

## **GRANTS ANNOUNCED TO DEMONSTRATE**

### **VOLUNTEER POWER**

Twenty-three communities nationwide are part of a demonstration to show how a minor investment of public funds, coupled with citizen energy, can create a major public benefit.

Edwin D. Etherington, president of the National Center for Voluntary Action, announced that approximately \$400,000 of federal money is being channeled through the National Center, a non-governmental organization, to help create more effective ways to put volunteers to work in community service. The funds have been provided by the federal ACTION agency.

Seven grants will help communities get Voluntary Action Centers into place. Sixteen others will help existing centers develop model volunteer programs for duplication nationwide.

Henry Ford II, chairman of the National Center, this past September announced the formation of 32 Voluntary Action Centers. Nineteen more have since joined the network.

Focusing on the alleviation of critical social problems through citizen-to-citizen assistance, the funded programs range from New York City's plan to situate volunteer recruitment stations in disadvantaged communities, to San Mateo County, California, where former mental patients will be trained for and placed into community service roles, to assist their transition back to full employment.

In Boston, where the Volunteer Office of United Community Services of Metropolitan Boston has been designated the Voluntary Action Center of Metropolitan Boston, a \$28,223 grant has been awarded to inventory and develop new roles for groups of volunteers.

Funds will also reach such rural communities as Billings, Mont., McAlester, Okla., and York County, Me., where pilot Voluntary Action Centers are being developed.

Grant-supported projects in other localities will aim at training volunteers, providing out-of-pocket expenses for low-income volunteers, establishing neighborhood service centers, conducting volunteer recruitment campaigns and organizing student community-service activities for academic credit.

Edwin D. Etherington, president of the National Center, said, "These grants demonstrate how small amounts of money can seed vast public benefits through volunteer service — such as in day care centers, food cooperatives, prisoner rehabilitation programs and countless other areas of community needs."

Erthington continued, "In the state of Washington, for example, in two years time a volunteer program has been developed where more than 11,000 citizens provide services —not otherwise available—in the welfare and criminal justice systems and in facilities for the mentally ill and retarded. Supported by minimal staff, budget and taxpayer dollars, the dollar return is in the millions."

Nine grants range from \$10,000 to \$40,000, which must be matched locally, and fourteen from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

The National Center for Voluntary Action was opened in February 1970 as the private-sector component of the National Program for Voluntary Action initiated by President Nixon. Supported by private contributions, including a major grant from the Ford Foundation, it operates the nation's largest clearinghouse on volunteer programs and the annual National Volunteer Awards to recognize volunteer achievement.

The announced grants will support voluntary action efforts in Birmingham, Ala.; San Mateo, Calif.; Los Angeles, Calif.; the Monterey Peninsula, Calif.; Riverside, Calif.; Palm Beach County, Fla.; Atlanta, Ga.; Gordon County, Ga.; Evansville, Ind.; York County, Me.; Boston, Mass.; Detroit, Mich.; Saginaw, Mich.; Kansas City, Mo.; St. Louis, Mo.; Billings, Mont.; New York City, N.Y.; Niagara Falls, N.Y.; Toledo, Ohio; McAlester, Okla.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Providence, R.I.; and Seattle, Wash.



**VOLUNTEER PROBATION ORGANIZATION**  
**BECOMES PART OF**  
**NATIONAL COUNCIL ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY**

The National Council On Crime and Delinquency, the country's largest volunteer agency in the criminal justice field, and Volunteers In Probation, Inc., the largest volunteer probation program will merge operations this month. VIP will become a major part of NCCD's citizen action program.

According to Carl M. Loeb, Jr., President of NCCD, the addition of VIP will strengthen the agency's efforts to involve citizens in practical programs to help combat crime and delinquency.

VIP was established, in 1959, by Judge Keith J. Leenhouts of Royal Oak, Michigan. He pioneered in the development of the volunteer probation aide concept and helped establish programs in more than 2000 courts and correctional institutions. An estimated 150,000 volunteers now provide probation assistance to juveniles and adults, augmenting the efforts of professional probation officers primarily as friends serving on a one-to-one basis to offenders.

Judge Leenhouts, who will continue as director of the program, contends that virtually every court can use volunteers — mature men and women who are willing to devote some time to rehabilitation efforts. Said Leenhouts: "NCCD will now begin to promote volunteer probation and other volunteer programs in the criminal justice field through its state councils. The recruitment of citizens who are willing to assist the courts and other agencies will be a major step forward in helping rehabilitate offenders."

National VIP Board Chairman, Joel E. Nystrom and Mrs. Potter Stewart have been nominated to the NCCD Board of Trustees as a result of the merger. Mr. Nystrom, of Skillman, New Jersey, is the retired International YMCA Executive Director. Mrs. Stewart is the wife of the Supreme Court Justice.