

Chicago Bar Foundation Report 1994 or 1995

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a grant for their new law center which officially opened April 18, 1994. The Community Law Center concentrates on elderly law, domestic relations, and drug abatement.

"In the area of drug nuisance abatement, we have just successfully assisted the community in getting a burned-out building, which had a flourishing liquor store, demolished," said Lee Gaede, staff attorney. The liquor store was a drug "hot spot" and the court yard in back was being used to "chop" stolen cars. The law center will be celebrating their victory and strategizing new uses for the now vacant lot with the community in the near future.

C.A.R.P.L.S., the Coordinated Advice & Referral Project for Legal Services, also opened its doors this year. Funded by the Lawyers Trust Fund and the Illinois and Chicago Bar Foundations, the agency is a response to the enormous number of poor people in the Chicago area who need legal advice and referral. All major legal services providers are part of C.A.R.P.L.S.'s network. Whenever someone calls the "wrong" agency—e.g. an agency that is not able to respond to the client's question or service need—the agency can now transfer the caller directly to C.A.R.P.L.S. for immediate assistance. C.A.R.P.L.S. staff, who are all lawyers, will either work with the client or direct them to an appropriate agency. The program is already responding to over 2,500 calls a month and has drawn national attention as a model program for meeting legal needs.

The Who's TOMMY to Benefit Youth and Family Service Projects

Excellent seating has been reserved for The Who's TOMMY on Thursday, October 27th, which will only be in Chicago for a few weeks. TOMMY is the winner of five Tony Awards including: best direction, best score and best choreography.

The evening begins at 6:00 with cocktails and a supper buffet at the Chicago Bar Association building. Then, stroll or ride around the corner to the beautiful Auditorium Theatre for an exciting evening of drama and song.

Tickets cost \$100 per person and are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Proceeds will be used to underwrite several Justice for Youth and Young Lawyers Section projects at the Juvenile Court. Call the Foundation at (312) 294-9611 to place your order.

Lend A Hand Program

The Need: Lost Opportunities During The Out-Of-School Hours
According to the Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development, each school day, America's 20 million young adolescents decide how they will spend at least five (40%) of their waking hours when they are not in school. For many, these hours harbor both risk and opportunity. On weekends and during the summer months, American youth have

Why Mentor?

The majority of services for children today are problem-oriented or crisis-oriented. These are programs to help children overcome drug-addiction, gangs, and family, physical, developmental and psychological problems. In contrast, mentoring programs focus on the positive — the talents, knowledge and dreams of young people. Children can't realize personal goals without the necessary skills. They can't secure rewarding jobs and personal happiness without self-esteem, a good education and good learning habits. They can't reach their full potential without positive role models who demonstrate these skills.

Tutoring and mentoring programs can help in many ways:

- ◆ Maintain and build children's interest in learning;
- ◆ Keep children in school and improve grades;
- ◆ Keep children off the streets and in productive activities;
- ◆ Improve motivation & self-esteem;
- ◆ Broaden each child's experience base;
- ◆ Stimulate creativity;
- ◆ Enhance social and problem-solving skills;
- ◆ Support children in setting and keeping goals; and
- ◆ Expand each child's options for a quality life.

To find out about mentoring opportunities, call the Bar Foundation's Volunteer Support Program at (312) 294-9611.

even greater amounts of discretionary time.

Research conducted by the Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago concludes that "it is imperative that society provide opportunities through which children can build the capacities and skills they need to function adequately as young people and later as adults." And that "over the long term, particularly for school-age and older children, the potential for social participation is often what sustains a child's effort to overcome obstacles."

In Chicago, well over 100 programs have identified mentoring as a means to deliver this kind of opportunity to inner city children. Some are doing a spectacular job. Others struggle to recruit and retain volunteer talent and funding. All of them welcome new resources for capacity building and fund-raising.

An Answer: The Lend A Hand Program

After-school, tutoring/mentoring programs, where children meet in one-on-one and group settings with committed adult partners, are a key means to success for at-risk young people. The Chicago Bar Foundation, in collaboration with the Tutor Mentor Connection of Cabrini Connections, is committed to expanding the availability of such programs in Chicago.

The Lend A Hand Program was launched by then-CBA President Tom Demetrio in 1992. Its original purpose was to encourage lawyers and other professionals to become mentors for troubled children. The program has worked in conjunction with selected youth services programs to recruit volunteers and help to develop program activities. Currently, we are placing approximately 25 volunteers a month with qualified programs. This year, we inaugurated the Demetrio Award to acknowledge an exemplary program. The Award — a \$2,000 cash prize and commemorative sculpture — was presented to the Ariel Foundation "I Have A Dream" program.

Because they are early intervention programs, mentoring programs are relatively cost-effective ways to give children the support they need. Now that we are committed to the concept, our goal is to raise \$250,000 for distri-

bution to qualified tutor/mentoring programs throughout Chicago. Through systematic funding of start-ups and on-going programs, the Lend A Hand Fund would give children the tools they need to avoid academic and social problems. The Fund's highest priority is the support of afterschool, site-based tutor/mentor programs which offer a mixture of academic tutoring and one-on-one mentoring on an ongoing basis. In such programs, students usually meet at a central site and participate for at least one year.

The Lend A Hand Fund would be guided by an Advisory Board made up of representatives from the legal and educational communities, as well as program practitioners. The Foundation is working with the Tutor/Mentor Connection, a citywide network of programs, to insure that our guidelines identify and promote "what works" for attracting, retaining and succeeding with young people, volunteers and staff. T/M C is also gathering information about the scope of services available, producing a citywide programs directory and sponsoring occasional conferences and seminars to capacity build and improve the communications among programs.

CBF Staffs Activities to Examine "Family Court" Possibilities

By Betsy Densmore
CBF Executive Director

Background

Our Justice for Youth Campaign has been studying ways to better coordinate services and reduce the amount of time spent on unproductive, needlessly adversarial practices in the Juvenile Court. This lead us to investigating the use of unified family courts in other states and cities around the United States.

We produced a summary of our findings and joined with the Northwestern University Children & Family Justice Center in co-sponsoring two seminars intended to create dialogue about such models' strengths and weaknesses. In April, the University of Illinois at Chicago committed to working with us in designing a model fam-