

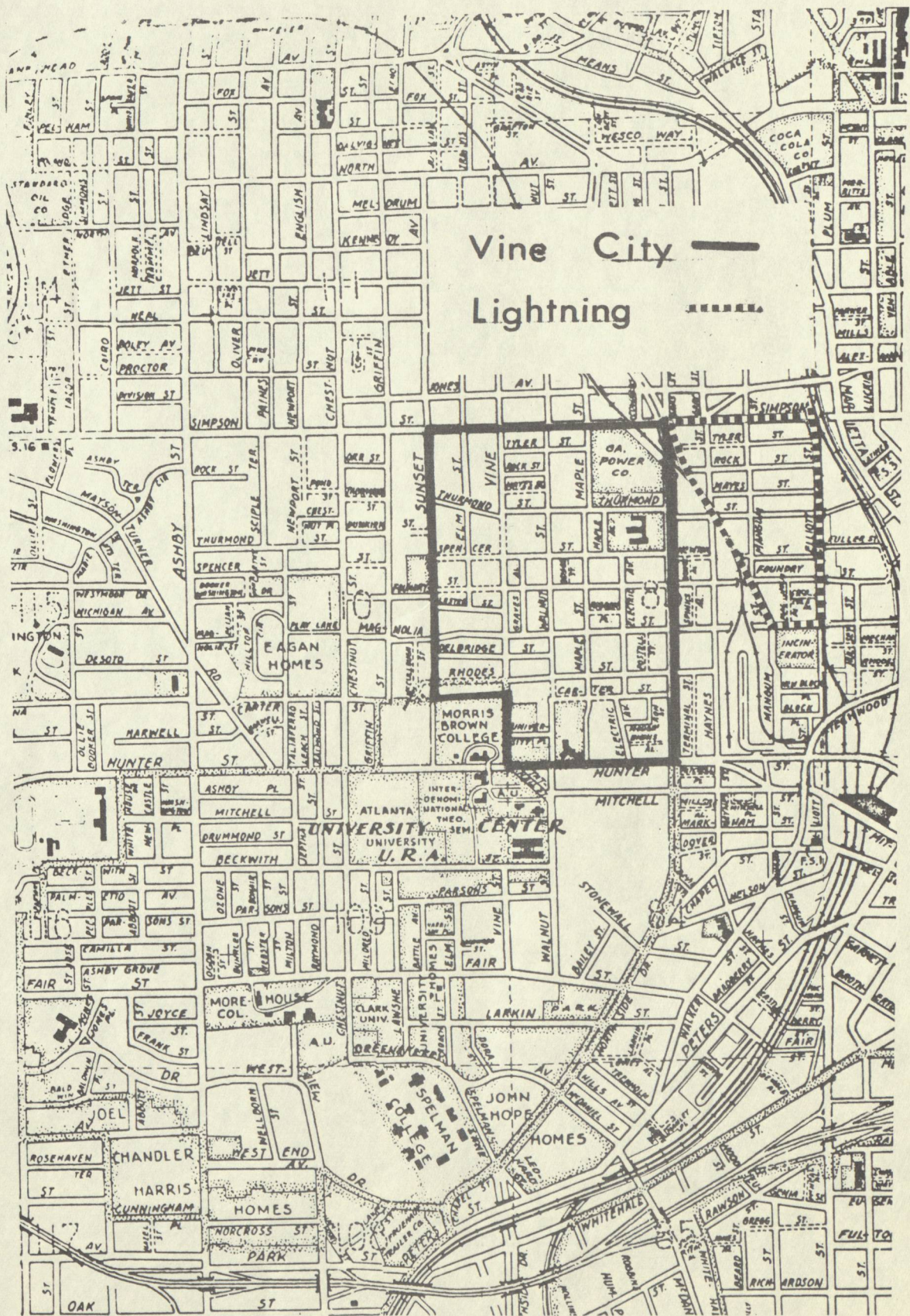
THE VINE CITY FOUNDATION, INC.

Information Compiled By:

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A BRIEF DESCRIPTION - VINE CITY

Vine City is a slum in Atlanta, Georgia. Approximately 1,550 families live in the six by four block area bounded by Northside Drive, Simpson Street, Sunset and Hunter Avenues. The residents live in a variety of dwellings, many of which were formerly one-family homes but are now multiple family units. Ten or fifteen people crowd into these three or four room apartments. Often a toilet is shared by all. Many of the streets are unpaved in Vine City. When it rains the water washes dirt and cans and bottles into the sewers, clogging them. At times like this the trash floats about, wine bottles nodding like swans.

A random survey of 10% of the families reveals that over half the houses need painting, almost half have walls in need of repair, and an equal number have ceilings either brickling or cracking. Screen doors, good floors, adequate electric wiring and sanitary plumbing are all luxuries in Vine City. Approximately 80% of the residents rent the houses in which they live -- houses similar to the ones just described. They pay rents which in one year equal the tax assessed value of the houses. A house assessed at \$750 of ten rents for \$60 per month.

The people of Vine City are more difficult to describe. John Hanecy is an eight-year-old, sitting on a porch with a homemade checkerboard on his knees. He quietly describes the knifing he saw the night before, adding in detail how the cop clubbed the fighters to their knees and then dragged them into his car with its siren wailing.

Mrs. Johnson has lived in Vine City all her life. She is almost seventy. Her ankles are swollen double with arthritis. She is paid \$71.55 a month Social Security. She says that "things gotta get better, cause God didn't mean for no good people to live like this."

A middle-aged man, Mr. Williams, pulled the biceps muscle out of his shoulder on the job a year ago. He didn't know about Workmen's Compensation, and his employer forgot to tell him about it. When he did find out about it, an operation was made possible but compensation has been held up until a hearing is scheduled. He waited too long to file, the agency told him.

James is nine years old and in the fifth grade. He can't spell his name but he has never failed a grade.

THE VINE CITY FOUNDATION

The Vine City Foundation is a direct outgrowth of the Vine City Council. The Vine City Council was a nonpartisan organization organized in 1965 by Hector Black, Helen Howard and other interested members of the Vine City community.

The Foundation is an association of people, chiefly residents of the Vine City area. The main purpose is to better the condition of the people living in the general area of Vine City by encouraging them to work together and to stand up for what is right and just. It has 105 members and meets once a month on the second Wednesday of each month.

The Foundation is somewhat unique in that it is composed of the people who live in a ghetto and are trying, through the development of community action, to deal with their own problems.

Tax-exempt status has been obtained and all operating funds are dependent upon contributions and upon receipts from the Thrift Shop. The budget is very limited and the support of any concerned person, no matter how small, is welcome (and necessary).

At present no government support, on any level, is given the Foundation. It is entirely supported through contributions. The Foundation desires to develop a more cooperative relationship with the local anti-poverty program.

Currently, the Foundation employs three staff members, an executive director, and two residents of the community. Two young ministers are assigned to the Foundation by SIM (Student Interracial Ministry). In addition, volunteers assist from time to time with certain phases of the program.

VINE CITY FOUNDATION, INC.

NURSERY

Child Care

Ages: 3-5

Time: 9-12 a.m.

THE THRIFT SHOP

NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY

1000 Books

THE CRAFT AND CANDLE SHOP

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

1. Tutorial service
2. Family supper
3. Annual harvest festival
4. Bread program
5. Community Savings Club

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNSEL & CONSULTATION SERVICE

1. Welfare rights
2. Housing
3. Rental
4. Civil rights
5. Legal advice

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
The Vine City Voice

VINE CITY MEDICAL CLINIC

Opening date: Oct.
15, 1967

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY THE VINE CITY FOUNDATION

Neighborhood Counsel and Consultation Service

The Foundation carries on constant work with neighborhood people who have problems in welfare, housing, rent and legal services. The staff counsels and makes referrals on numerous problems each day. Very effective indigenous social work is accomplished by the staff. Professional consultation is available to the staff from various professionals throughout the Greater Atlanta community.

Emergency Assistance Program

A limited fund is set aside for immediate assistance in providing food, rent, clothing, and medical care for the residents of the Vine City community.

Community Newspaper--The Vine City Voice

The Vine City Voice is the community paper, printed twice a month by the staff and volunteers, to give people in the community a chance to express their ideas on local issues of concern to them. Wayne Johnson is the editor.

Neighborhood Library

Approximately one thousand books have been donated, catalogued and processed for the lending library for children and adults. Open every week day afternoon from 5:00 - 8:30 p.m., the library also serves as a study hall for neighborhood children with the librarians, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Johnson to help them with school work.

The Craft and Candle Shop

The Craft and Candle Shop is located at 560 Magnolia Street. It is operated by Mrs. Ruby Lundy, a very talented self-taught individual. All kinds of materials are used to make beautiful, useful articles. The shop is open five days a week, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Mrs. Lundy works with teenagers after school as a special hobby.

The Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop provides a source of clothing, small household items, and, frequently, furniture to the community. Usually, a small amount is charged (for instance, 15¢ for a pair of shoes). This preserves the dignity of the person in need and provides the only source, other than direct contributions, of operating funds for the Foundation. Of course, in cases of hardship, needed items are given away.

The receipts from Thrift Shop sales provide funds to, perhaps, help an evicted family find shelter, buy food for children whose breadwinner is ill, provide coal to heat the room of a hard-pressed young mother. The shop is dependent entirely on donations of items from churches, organizations and individuals.

Nursery--Child Care

Twenty-five children, ranging in age from three to five, are enrolled in the Nursery School. For the most part, these are children whose mothers must work and who would otherwise have to fend for themselves. From 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Adult workers supervise activities.

We try to teach them coordination and balance, parts of the body, colors and shapes, numbers and pre-reading readiness. Confidence and self-identity are instilled by painting self-portraits, learning to play with other children and by creative activities.

Vine City Medical Clinic

A small medical clinic to be staffed by medical personnel who have volunteered their time will open soon in this building. Simple facilities are being constructed as rapidly as money is available.

The clinic will realize a long-cherished hope to have available local treatment for minor injuries and illness and to teach preventive medicine, none of which is currently at hand, short of a lengthy trip to the nearest charity hospital. The result

has been that the poor of Vine City, and their children, do not seek medical assistance until minor things become major. Opening date: October 15, 1967
Dr. William Noble, Director

Special Programs

1. The Tutorial Service

On a small scale, a counseling tutorial program is sponsored by the Vine City Foundation in the home of Mrs. Wayne Johnson. This program is favored by the services of James Henderson, Wayne Johnson, members from the Twelfth Gate Coffee House, with assistance from the Quaker House

2. Family Supper

The Family Supper is sponsored by the Foundation once a month in order to get the people in the community together to discuss issues of interest. A program is planned and a delicious meal is served. Vincent Harding, Ph.D., Chairman of the History Department at Spelman College, highlighted the last program. Free to all residents and friends.

3. Annual Harvest Festival

Each year the Foundation sponsors a Harvest Festival in order to provide entertainment for the community and raise funds for the programs in Vine City Foundation.

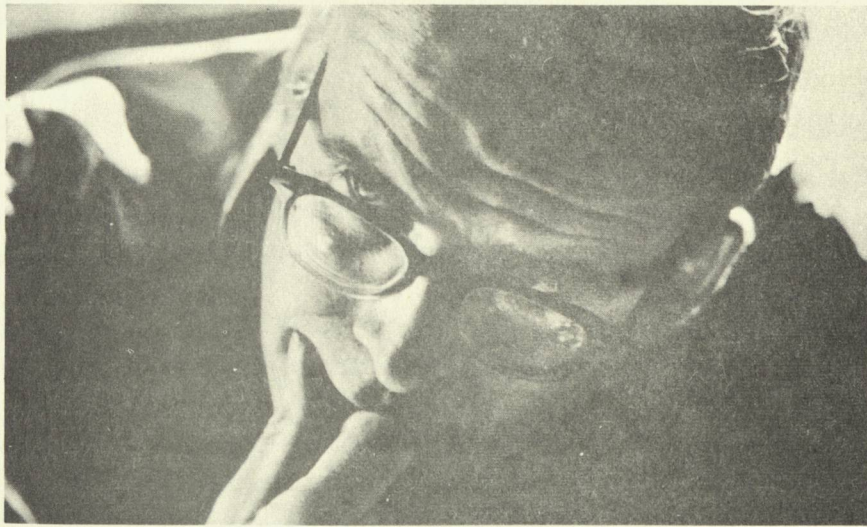
4. The Bread Program

The Colonial Stores donates two to three hundred bread items each week for distribution by the Vine City Foundation.

5. The Community Savings Club

Fifteen members of the Vine City Foundation have formed a savings club. Each member is required to pay one (1) dollar a week into a common savings fund. The club was organized to create an interest in saving.

HECTOR & HELEN



"... Basically, we don't trust the little man to know his wants and needs..."

Hector Black



"... Am I my brother's keeper? I have to be ...
To be poor is to know the 'nitty-gritty.'"

Helen Howard

HECTOR BLACK

"I identify with people on the bottom . . . I've had a lot of opportunity and advantages. You're born where you're born, without choosing, and because things are the way they are, you'll probably stay where you're born despite the American Dream." . .

Hector Black

Hector Black was a very controversial figure in and out of Vine City. He is essentially a quiet spoken man with a soft smile that reflects that he has a great deal of respect for other human beings.

- SNCC called him "White Jesus" and tried to force him out of Vine City.
- Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr. said in one account in some praise, "That damn guy has got guts."
- Joe Scheffer, slum Lord in Lightning, hates the guts that Mayor Allen admires.
- Pat Lawerance, resident of Lightning says "We just love Mister Black . . cause he is ready to help out any time."

To know and to associate with Hector Black . . . is to be inspired by his life style.

HELEN HOWARD

"If you call Hector Black 'White Jesus' I guess that makes me Black Mary".

Helen Howard

A very talented indigent . . . Mrs. Howard is a perfect example of what this Nation cannot continue to afford . . . a source of undeveloped natural talent. This Nation by ignoring poverty, has lost the full benefits of the talents of this individual.

Very late in her life, however, she is making a contribution to society. In 1966, she was a candidate for the Georgia House of Representatives #137. She has had articles published and she is making a fantastic contribution to her community. . . . On talking to Mrs. Howard, one can not help but regain hope for the future.

. . . WE ARE GREATLY INDEBTED TO HECTOR BLACK
FOR HIS TREMENDOUS INSIGHT AND INSPIRATION...

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Mrs. Pat Lawrence
2. Mrs. Laura Seaborn
3. Miss Doris Reed
4. Mrs. Pearl Robinson
5. Mr. James Coppage
6. Mrs. Anna Laura Dawson
7. Mr. J. C. Holt
8. Mrs. Barbara Williams
9. Mrs. Mary Newberry
10. Louis U. Reese, M. D.
11. Mrs. Kathryn A. Brisbane, A.C.S.W.
12. Mrs. Fred Patterson
13. Att. Jack Watson, Jr.
14. William A. Noble, M.D.
15. Mr. John Youngblunt
16. Mr. Pat Watters
17. Mr. Dwight Ferguson
18. Mr. LaRoche R. Heriot
19. Mr. Harry D. Dewar
20. Mrs. Ella Mae Brayboy

MEDICAL CLINIC ADVISORY BOARD

1. William Noble, M.D.
2. F. E. McLendon, M.D.
3. Mr. Joseph Taylor, M.H.A.
4. Tully Blalock, M.D.
5. Catherine Binns, R.N.
6. Alex McPhedran, M.D.
7. Kathryn Brisbane, A.C.S.W.
8. Robert Kibler, M.D.
9. Lagne Garrettson, M.D.
10. L. U. Reese, M.D.
11. Michael Lane, M.D.
12. Ruth Neff, R.N.
13. Liliane Campbell, R.N.
14. DeLoges Green, R. N.

STAFF

Mrs. Helen Howard, Executive Director
Mrs. Gertrude Phillips, Thrift Shoppe- Manger/Utility
Maintenance
Mrs. Dorothy Clark, Nursery Instructor/Utility
Maintenance
Rev. James Henderson, Salary paid by Trinity
Rev. Wayne Johnson, Presbyterian Church and Student
Interracial Ministry
Mrs. Janet Perkins, Part-time Secretary

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Jack H. Watson, Jr.	William A. Noble, M. D.
Edward W. Moore	Alex McPhedran, M.D.
John Helms	Robert Kibler, M. D.
Horace Sibley	Michael Lane, M.D.
Phillip Heiner	Mrs. Liliane Campbell, R.N.
Donald E. O'Brien	Mrs. Delores Green, R.N.
Overton A. Currie	Mrs. Ruth Neff, R.N.
Mrs. Doris Reed	Larne Garrettson, M. D.
Miss Marion Perrett	L. V. Reese, M.D.
Miss Arlene DeBevoise	Dr. Lyle Conrad, M.D.
Mrs. Catherine Dewar	Dr. David Vastine, M.D.
Mrs. Harriet Heriot	Dr. Robert Armstrong, M.D.
Mrs. Eleanor Brockman	Russell Wallace, M.D.
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Cloyd	Lee Lindsey, M.D.
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Ferguson	
Mr. Robert Waymer	

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558 MAGNOLIA STREET, N. W.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

523-8112