

A P P E N D I C E S

SWOT

STRENGTHS:

1. The community currently has an advisory board consisting of residents that have been addressing community concerns.
2. The community wants the participation of its residents to combat neighborhood problems.
3. An opportunity for ongoing training will occur for residents interested in participating in the developmet of their community.
4. The organization will be centrally located in the neighborhood.
5. There is current funding in the amount of \$16,000 to date.
6. The community has a health center and urban women's center that will complement the project.
7. A non-profit board is now being formed.
8. Some residents will be members on the board.
9. Local government is supportlibve of organization's efforts.
10. A local lending institution has offered to provide a grant for training.

WEAKNESSES:

1. The neighborhood has been targeted a blighted area.
2. Community has two separate groups i.e. crime watch, housing development.
3. Most local businesses have relocated into other areas of the City.
4. Poor organizational skills exist in the neighborhood.

OPPORTUNITIES:

1. New housing development will enable the community to no longer be targeted a blighted area.
2. As a CED Practitioner, my role will be to bring together the two groups to work collectively on the project.

3. Business persons have been canvassing the neighborhood for sits for new businesses.
4. Training opportunities will be available for residents.
5. A reporter has followed the efforts of residents who participated in the decision making process of the housing development and look forward to more human development stories in the neighborhood.
6. Collective coordination of efforts of both neighborhood groups will help deter drugs and crime in the neighborhood.
7. Those residents who want to see change, will have an opportunity to participate in making a difference in the neighborhood.

THREATS:

1. Negative press
2. Drug and crime infested
3. Some residents do not want to see change
4. Funders may not want to come into the area

GOVERNING STRUCTURE

The Board of Directors is currently being formed. Incorporation papers have been filed to obtain the non-profit status of the organization. The composition of the board will be 12 members; two CED Practitioners, one persons from the social work field, three from the neighborhood, three interested persons, two members will be from local non-profit organizations and two from local businesses. A Coordinator for the center will be selected through a process developed by the community advisory committee with Board approval. The coordinator's position will be an unpaid position until such time as funding is available. Residents will be able to nominate a candidate for Coordinator from the neighborhood. To date, their is one member from the neighborhood and two CED Practitioners.

The Board structure of this 501(c)3 shall be developed with the inclusion of input from the neighborhood advisory committee. Board members will be responsible to abide by the rules of the bylaws developed for the organization. Terms of officers will be for one year with reappointments being granted through a nomination petition of 50 resident signatures required for consideration of an appointment on the Board. Fiscal responsibilities will lie on the entire Board. The Board will also be responsible for development of policy and procedure and fundraising activities. The budget for the first year of operation is in the amount of \$16,000. These funds will be granted from the following sources: \$10,000 Community Development Block Grant funds from the City of Trenton and \$6,000 from the Community Foundation of New

Jersey. The \$16,000 will be used for administrative, operational and programmatic expenses. Monies for training is included as a budget line item for residents and board members. The Board will contract out or receive free training in crisis intervention to residents and board members who will operate the center. Compilation of resource material at the center will be completed by neighborhood volunteers. Two resident volunteers will staff telephones for five hours daily during the week with a 24-hour hotline in operation during the weekend. The volunteer residents will be unemployed and earn a maximum of \$5.00 per hour. Rotation of volunteers will be done monthly. This will enable volunteer residents to learn first-hand resource and referral contacts they will be able to use in the community. Activities for local residents and their families will be created by advisory committee with board approval. The major cost in the budget will be telephone equipment and rent. However, sites are being looked at that will provide in-kind space for the organization. Linkages with local businesses, agencies, organizations and the like will be a major challenge of the organization.

HUMBOLDT-SWEETS COMMUNITY INFORMATION & REFERRAL CENTER

REVISED BUDGET

<u>ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS:</u>	<u>REQUESTED</u>	<u>APPROVED</u>
Office Supplies.....	\$ 500.00	200.00
Postage.....	100.00	50.00
Telephone.....	3,500.00	1,500.00
Insurance.....	1,500.00	100.00
Brochures/Flyers & Handouts.....	<u>1,700.00</u>	<u>800.00</u>
TOTAL.....	\$7,300.00	\$2,650.00
 <u>OPERATIONAL COSTS:</u>		
Salaries (2 p/t @ \$5/hr).....	\$3,000.00	3,000.00
Rent.....	6,000.00	<u>3,600.00</u>
Heat & Utilities.....	<u>700.00</u>	<u>- 0 -</u>
TOTAL.....	\$9,700.00	\$6,600.00
 <u>PROGRAMMATIC COSTS:</u>		
Materials (Educational, etc.).....	\$ 500.00	150.00
Transportation.....	500.00	200.00
Accountant.....	500.00	250.00
Training.....	<u>1,500.00</u>	<u>150.00</u>
TOTAL.....	\$3,000.00	\$ 750.00
 <u>GRAND TOTAL.....</u>	<u>\$20,000.00</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>

CITY OF TRENTON
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
FY 1992 PROJECT PROPOSAL

APPLICATION COVER SHEET
PUBLIC SERVICE AND RECREATION

DATE: February 6, 1992

APPLICANT: Humboldt-Sweets Community Information & Referral Center
c/o Community Network

CONTACT PERSON: Mary Woodall

ADDRESS: 605 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Trenton, New Jersey 08618
609-695-6531

CDBG FUNDS REQUESTED: \$20,000

OTHER PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES: Community Foundation of New Jersey

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$30,000

UNIT COST OF PROJECT: \$7 per person, based on residency of 3,000

BRIEF PROJECT SUMMARY: To implement a structured information and referral program for Humboldt-Sweets residents. The gathering of information for referrals will include information that will help to improve the quality of life of residents in the Humboldt-Sweets community. Information is crucial and through communication and the dissemination of information and referral contacts, residents will be empowered to become self-sufficient through human development efforts.

- I. Description of project. (Provide a detailed description of what is to be done by whom, when, where, and how. Include the full range of services to be provided.) State reasons for requesting CDBG funding.

The proposed project will implement a neighborhood information and referral center to be maintained by two part-time neighborhood residents. Ten neighborhood volunteers will be included in the staffing of this project to commence 30 days upon acceptance of this proposal for a 12 month period. The location of the center will be at Community Network, 605 Martin Luther King Blvd., Trenton.

Initial Activities & Tasks:

- * Conduct a needs assessment to survey resident needs
ONGOING - 12 months
- * Complete intake procedures
ONGOING - 12 months
- * Make available specific resource information for residents
ONGOING - 12 months
- * Obtain feedback of resources obtained by residents
ONGOING - 12 months
- * Log results of feedback from residents
BI-WEEKLY - 12 months
- * Maintain a monthly status report of activities of referrals
MONTHLY - 12 months
- * Maintain intake information in locked files
DAILY - 12 months

Resource information will be discussed and disseminated to residents in the following areas: child care, child abuse, substance abuse, senior citizens, job skills training, housing concerns, home repair training, health care, support groups, handicap accessibility, open space development, etc.

Mary Woodall and Fern McRae, Trenton residents and Neighborhood Fellows of the Community Foundation of New Jersey have been selected to implement a community project in this community. Ms. Woodall and Ms. McRae have also been awarded \$5,000 each to implement this community project. They have selected this project because of the tremendous need in the community and the apparent lack of information about available resources. Through information and referral, this community can be empowered to take control of their community with the proper resources at hand. A high success rate is expected from this project since the community currently lacks any kind of resource available. CDBG funds are requested to assist in the further development of this project.

II. Description of Project Goals & Objectives. Please be specific, i.e., explanation of goals, dates of completion, etc. show how objective will meet goals. For example, goal is to provide day care for 30 children. Will meet goal through recruiting in City Hall.

To provide the Humboldt-Sweets community of approximately 3,000 persons with information and referral services five days a week, four hours per day, Monday thru Friday, 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with an emergency number during the weekends for residents to call. Residents will enter the center or call-in seeking information and referral and be given appropriate referrals to agencies, organizations and groups throughout the city. Participants will be recruited through community outreach efforts.

To compile monthly statistics to determine whether the needs of the neighborhood are met. Confidential records will be kept in file cabinets for review by funding source. Telephone referrals, intake, follow-up and door-to-door canvassing will be completed by neighborhood volunteers weekly. If a resident is in need of transportation to obtain a necessary resource, the center will seek transportation resources for resident. Public transportation assistance is being requested in the budget.

To compile data relevant to the needs of the community. To identify a minimum of 100 families that will benefit from this center. To form linkages with agencies, organizations, support groups, etc. who serve the Humboldt-Sweets community. To provide emergency referrals during the weekend. To provide follow-up to Humboldt-Sweets community after information and referrals are sought. To determine if specific information is needed by residents of Humboldt-Sweets. To conduct outreach activities through assessments made by neighborhood volunteers using flyers, door-to-door contacts and telephone contacts. To provide support services i.e. transportation to agencies, organizations, support groups, etc.

III. Describe how this project will benefit low and moderate income persons, or how it will prevent or eliminate slums and blight. Explain what constitutes low/moderate income persons.

This project will benefit very low-income, impoverished residents of a blighted neighborhood who have been excluded from total community involvement due to lack of resources and through ineffective dissemination of information and resources. Through this project, residents can gain the motivation to become active participants in the redevelopment of their community. The present housing redevelopment only addresses the housing needs and has not included the human development needs of residents of this community.

According to the 1990 Census, the residents of this neighborhood, (including renters and homeowners), total approximately 3,000 persons. As of 1990, over 50% of all persons in the neighborhood had income means below the poverty level. A neighborhood committee group of approximately fifteen Humboldt-Sweets residents (homeowners and renters), has been created to review and implement community development activities in the neighborhood through support of a community-based organization.

- IV. Define the characteristics of the people who will directly benefit from this project (age, sex, race, income) for example, ages of 17-25, who meet the federal poverty guidelines.

The neighborhood population is 100% African-American residents, very low-income, 50% single female heads of household (including teen parents), 40% of senior citizens on fixed incomes; 10% of residents with no income residing with family members. Age groups encompass infants to 60+ years old. Other characteristics include individuals who are at or below 100% of the poverty level and who have been isolated and have no formal support system in place.

- V. Describe the agency's management plan, i.e., type of agency, (Day Care, Counselling, Recreation). Past experience in operating programs, staffing i.e., typing staff, counsellors care givers, fiscal accountability i.e., who will fund finances, record keeping, etc., and list other funding sources and amount of funding available.

Humboldt-Sweets Community Information & Referral Center will be housed at Community Network, a local community-based organization in the neighborhood where information and referral services will be given to residents. Two part-time neighborhood residents and approximately 10 neighborhood volunteers will work on this project, five days per week, 4 hours per day. It is expected to gain more volunteers through neighborhood participation as the project grows. Fern McRae, Founder, has worked in the area of fiscal management for the Department of Community Affairs, Division on Women for over 10 years and will handle all recordkeeping for this organization. Mary Woodall, Project Coordinator, has 15+ years of experience in office administration and management and will handle all finances for this organization, under the direction of the board fiscal officer. Checks will only be issued with two signatures. The board fiscal officer of Community Network will maintain the financial records of Humboldt-Sweets Community Information & Referral Center. Ms. McRae & Ms. Woodall will jointly develop the intake and follow-up procedures, telephone and emergency procedures, and project guidelines that will be used at the center. Forms will be developed by Ms. Woodall & Ms. McRae 30 days after receipt of proposal.

Community Foundation of New Jersey will grant Ms. Woodall & Ms. McRae \$5,000 each to implement this project through their work as neighborhood fellows of the Neighborhood Leadership Initiative, a statewide organization.

- VI. On a separate budget sheet, please provide a developed budget summary, and/or operating budget summary including line item expenditures e.g., salaries, fringe benefits, supplies, telephone, etc. (If you are requesting operating funds, please indicate how your agency will continue to provide this service after the CDBG funds have been expended).

This organization will continue to operate after CDBG funds are expended through grants, donations and fund raising campaigns.

VII. In terms of your particular program or services rendered, please provide information about the unit cost of your operation. This relates only to the amount of CDBG funds received, and utilized for your program.

\$7 per person, based on residency of 3,000

VIII. Show how your organization will be able to participate interest with the Weed and Seed Project?

As a targeted area of the Weed and Seed Program, Humboldt-Sweets Community Information and Referral Center would enhance the participation level of the program through information and referral, door-to-door contacts and community meetings.

This must be completed and submitted to:

319 East State Street
City Hall - Room 311
Trenton, New Jersey 08608

For further information, please contact Yomi Odumosu at 989-3102.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL OF PROPOSAL IS FEBRUARY 7, 1992.



CITY OF TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

Department of HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Douglas H. Palmer, Mayor

Gwendolyn I. Long, Director

July 10, 1992

Dear Project Director,

On Friday, July 17, 1992, the Department of Health and Human Services will conduct a mini-workshop for all new CDBG projects. The meeting will take place in the 1st floor Conference Room, City Hall Annex, 319 East State Street, Trenton, New Jersey from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

It is essential that those persons responsible for the fiscal and statistical reports in your organization attend this meeting. The information to be discussed will enable you to get monthly "drawdown" in a timely fashion and allow the City to comply with HUD rules and regulations.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Vivian Roberts at 989-3339. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gwendolyn I. Long
Director
Health and Human Services

HUMBOLDT-SWEETS COMMUNITY INFORMATION & REFERRAL CENTER

BUDGET COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NEW JERSEY

ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS:	APPROVED
Office Supplies.....	\$100.00
Postage.....	50.00
Telephone.....	- 0 -
Insurance.....	\$110.00
Brochures/Flyers & Handouts.....	<u>- 0 -</u>
Total.....	\$260.00
 OPERATIONAL COSTS:	
Salaries.....	\$1,500.00
Rent.....	- 0 -
Telephone Expense.....	<u>\$ 640.00</u>
Total.....	\$2,140.00
 PROGRAMMATIC COSTS:	
Materials (educational, etc.).....	\$ 100.00
Transportation.....	\$ - 0 -
Accountant.....	\$ - 0 -
Training.....	\$ 350.00
Special Events.....	\$ 150.00
Consultant.....	<u>\$3,000.00</u>
Total.....	\$3,600.00
 GRAND TOTAL.....	 \$6,000.00

DATE: February 6, 1992

APPLICANT: Humboldt-Sweets Community Information & Referral Center
c/o Community Network

CONTACT PERSON: Mary Woodall

ADDRESS: 605 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Trenton, New Jersey 08618
609-695-6531

FUNDS REQUESTED: \$ 6,000

APPLICATION SUBMITTED TO: Community Foundation of New Jersey

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$16,000

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COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION SURVEY

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____ CONTACT PERSON: _____

1. What services/resources does your organization provide to the community?

2. What kind of information do you seek for your constituents?

3. Would your organization/group be willing to host a neighborhood meeting? _____

4. Would your organization/group be interested in:

ORGANIZING ACTIVITIES

_____Telephone Outreach _____One-on One Survey Outreach

_____Meeting with Officials _____Public Speaking

RECRUITMENT/COMMUNITY SURVEY

NAME _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: (DAY) _____ (EVE) _____

1. How many years have you lived in the neighborhood? _____
2. How many children do you have? _____
List the school they attend? _____
3. Are you a renter? _____ Homeowner? _____
4. What is your occupation? _____
5. Do you have free time during the day? _____ evening? _____
6. What do you think are the main problems in the community?
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
7. What do you think are the main strengths in the community?
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
8. Do you know people and/or agencies or community groups in the neighborhood that you think should be/would want to be involved in a neighborhood organizing campaign?

NAME _____

ORGANIZING ACTIVITIES

Would you be interested in: _____ Telephone Outreach
_____ Helping in One-on-One Survey Outreach
_____ Meeting with Officials
_____ Public Speaking

ORGANIZING SURVEY

1. How important is this neighborhood to you?
- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| A. Not Important | B. Slightly important |
| C. Important | D. Very Important |

2. What kind of information are you seeking?
-
-

3. What are the major problems in your neighborhood?
-
-

4. Do you know anybody or any group that has tried to deal with problems in the neighborhood? If yes, who, what, when?
-
-

5. Is there anybody in the neighborhood that you or others go to when you have a problem? Who?
-
-

6. In the past year, what issues or concerns have you sought information on? Were you satisfied with the information given to you?
-
-

7. To date, what type of information do you feel is lacking in the neighborhood?
-
-

ORGANIZING ACTIVITIES

Would you be interested in: _____ Telephone Outreach
_____ One-on-One Survey Outreach
_____ Meeting with Officials
_____ Public Speaking

21 Laclede Avenue
Trenton, New Jersey
08618-5103

July 24, 1992

Mr. James P. McManimon
Vice President/Branch Manager
United Jersey Bank, Central
150 West State Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08618

Dear Mr. McManimon:

I recently requested a grant for training from your financial institution to attend the Management & Community Development Institute at TUFTS University in Medford, Mass. from June 1 through June 5, 1992. This training was necessary for my continued development of the Humboldt-Sweets Community Information & Referral Center project in the City of Trenton. The remainder of funds will be used for additional training of very-low income residents who will work in the center.

I have recently completed nine months of leadership training as a Neighborhood Fellow of the Community Foundation of New Jersey's Neighborhood Leadership Initiative Program. Training was provided to candidates selected statewide. This program awarded participants \$3,000 each to develop and implement a project in their neighborhood. I pooled my award with a resident of the Humboldt-Sweets area to develop this project for residents that will provide resource information to them without leaving the neighborhood. I feel this service would be beneficial to a community who has housing development occurring and is in need of socio-economic resources to deal with the human development of the community.

The center will provide a base for collecting and disseminating information to very low-income residents to address socio-economic needs of the community. By providing this information and referral service, I feel it will improve the quality of life for residents who want to make a difference in their community.

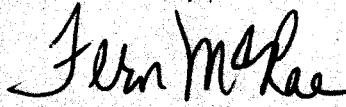
A proposal was written for this project also and was awarded \$10,000 for implementation. We currently have a check for 10% start-up costs for the project that will be deposited in your bank. I have recently set-up a non-profit

organization but have yet to receive a federal identification number. I am told this will take some time. A demographic analysis of the neighborhood and compilation of resources is currently being completed. The project is scheduled to begin this fall.

Your support to low-income residents in the City of Trenton through the Community Reinvestment Act has made a difference. Your bank is considered the "community bank" for its commitment to all of the people in the city.

Enclosed please find a news clip of the Leadership Training Program I attended. I look forward to a reply on your approval of my request. Please contact me for any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fern McRae".

Fern McRae
CED Practitioner

Enclosure

TIME RECORD
HUMBOLDT-SWEETS COMMUNITY
INFORMATION & REFERRAL CENTER, INC.

WEEK OF:

NAME: _____

SS #: _____

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
<u>IN-OUT</u>	<u>IN-OUT</u>	<u>IN-OUT</u>	<u>IN-OUT</u>	<u>IN-OUT</u>	<u>IN-OUT</u>	<u>IN-OUT</u>

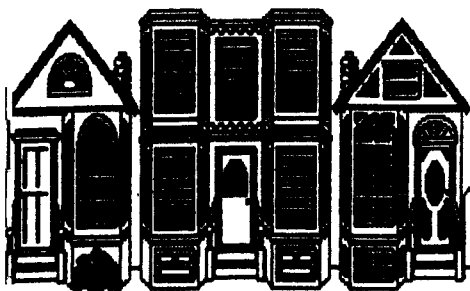
TOTAL HOURS:

APPROVED: _____

INTAKE PROCEDURES

Intake procedures are initiated through a referral by a community person, community organization, agency, business or clergy in the neighborhood. Clients seek information and referral services via telephone or walk-in. Once initial contact has been made, the client is scheduled for an appointment to meet confidentially with a resource person at the center. An initial assessment is conducted of the client's needs. An individual action plan is developed for the client. The client is provided an orientation of center operations and purpose. The resource person is responsible for follow-up activities of each client.

Follow-up is conducted on a bi-weekly basis; through telephone calls or sending out a form letter to the address on file.



HUMBOLDT-SWEETS
COMMUNITY INFORMATION &
REFERRAL CENTER, INC.



Ms. Fern McRae
21 Laclede Avenue
Trenton, New Jersey 08618-5103

Dear Ms. McRae:

Thank you for your donation of a personal computer for use at our center. This computer has been a great asset to us. We will utilize it for the development of resource lists and funding source listings. We have also had the opportunity to provide maintenance on this equipment for its long-term use.

For insurance purposes, we have insured:

EMERSON 286 COMPUTER
EPSON T-1000 PRINTER
CORDATA COLOR 14" COLOR MONITOR

All of us at the center appreciate your generosity.

Sincerely,

Mary Woodall
Mary Woodall, Cofounder
HUMBOLDT-SWEETS

VALUE: \$1,500





State of New Jersey
Division of Commercial Recording
Certificate of Incorporation

(Title 15A:2-8 New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation Act
For Use by Domestic Nonprofit Corporations)

F I L E D

Instructions: Type all information except Signatures.

MAY 19 1992

Form must be filed in triplicate.

Remit: \$50.00

Mail To: Division of Commercial Recording, CN 308, Trenton, NJ 08625

DANIEL J. DALTON
Secretary of State

This is to Certify that, there is hereby organized a corporation
under and by virtue of the above noted statute of the New Jersey Statutes.

1. Name of Corporation: Humboldt-Sweets Community Information & Referral Center, Inc.
2. Registered Agent: Fern McRae
3. Registered Office: 24 Humboldt Street
Trenton, NJ 08618

4. The purpose for which this corporation is organized is:
To provide information and referral to residents of a blighted area

5. The Corporation ☒ Shall have members. ☐ Shall not have members. If yes, qualification will be:
☐ as set forth in the bylaws. ☐ or as set forth herein (attach).
6. The rights and limitations of the different classes of members will be:
☒ as set forth in the bylaws. ☐ or as set forth herein (attach).
7. The method of electing trustees will be:
☒ as set forth in the bylaws. ☐ or as set forth herein (attach).
8. The term for which the corporation is to exist is: indefinitely

9. The first board of trustees shall consist of 3 trustees (Minimum of three,

Addresses cannot be that of the corporation.)

Name	Street Address	City	State	Zip
Darryl J. Johnson	57 Hempstead Drive	Somerset, NJ		08753
Fern McRae	21 LaClede Avenue	Trenton	NJ	08618-5103
Laurice Reynolds	705 West State Street	"	"	08618
Mary Woodall	24 Humboldt Street	Trenton	NJ	08618

10. Set forth Names and Addresses of Incorporator(s) (Addresses cannot be that of the corporation.

Need one or more.):

Name	Street Address	City	State	Zip
Fern McRae	21 LaClede Avenue	Trenton,	NJ	08618-5103

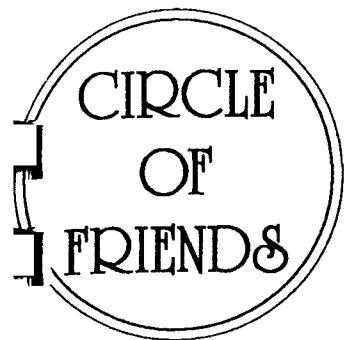
11. Method of distribution of assets shall be as set forth in the bylaws.

12. Effective Date (Not to exceed 30 days from date of filing): _____

In Testimony whereof, each undersigned incorporators have caused this certificate to
be signed this 19th day of May 1992.

Signature: Fern McRae Signature: _____
Signature: _____ Signature: _____

The purpose of this form is to simplify the filing requirements of the Secretary of State and does
not replace the need for competent legal advice.



Urban League of Metropolitan Trenton, Inc.

209 ACADEMY STREET
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08618

(609) 393-1512
FAX #: (609) 396-8893

Anntarie L. Sims, Ph.D.
Chair

Paul P. Pintella, Jr.
President & CEO

September 15, 1992

Patty L. Hutchison
Administrator
Community Foundation of New Jersey
PO Box 317
Morristown, New Jersey 07963-0317

Dear Ms. Hutchison:

At the request of Fern McRae, of the Humboldt-Sweets Community Information & Referral Center, Inc., the Urban League of Metropolitan Trenton is proud to serve as a conduit for the funds of the Humboldt-Sweets Community Information & Referral Center, for the sum of \$16,000.00: \$10,000 from the City of Trenton Community Development Block Grant; \$6,000 from the Community Foundation of New Jersey; and \$100.00 from United Jersey Bank.

It is my understanding that Ms. Mary Woodall received a check from the City of Trenton for 10% of the funding for start-up costs in July. The Urban League would request a line item budget detailing how the money should be disbursed and to whom, as well as, what reporting method is required of the League.

As you may or may not know, the Urban League is a 501C3 tax exempt corporation who itself receives \$295,000.00 from the City of Trenton/Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies. If I can be of further assistance in answering any questions you may have, please don't hesitate to contact me at the above address and/or telephone number.

Sincerely

Paul P. Pintella, Jr.
President & CEO

PPP/j

C: Fern McRae

Aristol-Myers Squibb
Company

Central Federal Savings
Bank

Center City Sports

Communication Plus of
Mercer, Inc.

CoreStates New Jersey
National Bank

Educational Testing
Service

Louis G. Fares II, M.D.

Griffith Electric Supply
Company, Inc.

New Jersey Bell

New Jersey Manufacturers
Insurance Co.

Public Service Electric and
Gas Company

Roma Savings Bank

H. T. Rose Enterprises

David Sarnoff Research
Center

Trenton Times

Trenton State College

United Jersey Bank-
Central/NA

Urban League Guild

1991
FUGURAL CHAPTER MEMBERS



CITY OF TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

Department of HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Douglas H. Palmer, Mayor

Gwendolyn I. Long, Director

July 10, 1992

Dear Project Director,

On Friday, July 17, 1992, the Department of Health and Human Services will conduct a mini-workshop for all new CDBG projects. The meeting will take place in the 1st floor Conference Room, City Hall Annex, 319 East State Street, Trenton, New Jersey from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

It is essential that those persons responsible for the fiscal and statistical reports in your organization attend this meeting. The information to be discussed will enable you to get monthly "drawdown" in a timely fashion and allow the City to comply with HUD rules and regulations.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Vivian Roberts at 989-3339. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gwendolyn I. Long
Director
Health and Human Services



Community Action Program Executive Directors' Association of New Jersey

227 East Hanover Street • Trenton, New Jersey 08608
(609) 392-1110 • FAX (609) 392-3231

Joseph E. Gaynor
President
(609) 348-4131

Robert F. Halsch
1st Vice President
(201) 488-5100

Albert B. Kelly
2nd Vice President
(609) 451-6330

Eleanor Tiefenwerth
Secretary
(201) 437-7222

James A. Hemm
Treasurer
(609) 396-8900

June 13, 1992

Wanda L. Lawson
Executive Director

*Neighborhood Leadership Training Initiative
Graduating Class of 1992
Community Foundation of New Jersey
P. O. Box 317
Morristown, NJ 07963-0317*

Dear Graduates:

On behalf of the Board and Staff of the Community Action Program Executive Directors' Association of New Jersey, CAPEDA. I would like to congratulate on your successful training effort to become a leader in your community.

It is hoped that what you have learned from this rewarding experience will help you serve your community with more eagerness and authority. We, in Community Action, know of the victory and the defeats in community organizing. Therefore, we extend to you our helping hand to assist you in anyway possible to insure that your goals are achieved.

Remember, that if we are going to make a difference in New Jersey, we must work together. Continue to be involved and put forth your best effort. I hope you except my apology for not being in attendance as originally planned. However, I do look forward to seeing or talking with several of you in the very near future.

All the best as you go back to your respective communities and implement the valuable lessons you have learned here with the Community Foundation of New Jersey. Please feel free to contact CAPEDA if we can be of any assistance with your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Wanda Lawson
Executive Director

WLL/ms



Community Foundation of New Jersey Fellows

Class of 1991-1992

Community Foundation of New Jersey Fellows:

Carol Corvino, *Florham Park*
Adedra S. Dupree, *Lakewood*
Augusta Przygoda, *Hoboken*

André Sharrief, *Plainfield*
Albert J. Whittle, *East Orange*
Audrey Wise, *Lakewood*

Community Foundation/Hoffmann - La Roche Fellows:

Arnita Blackwell, *Newark*
Sonia Estrella, *Passaic*

Stella M. Strazdas, *Hoboken*
Lucille White, *East Orange*

Community Foundation/Victoria Foundation Fellows:

Julie Concepcion, *Newark*
David G. Elcock, *East Orange*

Marcina Fox, *Orange*
Tonka M. Irish, *Newark*

Community Foundation/Mercer Foundation Fund Fellows:

Celia D. Elie, *Trenton*
Fern McRae, *Trenton*

Steiner Williams, *Trenton*
Mary L. Woodall, *Trenton*

Community Foundation/Department of Community Affairs Fellows:

Saleem Abdullah, *Barnegat*
Rose B. Clark, *Camden*
Nellie Hart, *Trenton*
Bert C. Johnson, *Camden*
Odessa J. Johnson, *Pemberton*

Harvey Lambert, *Atlantic City*
Karen L. Paden, *South Toms River*
Kathleen J. Stanton, *Hackensack*
Jerome Walker, *Millville*
Sheila Whitehead, *North Brunswick*

The Board of Trustees
of
The Community Foundation of New Jersey
cordially invites you to attend
a reception honoring the graduates
of
The Neighborhood Leadership Initiative
Fellows of the Class of 1991-92
on
Saturday, June 13, 1992
10 o'clock to 12 noon
Morristown, New Jersey

R.S.V.P. (201) 267-5533
P.O. Box 317
Morristown, NJ 07963-0317



HUMBOLDT-SWEETS
COMMUNITY INFORMATION &
REFERRAL CENTER, INC.



November 9, 1992

Supermarkets General Corporation
ATTN: Department of Public Affairs
301 Blair Road
POB 5301
Woodbridge, NJ 07095-0915

Dear Colleague:

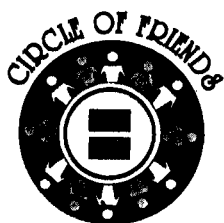
I am requesting donations from your store to assist in the preparation of 10-20 food baskets for each of the coming holidays; Thanksgiving and Christmas. These baskets will benefit very-low income families in the Humboldt-Sweets Community; a community situated in a blighted area of the City of Trenton. I was told to write to you by my Pathmark manager in Fairless Hills, PA. He was very obliged to give me the information necessary to seek donations.

I created this non-profit organization in a very low income community due to numerous requests for information from residents. This center will be operated by trained volunteers providing information and referral to this population. I would like your assistance in helping me contribute to providing food on the tables of residents in this community.

Your assistance in providing donations for this population will be appreciated. I am aware of your commitment to the communities you serve. I look forward to continued community partnerships in community development efforts I am striving for in the City of Trenton. I will await a reply.

Sincerely,

Fern McRae
Community Economic Development
Practitioner



Sponsored by: Urban League

SEP 29 '92 14:40

PAGE.001

Christmas Season Temporary Employment,
 (Early October until December 24th)

Essential Job Functions Package Car Driver

Overview:

Involves driving a commercial-sized vehicle that uses a standard transmission. The person must be able to deliver and pick up packages at a constant pace during a full work shift, working in accordance with prescribed methods. Driver applicants must meet the requirements as specified by the D.O.T. (21 years of age, possess a valid driver's license, meet physical requirements, read and speak English). (Valid N.J., Penn., or N.Y. driver's license)

Essential Job Functions: must be able to:

- Bend, stoop, crouch, climb, stand, sit, walk, and turn/pivot for up to 9.5 hours per day, 5 days per week.
- Lift, lower, push, pull and carry up to 70 pounds, with average weight of package being 11 pounds
- Grasp, reach, and maintain control of activities associated with delivering and picking up packages
- Maintain an acceptable work pace
- Work in an environment that will be subject to:
 - variable temperatures and humidity (climatic conditions)
 - exposure to dust, dirt, and noise (within OSHA guidelines)
 - confined work areas
 - outside, inclement weather
- Demonstrate cognitive ability to:
 - follow directions and routines
 - work independently with appropriate judgment
 - illustrate spatial awareness
 - read words and numbers
 - concentrate, memorize, and recollect
 - identify logical connections and determine sequence of response
 - processing up to 2-3 steps ahead
- Other functions that may be assigned

The essential functions of this position include, but may not be limited to those listed above. UPS retains the discretion to add or to change the duties of the position at any time.

Also: - No At Fault Accidents in the past 12 months

- No moving violations in the past 12 months

- No more than 6 points on license

Starting
 Salary
 \$11.35 per hour

HUMBOLDT-SWEETS COMMUNITY INFORMATION & REFERRAL CENTER

SUBMITTED BY: Fern McRae

March 21, 1992

CED

CONTRACT OUTLINE

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

Neighborhood composition of the Humboldt-Sweets Community in 1967 was 85% white families, with 15% African American families. Twenty five years ago Humboldt-Sweets area was an industrial and residential area situated in the North Ward of the City of Trenton. Creation of many jobs for neighbors existed. Major resources have left the neighborhood that included a drug store, a cultural center for neighborhood children that also housed a city-wide day care facility where residents all over the city came each morning to receive child care. This facility was open on Saturday's to accommodate parents who worked on the weekend. A fresh chicken market on the block along with a large trailer company down the street, that later housed a fuel oil company, the Trenton Water Works and Magic Marker company were included in this neighborhood. All these businesses no longer exist. Working families comprised the entire neighborhood up until the late 60's.

By 1972, the neighborhood encountered white flight where the white homeowners moved out of the area and rented dwellings to blacks. These landlords were absentee landlords that collected rents monthly, yet did not provide the expected maintenance of the dwelling or put back any of the rents collected into the neighborhood. Eventually, houses were taken over by the City of Trenton due to overdue taxes. The City, in turn, left houses vacant and would not consider rehabilitation of these dwellings. This resulted in a large number of vacant dilapidated

homes in the Humboldt-Sweets area. These homes became an eyesore to the community and eventually were used for illegal activity.

A Green Acres park for the children is located in the Humboldt-Sweets area. Children do not play in this park today. This park is approximately three houses long and is not maintained by the City or local residents. It has become a trash-filled lot where drug dealers and alcoholics hang out.

Houses have been vacant for over 10 years in the Humboldt-Sweets area. Local officials had a four block area considered "blighted." This label made the community eligible for Community Development Block Grant funds through the City of Trenton. In 1988, City Council allocated \$500,000 to each of the four city wards for redevelopment. The North Ward where Humboldt-Sweets is located was the first to receive funding for redevelopment of the neighborhood. To date, only housing redevelopment is occurring. Public meetings were held in neighborhood to announce the housing redevelopment. The community was told that only homes for sale would be built at a cost of \$75,000 each for 70 units with no rental units built. The community organized around the issue of the high cost of homes that could not be sold to very-low income people; they would automatically be disqualified from the application process. Another concern of residents was the lack of rental units. Neighborhood meetings were conducted to strategize how neighborhood concerns would be addressed by local officials. The community wanted to participate in a decision-making capacity of the future of their neighborhood. Many residents are receiving public assistance who were in need of rental units. Most homeowners are senior citizens on fixed incomes. Community meetings were held in

residents' homes.

On the agenda for local officials was City Hall's response to the lack of neighborhood participation in the process that affected an entire community. The issue of rental properties was chosen by the Community Advisory Committee to present to local officials. The community organizers validated their concerns through surveys disseminated to renters and owners on their ability to pay a mortgage. Most homeowners were seniors on fixed incomes, the remainder of neighborhood were renters. Half of the renters were single parents living on incomes of less than \$8,000 annually.

A community representative of the neighborhood went before City Council and demanded their inclusion of rental properties in the redevelopment plan. In 1987, a developer was chosen and a plan was revised to include 45 rental units. The original developer, chosen by local officials had to withdraw from the project due to lack of financing. Humboldt-Sweets community organizers seized the opportunity to have community involvement in the selection of a new developer.

Requests for proposals included a citizen advisory committee of up to 15 residents to work with city official and developers in all aspects of the redevelopment plan. City Council made appointments of members to the committee who lived outside the redevelopment area and who did not have the best interests of the neighborhood at hand. The community demanded only residents of the neighborhood be representative of the committee. Public meetings were held to remove outsiders from the process to include only residents of the Citizen Advisory Committee. Developers had to present their plan at a public meeting. The plan included the design, price, number of bedrooms, how

the homes would blend with the present housing stock. Neighborhood surveys revealed large families that required four bedroom units. Neighborhood representatives and planners agreed on the developer. The first 25 units will be completed by June 1992. These units include 2-3-4 bedroom units.

The next issue the Citizens Advisory Committee would discuss is the lack of approval of units for applicants from the neighborhood. Requests for an additional two months for resident application processing is being requested. Residents previously received a two month application period, then process was opened city-wide. None of the rental units are completed to date. The community want to put pressure on the developer to begin construction of rental units as soon as possible. The community has been organizing around an open space plan to be included in the redevelopment. Developer has not included open space in the development plans and is building on every empty lot. A new developer may be sought if creative housing options are not initiated i.e. coops and land trusts in continuation of redevelopment. Displaced families want to return to their community, but cannot afford to. A continuation of information must flow through this community so that residents can become self-sufficient and empower residents to take charge of their own lives and to participate in the redevelopment of their community.

B. PROJECT GOALS:

This project's intended outcome will be to respond to a minimum of 100 families in the Humboldt-Sweets Community providing

information and referral by the end of a 12 month period.

- To maintain an up-to-date resource bank of city-wide programs and services at agencies that callers and walk-ins can be referred to for their specific resources area.
 - To research and develop 50 new referrals during a 12 month period
 - To provide linkages with local businesses, clergy, agencies
 - To record and compile statistical data on incoming calls and walk-ins to center
 - To maintain statistical data for funding source and board review
- The maximum objective will be the establishment of a community-

based information and referral center that will provide resources, counseling and supportive services. ^{THE MINIMUM OBJECTIVE} Outreach efforts will be provided by neighborhood volunteers disseminating flyers, and door-to-door contacts. Local businesses and clergy will be addressed at community meetings to be held. Residents will operate center after successfully completing crisis intervention training. Future training programs will be instituted at the center. Development of programs to will meet the residents needs are being discussed by Community Network. The center will offer human resources as well as community resources.

C. METHOD:

1. CREATE A SURVEY FOR NEIGHBORHOOD AWARENESS OF CENTER
2. CONDUCT BI-MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND ASSESS RESIDENT CONCERNS
3. INTERVIEW LOCAL CLERGY, BUSINESSES, AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE LINKAGES OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO AVOID DUPLICATION
4. CREATE A SUPPORT-SYSTEM WITH LOCAL GROUPS
5. PROVIDE CRISIS INTERVENTION AND INFORMATION AND REFERRAL TRAINING TO PART-TIME STAFFERS
6. CONDUCT ON-GOING MEETINGS WITH CLERGY, BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO ANNOUNCE AVAILABLE RESOURCES
7. GATHER NECESSARY RESOURCES FOR THE CENTER THROUGH PERSON-TO-PERSON NETWORKING AND MEETINGS
8. IDENTIFY TRAINING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR CENTER
9. IDENTIFY FUNDING SOURCES THAT TARGET VERY LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES

HUMBOLDT-SWEETS COMMUNITY INFORMATION & REFERRAL CENTER TIMELINE

ACTIVITIES:

Attend monthly leadership training of Community Foundation

Conduct a needs assessment of neighborhood to include door-to-door contacts

Develop flyers for dissemination in community of proposed center

Coordinate neighborhood volunteers for door-to-door contacts

Make presentation to CBO board
Election to CBO Board & Executive Committee formed

Serve as CBO board member

Solicit sponsors for center through media campaign, board participation & using resource contacts of center

Coordinate community meetings with local clergy, businesses in neighborhood

Make presentations to community groups and coordinate existing services

Develop resource material to be used at center

Develop intake procedures: follow-up, telephone & emergency procedures for center operation

OCT92 NOV92 DEC92 JAN92 FEB92 MAR92 APR92 MAY92 JUN92 JUL92 AUG92 SEP92 OCT92 NOV92 DEC92

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OCT92 NOV92 DEC92 JAN92 FEB92 MAR92 APR92 MAY92 JUN92 JUL92 AUG92 SEP92 OCT92 NOV92 DEC92

Develop log, monthly status
report & resource files ✓

Meet with local officials,
agencies & businesses to
foster support of center

Attend meetings to solicit
funding for center operation

Select ft stuff from neighborhood

Train part-time employees in crisis intervention, technical resource provider, record keeping & accounting, procedures

Develop future programs for center

Prepare proposal for project
Submit to Community Foundation
for acceptance

Prepare budget & submit to Community Foundation for approval

Resubmit budget to Community foundation

Prepare contract & submit to
Housing & Development for CDBG
funding

Attend bi-weekly meetings of local retail merchants association as CED Practitioner

Prepare office set-up
Coordinate media activities

Conduct ^{monthly} community meetings on
existence of center, types of
services provided

House for
Open Community Center

[illegible]



Confidential Application
Please Type or Print Clearly

NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

of the Community Foundation of New Jersey
P.O. Box 317, Morristown, NJ 07963-0317
Phone (201) 267-5533 Fax (201) 267-2903

The Community Foundation of New Jersey is a statewide organization which has long been interested in the potential of neighborhoods. We believe in the importance of helping develop local leaders through training, mentoring and networking. The Neighborhood Leadership Initiative is a new project. It seeks individuals who want to work with their neighbors to make their community a better place in which to live. Applicants selected will be named Community Foundation Fellows and will be responsible for initiating and developing small projects which will improve the places in which they live for work.

NAME Fern McRae

ADDRESS 21 LaCleda Avenue Trenton, New Jersey 08618-5103
Street City Zip County

HOME PHONE (609) 393-8746 **BUSINESS PHONE** (609) 292-8840

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITMENT

1. Have you been involved in trying to make a difference and change things you don't like in your neighborhood? Briefly explain.

YES. I consider myself a community activist, always having the interest of the community at heart. I make my phone number available for residents to call with any questions they may have in finding resources in the area of homelessness, housing child care, domestic violence, training, substance abuse, etc.

2. Why would you like to be part of the Neighborhood Leadership Initiative? What would you like to learn and what would you do with the knowledge and opportunity the training would give you?

I feel I can benefit my community as a leader by expanding outreach in various areas. When problems arise, I will meet with interested residents to collectively find solutions. I would utilize the knowledge gained from the training to bring neighbors together to create positive change. To learn how to empower my community is my main objective in seeking participation. Over the years, I have found that the same people are called upon constantly. I'd like to train many more so that they too can be called upon to help neighbors with problems.

3. How long have you lived in the neighborhood?

16 years in the West Ward and 16 years in the North Ward

4. What is your occupation?

State Worker (contract monitor)

5. What organizations are you active in?

Trenton Housing Coalition, ISLES, Inc., Mercer AFL-CIO, CWA Local 1039, L.I.F.T., Inc.,
Trenton Board of Education PTA-PTO Liaison Committee

6. Please briefly discuss or list what you believe to be the assets of your community. For example, name the skills and talents of your neighbors, and note the existence of businesses, non-profit agencies, associations, clubs, community gathering spots, religious organizations, financial institutions, cultural organizations, colleges, hospitals, schools, parks, vacant land, housing, etc.

My neighborhood has bike paths, a roller skating area, a park, basketball court and tennis courts. There is a corner store, dry cleaners, laundromat, liquor, clothing and beauty supply store, t.v. repair and beauty shop as well as a pizza shop and auto repair shop. Professionals from all walks of life are in my community: doctors, lawyers, dentists, carpenters, electricians, nurses, teachers, accountants, insurance agents, law enforcement officers, clergy and child care providers.

7. Please briefly tell us what you believe to be the important problems in your community which concern both you and your neighbors. We are particularly interested in problems which can be attacked in small, meaningful ways which will show practicable results quickly.

A crime watch program, incorporating a CAP (child abuse prevention) component, can have positive results. I have already spoken to neighbors who agree and would be willing to cooperate to solve these problems. Parents and children can learn together about crime prevention and child abuse prevention from local experts; preferably from experts that live in the neighborhood.

8. What problem(s) are of particular concern to you? Do your neighbors agree and would they be willing to help you organize and become part of the solution? Please explain.

Several neighbors have complained of needed and costly repairs to their homes; whether tenants or homeowners. There is an interest in my community to provide hands-on training for residents who can in turn help other residents in minor repairs. Neighbors can learn to perform basic repairs that keep from turning into major repairs. My neighbors agree and will pitch in to help one another. This could be a cost-saving project that will bring neighbors together while helping one another. My neighborhood has many handicapped and elderly residents who are awaiting a helping hand, not to mention the single parents like myself who constantly have problems in the home and have to seek outside highly paid professionals for assistance.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Age: 20-25 26-30 31-40 41-50 51-60 60+

Sex: Male Female

Race: Black Hispanic Caucasian Asian Other

Do you need handicapped access or accommodations?

No.

REFERENCES

Please list two people who know you and are aware of your interest in the neighborhood and your leadership potential.

- | | | |
|----|--|--------------|
| 1. | Ms. Darryl J. Johnson, 101 South Broad St., Trenton | 609-292-8840 |
| | NAME ADDRESS | PHONE NUMBER |
| 2. | Ms. Susan C. Covington, 223 Bellevue Avenue, Trenton | 609-394-5094 |
| | NAME ADDRESS | PHONE NUMBER |

COMMITMENT

I understand the purpose of the Neighborhood Leadership Initiative and if selected, I am committed to attending nine training sessions and the Initial Retreat, which includes an overnight stay. I am also committed to working on a project to help my neighbors. I understand that if I do not attend meetings or fulfill the requirements of the program, I will not be eligible for expense reimbursement nor for grant dollars to develop a community program.

Teri McKee

Candidate's signature

July 29, 1991

Date



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08608

DOUGLAS H. PALMER
MAYOR

609-989-3030

June 28, 1991

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to serve as a reference for Fern McRae who is applying for leadership training through the Neighborhood Leadership Initiative Program.

I have known Ms. McRae for over 11 years and have found her to be a sincere, dedicated, and hard working individual.

Ms. McRae is actively involved in her community. She has helped residents to seek resources throughout the State and County in areas of housing, homelessness, child support and child care resources.

She is an individual who would welcome the challenge to gain extensive knowledge from the Neighborhood Leadership Initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Palmer", is written over a horizontal line.

Douglas H. Palmer, Mayor

DHP/hm

July 29, 1991

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

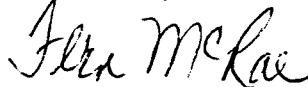
I am writing to nominate myself as a candidate for the Neighborhood Leadership Initiative. I have worked for many years in the community but can honestly say, I haven't found the key to empower neighbors to take the initiative in changing what they want to see in their community; to use the existing talents in the community.

I have never had professional training in working with community residents; only hands-on training. Your training will enable me to develop techniques to handle local problems in my neighborhood; not to mention, what I will learn from other candidates throughout the State.

I have been providing resources to residents from all walks of life in the City on a voluntary basis. All my community involvement has been on a voluntary basis. I look forward to working hard to empower my community.

Your favorable response will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fern McRae". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Fern McRae

July 29, 1991

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

It is my pleasure to nominate Ms. Fern McRae as a candidate for the Neighborhood Leadership Initiative. Ms. McRae and I have worked together for over six years at the Division on Women, Department of Community Affairs in Trenton. During that period, I have seen tremendous growth in the building of leadership skills. Her ability, performance and knowledge has been an asset to the Division on Women. Her knack for seeking resources will be a great asset in providing the same commitment to her community.

When I gave Ms. McRae a task to assist a woman who was ill and whose home was up for foreclosure, Ms. McRae followed through on the task and to date, the woman has been able to remain in her home. This kind of situation exists in her neighborhood. She would be able to help her community in similar situations.

Ms. McRae has worked in her community providing services for over 10 years and will welcome an opportunity to learn as much as possible to empower her neighbors to take responsibility for themselves.

I strongly nominate Ms. McRae to be accepted as a candidate for the Neighborhood Leadership Initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Darryl J. Johnson".

Darryl J. Johnson, MSW
SPDS
Division on Women

Breathing new life into city neighborhoods

The Trenton Times 7/4/92



Staff photo by Beverly Schaeffer

Known as Neighborhood Fellows, Trenton residents, from left, Mary Woodall, Fern McRae, Celia Elie, Steiner Williams and Nellie Hart are among the first graduating class of the Neighborhood Leadership Initiative of the Community Foundation of New Jersey's grassroots effort to help train new community leaders.

By CATHY VIKSJO
Staff Writer

TRENTON — A 19th century inscription at Camden's City Hall reads "In a dream, I saw a city invincible," said West Trenton resident Celia Elie — an ironic comment, she noted, considering the city's critical urban blight.

As Elie put it, "North Camden is behind God's back. It's shattered, it's torn apart, it's totally dilapidated," she said, adding that Camden makes Trenton look good.

Turning her attention to the capital city, Elie wisely cautioned, "If the people of Trenton don't wake up, someday they're going to wake up in a city just like that."

Elie knows what she is talking about.

She is one of five recent Trenton graduates from the Neighborhood Leadership Initiative of The Community Foundation of New Jersey (CFNJ), a non-profit organization headquartered in Morristown.

THE ORGANIZATION uses income from endowments, along with grants for special purposes, to fund innovative program needs in New Jersey.

Last fall, they initiated a grassroots effort to help train new community leaders.

Known as Neighborhood Fellows, the five Trenton residents have the honor of being among the foundation's first statewide graduating class of 28.

Working in conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, CFNJ developed the Neighborhood Leadership Initiative, funded by public and private interests, to help empower citizens to initiate positive changes back in their own neighborhoods.

In a recent interview, Elie and her fellow classmates — Nellie Hart, Fern McRae, Steiner Williams and Mary Woodall — discussed their training as well as their plans for community reform.

Each has a definite plan of action

"For me, community organizing is just like a second job, but it's not a job where you get a financial reward. It's a job where, if it gets done properly, you get to see a neighborhood come alive again."

— West Trenton resident Celia Elie

to improve the streets where they live. Although they all had a strong desire to make positive changes, the rigorous training they received during the foundation's sessions, held over a nine-month period, has given them the necessary skills.

Said Elie, a program development specialist for the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection and Energy:

"For me, community organizing is just like a second job, but it's not a job where you get a financial reward."

"It's a job where, if it gets done properly, you get to see a neighborhood come alive again."

She continued:

"In order for you to accomplish that, you need skills. What we got from the foundation is the how-to skills. Without them, you're just going to be spinning your wheels. Now I know how to concretely achieve it."

A MEMBER OF the Mercer Medical Center Neighborhood Group, Elie plans to initiate a poster contest at the Cadwalader Elementary School.

Based on the theme of a litter-free environment, the winning poster design will be printed on T-shirts and displayed on a neighborhood billboard, she said.

Fellows were taught leadership skills, how to conduct meetings, how to generate support from the neighborhood, and how to network with other community leaders and officials.

In Nellie Hart's living room, other fellows outlined their projects, funded by the foundation.

A resident of the 200 block of Bellevue Avenue, Hart has always

wanted to beautify her neighborhood and keep it safe and clean, she declared.

"I had started last year," said Hart, a retired human services technician at Trenton Psychiatric Hospital.

"When I heard about this training, that encouraged me to do more and tackle this project."

LAST SUMMER, Hart, together with other members of the 200-300 Block Bellevue Avenue Association, planted flowers, shrubs and grass in neighborhood yards, painted some front porches and bannisters, and conducted clean-up days for both blocks, Hart explained.

This summer, the association is continuing its efforts. Plans are being made to involve teens in neighborhood upkeep, she said. Work teams of eight-10 young people will be paid to cut grass and clean curbsides and streets.

McRae, a senior management assistant at the N.J. Department of Community Affairs, Division on Women, is also a graduate student in community economic development at New Hampshire College.

"The Neighborhood Leadership Program complements my grad studies," she said.

"Through the program, I got hands-on dynamics to work in the community. Everything that I learned in grad school has fallen into place. It's just wonderful."

Together with Woodall, she recently founded the non-profit Humboldt-Sweets Community Information and Referral Center.

NOW, THEY ARE conducting a

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