación entre los residentes de nuestra comunidad y nuestro Departamento de Policía. Éstos son tiempos peligrosos para cada persona en nuestras comunidades y somos afortunados en estar en una posición de influir y dar dirección a la reorganización del Departamento de Policía de Chicago.

Policía Orientada a la Comunidad es la dirección en la cual el Departamento de Policía de Chicago se está dirigiéndose. **Policía Comunitaria** promete un vecindario más seguro a través de una asociación entre la comunidad, la Policía y otras agencias comunitarias trabajando juntos para disminuir el crimen en nuestro vecindario y mejorar la calidad de vida.

- En 1993, la ciudad da su primer paso en la dirección correcta al crear 5 distritos prototipos con más y pequeñas rondas y equipos de rondas responsable para controlar el crimen en su área. El programa será implementado a través de la ciudad en 1994. La Ciudad llama este programa una "**Estrategia Comunitaria**." Ésta propone que: "El servicio de policía tiene que ser organizado alrededor de las comunidades."
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Continúa a la pág. 3...

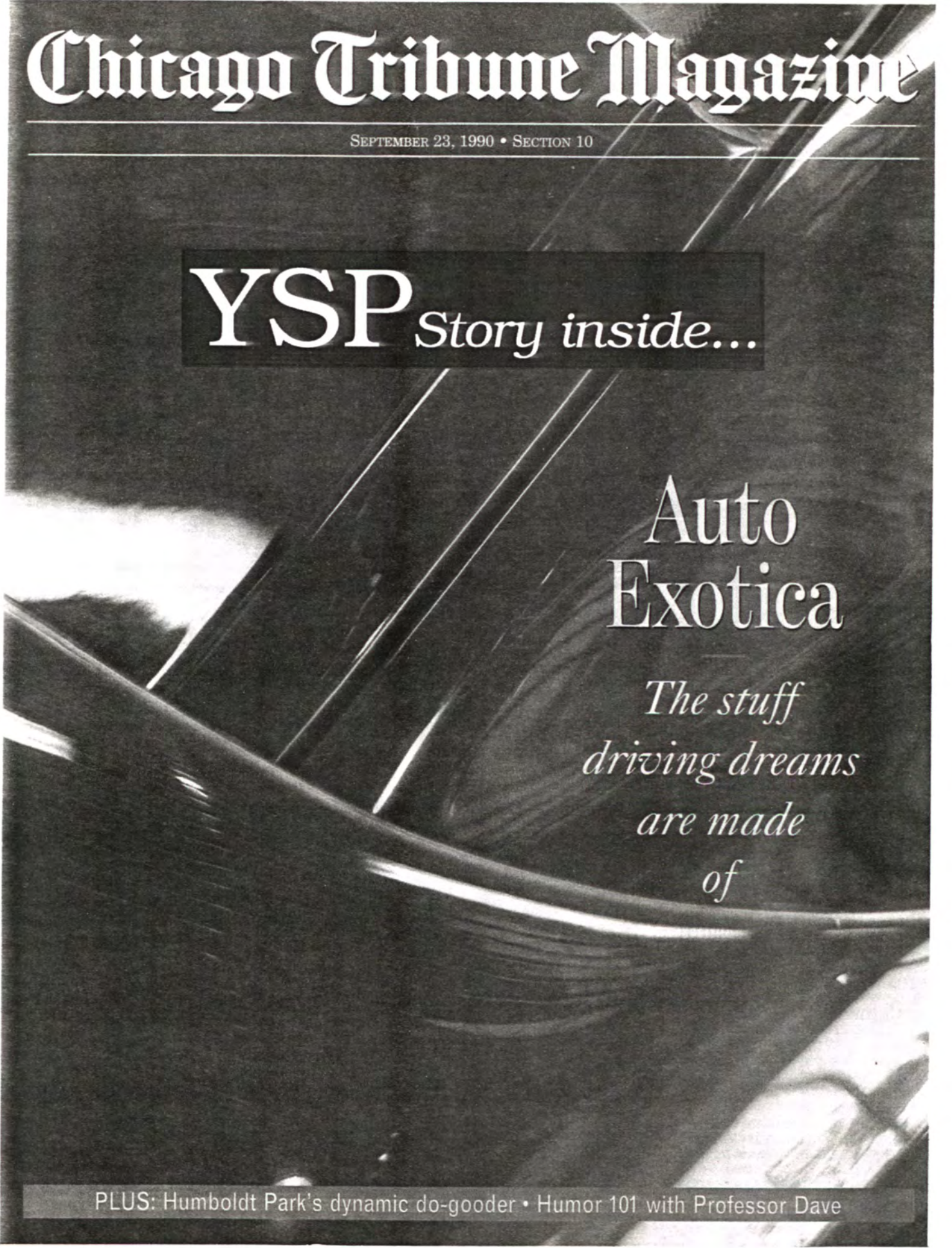
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Chicago Tribune Magazine



SEPTEMBER 23, 1990 • SECTION 10

YSP *Story inside...*

Auto Exotica

*The stuff
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PLUS: Humboldt Park's dynamic do-gooder • Humor 101 with Professor Dave

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As pictured in "International Specialties," the cookbook's authors include, front from left, Sandra Janish, Melinda Simmons, Ana M. Rodriguez, and back from left, Glenda Rodriguez, Maria Neris, Maria Luna, Sofia Ibarra and Emiree Rivera.

Teenage mothers cook up a cookbook

Fifty-two young mothers on Chicago's Northwest Side have put their energies into a cookbook that offers recipes in Spanish and English. The small, spiral-bound book, "International Specialties," includes 54 simple recipes for dishes such as flan, avocado salad, Puerto Rican lasagna and oatmeal-banana-date bread.

The project was sponsored by the Youth Service Project Inc., a not-for-profit community agency that serves young Hispanic and black people in the Humboldt Park neighborhood.

According to Nancy M. Abbate, executive director of the agency,

the cookbook was a project to help engender self esteem in teenage mothers as well as offer training in communication skills, design, writing and sales. The authors also worked as interns with nutrition professionals and learned specialized food preparation skills.

The book includes measuring information and a rundown of nutritional principles for healthful living.

To order a copy, send the suggested donation of \$5 to International Specialties, Youth Service Project Inc., 3942 W. North Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60647. ●

The following news articles are a sample of the significant media exposure that has helped increase awareness and build a positive image for the Youth Service Project.

newsclip
midwest/chicago
644-1720

TRIPINE
CHICAGO, IL
PUBL/DAILY *
CIRC/753,043

OCT -13-88



YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT, INC.

...responding to changing youth needs

NEWSCLIP
751-7300

NORTHWEST EXTRA

CHICAGO, IL
PUBL. WED
CIRC. 16,882

NOV 29, 1989



El Senador Simon visita YSP

El Senador estadounidense, Paul Simon (lejos a la izquierda) acepta una placa del Proyecto de Servicios para la Juventud, Inc. (YSP), en una reciente visita a las instalaciones en el 3942 W. North Avenue. Mirando (de la izquierda) aparece Heriberto Lopez de 17 años, el miembro de YSP que ha elaborado y presentado la placa al Senador Simon; John Souchet, del comité de consultivo de YSP, y estudiante de la Universidad de Northwestern; Nancy Abbate, directora ejecutiva de YSP. Durante su visita a la agencia, el Senador Simon habló con la juventud que está enrolada en los programas antidrogas y antipandillas de YSP.

Sen. Simon visits YSP

U.S. Senator Paul Simon (far left) accepts a plaque from Youth Service Project, Inc. (YSP), at a recent visit to the facility at 3942 W. North Av. Looking on (from left) are Heriberto Lopez, 17, the YSP member who constructed and presented the plaque to Senator Simon; John Souchet, YSP advisory committee member and student of Northwestern University; and Nancy Abbate, YSP executive director. During his visit to the agency, Senator Simon spoke with youth enrolled in YSP's anti-drug and anti-gang programs.

3942 West North Avenue • Chicago, Illinois 60647 • (312) 772-6270

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Continúa a la pág. 3...