

Annual Report of the Neighborhood Union for the Year 1925.

To the Board of Managers

Greetings:

The year 1925 has been fraught with many difficulties the most outstanding of which you are fully cognizant. The first serious shock however, was a cut in our budget appropriation from \$5,500 to \$3,918. It was for this reason that we were forced to limit the scope of our work. Nevertheless the staff has worked conscientiously, and at a great sacrifice. We wish to present to you its efforts for your approval or disapproval.

The major extra-activities during the year were :

1. the Better Homes exhibit on Currier Street, which according to the report from the national headquarters, aided Atlanta materially in getting the first prize of \$250.00. \$25.00 of this prize money was turned over to the Neighborhood Union by the colored Better Homes committee to be used as it saw fit.
2. The Annual Clean Up and Health campaign was waged and gained Atlanta honorable mention at the National Negro Business League meeting.
3. An intensive drive was made to have every man and woman register and vote.
4. Practically a month was given over to the annual Community Chest campaign. At least fifty per cent of the work of this campaign was done by the Neighborhood Union.
5. Voluntary donations enabled us to give ten baskets to needy people at Christmas time.

The Routine work of the organization has consisted of club work done by our junior worker Mrs. L. M. Gaines, and a Neighborhood House supervised by our senior worker Mrs. I. B. Hill. A statistical report will be read later, which will give an idea of what these ladies have done. It can not show however, the spirit and earnestness with which they have gone about their duties.

Community organization is a difficult job to say the least. It requires a careful study of communities, including their traditions, superstitions, personalities and mental attitudes. It is a game of trial and error, it is a long process of making mistakes and profiting by them. Our workers are intelligent and interested and I believe that if during a single year they could have reasonable financial support that their efficiency would be definitely proven.

Thought to many of you it may seem a regrettable fact, it is quite evident that the day of the volunteer untrained worker is gone to return no more. The trained social worker is a doctor of social therapeutics and treats social mal-adjustments in the same manner as a physician treats organic diseases. This is not an attempt to curb the missionary spirit of untrained people, but it is a plea for support and co-operation of trained workers.

Dental Clinic

Our dental clinic, in spite of the fact that it has had to depend on voluntary service has met a definite need in the community as the statistical report will reveal. The saddest event of the year was our experience with the Community Chest. Our organization was subjected to a one-sided survey which resulted in our organization being dropped from the Community Chest budget for 1926. We carried our case to the public in the form of a drive the results of which we were getting vindicated in the public eye and caused the Community Chest to reconsider our cause. They appealed to us to stop our drive and come to a new agreement with them. This was done. (Read statistical report).

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