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PROGRAM SUMMARY--Presentation to VOLUNTEER Board, October 23, 1979--Dorothy Denny

Since the merger of NCVA and NICOV, we have developed a strong sense of direction and purpose for VOLUNTEER. Our commitment to citizen involvement in the broad sense is demonstrated by a number of programs and activities which speak in a tangible sense to what we are all about.

We are committed to the involvement of more people--making it easier for everyone to participate in direct service and in policy making. A significant part of our program addresses development and implementation of strategies which involve the men and women of today who have full professional lives and full leisure time.

- The Skillsbank Grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation provides an opportunity for design of skillsbank operations within Voluntary Action Centers--facilitating identification and mobilization of short-term volunteers. This project is designed to reach the many skilled individuals available for short assignments whose skills can be shared by a number of agencies and community groups. VACs are supported in this effort through \$7,500 mini grants.

- Our Family Grant, supported by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and operated in conjunction with Mountain States Health Corporation, will provide new opportunities for families to volunteer together. We have programs for students, employees, and for full-time volunteers--this grant is an exciting challenge for us and for Voluntary Action Centers at the local level to develop volunteer opportunities which both strengthen the family as a unit and meet community needs.

- The Center's Corporate Service Plan assists corporations in establishing and operating employee involvement programs. The *Volunteers From the Workplace* publication is only the beginning of our capability to provide consultation, resources, training, and perhaps most important, leadership to corporate volunteer involvement.

- Neighborhood barter exchange is a natural extension of VOLUNTEER's work in the matching of skills and resources--at a very individual level. Not only does the barter concept promote volunteer exchange, but we believe it strengthens the neighborhood as well. We now have comprehensive information and contact points for barter efforts, and we have a proposal under way for further activity in this area.

We are committed to attitude change--making it natural for individuals to volunteer, creating a positive environment for active involvement of people in their communities.

- Our High School Project, sponsored by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, is now in its third year of operation. VOLUNTEER is committed to developing healthy attitudes in today's youth with regard to citizen volunteer involvement. The course developed through this program offers academic and experiential curriculum on citizen involvement, and encourages community and school cooperation. Voluntary Action Centers, Junior Leagues, civic organizations, and high schools are working together in more than 50 communities in this highly successful program. We hope to disseminate the project widely in 1980 with possible additional support from HEW's National Diffusion Network. Also in 1980 we will be submitting a new proposal to Kellogg which focuses on course development for handicapped youth--an outgrowth of current work being done with the Kennedy Center in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

- VOLUNTEER is committed to strengthening relationships and building networks between the "traditional" volunteer community and community organizations, religious groups, and others who are also a part of citizen involvement activity. Our LEAA grant has provided an opportunity for VOLUNTEER to play a role in community anti-crime efforts. Our staff capability as a result of this grant has expanded to include individuals with knowledge of neighborhoods and community organizing. Already our services and programs reflect the fact that volunteerism and community organizing can benefit from common strategies and resources.

- We hope to change attitudes at the administrative level of agencies and organizations. Too often graduates of master's programs in Public Administration have not been educated concerning the potential of volunteer resources, nor management aspects of volunteer program components. Many volunteer programs therefore are still add-ons, not a part of total organizational goals and objectives, not reflected as part of budgets and not fully supported at the executive level. VOLUNTEER is currently working with the California State University and College System to develop required course curriculum in the MPA program on volunteer mobilization and management--a possible model for other degree programs nationwide.

We are committed to the development of strong, positive leadership.

- VOLUNTEER's Leadership Development Program is designed to place an emphasis on strategies for involvement and to offer advanced level training to those in leadership positions. We are moving away from basic volunteer program management as this is now available on more local levels. State Offices, VACs, colleges and universities can meet the needs in this area. We have also moved away from maintaining a large in-house training staff, which we cannot support. We have instead mobilized a group of individuals as "adjunct staff" who will offer diverse expertise at our workshops. Our training calendar and brochure will be available soon, but you might keep in mind the following events:

- ° Frontiers '80--our national conference on citizen involvement, to be held May 18-22 in Estes Park, Colorado.
- ° Religion and Volunteering Conference, to be held July 21-24 in Pawling, New York.
- ° Training of Trainers--an annual event staffed by Arlene Schindler.
- ° Regional Frontiers--cosponsored at the regional and local level by other groups. This is the "road show" of VOLUNTEER's national conference.

VOLUNTEER is committed to working in new sectors.

- We are working with the Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE) to assess their use of volunteers as technical assistance providers to minority business entrepreneurs. In addition, we will be suggesting models for improving citizen volunteer involvement within the OMBE program.

- We recently provided board training for the American Lung Association, and will coauthor a proposal for intensive board training to ALA at the local level.

- VOLUNTEER received a large contract on October 1 from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) to provide training and work on model development for increased volunteer involvement in NHTSA programs.

- The CanSurmount program in Denver (a one-to-one counseling program for cancer and ex-cancer patients) contracted with VOLUNTEER to evaluate its use of volunteers prior to national dissemination of this program model.

- Our clientele is broad and diverse. To name a few, this year we are working with people from 4-H Clubs, Hospice programs, the Philadelphia Zoo, State Departments on Aging, Social Services, numerous colleges and universities, Tenneco, All State, etc. Through our LEAA grant we provide technical assistance to community anti-crime programs and neighborhood groups nationwide.

- Our core mailing list (maintained on computer by Neodata) has expanded to 70,000. VOLUNTEER's message and services reach more people than ever before and we plan to continue this expansion.

We are committed to providing good communications and information services to the field.

- *Newsline* and *Volunteering* are our bimonthly communications.

- *Voluntary Action Leadership* is our quarterly journal reaching 6,000 paid subscribers. In 1980 we plan to increase this subscription level to 9,000--our goal is self-sufficiency for the magazine.

- VOLUNTEER develops its own publications--recently we've added the *Minimax Exchange Game*, *Volunteers From the Workplace*, *Basic Feedback System for School and Student Volunteer Programs*. We hope to produce a new Start Up Kit for Voluntary Action Centers in the months ahead.

- The Publications Distribution Center offers 50 works produced by VOLUNTEER and others in the field. Now in its third year of operation, the Distribution Center is a self-sufficient operation.

- The VOLUNTEER library now holds over 15,000 documents. A grant from the National Institute on Corrections provides for library improvements and services to the field in the corrections area. We are exploring alternatives for computerization of our clearinghouse of program models.

VOLUNTEER is committed to constituent development and service.

We recently developed three associate service plans for organizations wishing to associate themselves formally with VOLUNTEER at various service levels. We have reaffirmed our commitment to Voluntary Action Centers as those local entities which share a dedication to common purpose and goals. VACs will be offered service plan association as well--with additional partnership opportunities in demonstration projects, Institutes, etc.

Finally, VOLUNTEER is committed to building a strong, viable national organization.

We have excellent staff in Boulder and in Washington and we've made good progress on systems and communications which will make dual locations an asset rather than a liability. Our accounting system is in place, there is board and staff commitment to debt retirement and a fiscal policy to operate in the black. We are defining new self-sufficiency goals to decrease dependence on government and foundation support while maintaining service as our primary goal.

VOLUNTEER: The National Center for Citizen Involvement is an organization with clear purpose and focus. It is an exciting organization, challenged by an ever growing national need for citizen involvement and strong leadership. The Board of VOLUNTEER can help create the necessary support and leadership we need for our future.