

STATUS REPORT OF GOAL ACHIEVEMENTS
FOR
ARLINGTON HANDICAPPED ASSOCIATION

The report following will outline the progress made in obtaining Arlington Handicapped Association's 12 goals established in early 1977. The report also looks at progress in administering the Association and details some short-range objectives. Organization for the paper is by committee and also has a special section on administrative problems.

The Day Enrichment Center has made significant progress towards providing a 5-day-week program for severely handicapped adults in the 2 years it has operated. In the last fiscal year the center has expanded from 2 to 3 days per week; acquired a low-mileage 1978 Dodge Mini-bus; begun a group therapy class using U.T.A. graduate students as leaders; started a G.E.D. study program for 4 participants; and increased its director's salary to over \$500.00 per month. The number of participants enrolled increased to 16 and volunteer support increased to over 30 persons.

A general improvement has been noted in operation format, bookkeeping procedures, and inter-agency relationships. The amount of funds in the D.E.C. bank account has dropped from \$3,000.00 to under \$1,000.00, while the amount of fees paid by participants remains at the same level. The center requires a large percentage of its bills be paid with outside donations.

The center has two problems which must be solved in the future. Expansion of the program beyond its 3-days-per-week will be extremely difficult if these concerns are not addressed.

The first problem is lack of proper space for the program and the inability to leave the equipment in place. The inability to bring new items of equipment to the present location is also a problem and this limits the program's effectiveness.

The Meadow Lane Church requires most of the equipment to be moved daily and has asked that no new equipment be brought in. There is also going to be a lack of space after enrollment reaches 20 participants.

Efforts are now underway, through the Arlington City Council and United Way of Tarrant County, to provide a large service center building for a variety of Arlington Service Agencies. The A.H.A. has played a prominent role in the discussions and probably will receive space if such a facility is provided. A decision on construction of this facility should be reached by January 1981. It is urged that A.H.A. participate if a positive outcome is reached on the building study. If the study group decides not to build a service center, an alternative plan should be instituted. One alternative is that a donor be located to give the Association an existing building or a large house.

Any property to be considered needs to be zoned properly or used to trade for suitable property. The A.H.A. may wish to institute the alternative plan while waiting for the United Way Service Center to be planned, funded, and constructed.

The service center should take a minimum of 2 years to complete. The Board of Directors is firmly urged to consider temporary quarters in a building, church or house which would give the center more flexibility and make the center's personnel more efficient in performing its duty.

The other major problem for the D.E.C. is to find a permanent source of funding. Monthly average expenses were \$653.13 and the average monthly fees for the preceding 4 months was \$173.00. This leaves \$480.00 average per month to be raised through donations. The Lord has graciously provided the difference in the past but we need to do our part in improved financial planning.

Three possible alternatives are readily available to insure solvency:

I. The A.H.A. could apply for admission into the "United Way". The A.H.A. should strive to meet entrance criteria outlined by the United Way so if A.H.A. decides to enter the United Way it will already meet many of the entrance tests.

II. Receive funding through a government source. Funds for day activity programs have recently been increased. This alternative looks better than in the past. Perhaps a combination of United Way, government sources, and private contributions might be used. Any contributions must be free-will gifts as A.H.A. policy forbids solicitation of funds for operating expense. Only capital items and salaries for limited term projects can be solicited.

III. Continue operating on free-will donations and highly emphasize the work being accomplished through local mass-media. The Board of Directors should decide among the three alternatives and then review the decision on a yearly basis.

The Barriers Committee has accomplished in the last eighteen months the following goals:

- A. Buses with wheelchair lifts to begin operation in September 1980.
- B. City ordinance for a percentage of new apartment construction to be wheelchair accessible.
- C. City ordinance stating that new auditoriums, theaters, and stadiums have space for wheelchairs.
- D. City ordinances calling for designated parking areas for handicapped and the ticketing of persons violating such parking areas.
- E. Encourage city to spend \$100,000.00 for park and building improvements for handicapped persons.

In the coming months the Barriers Committee should strive to complete the list of goals which invoke direct participation by the City of Arlington:

- a. Correct flaws in the parking space ordinance.
- b. Endorsement by building inspector staff to enforce curb-cut ordinance.
- c. Promote city recreation programs for physically and mentally handicapped persons.
- d. Monitor bus service for effectiveness.
- e. Check to see if new apartments are being accessibly built.
- f. Get courts and police to enforce more vigorous-ly handicapped parking violators ordinance.

Emphasis should be placed, first, on getting new services and ordinances instituted and thereafter, committees should monitor and be aggressive in getting them enforced. The ongoing monitoring of those previously begun activities are to be continued. It is hoped the completion of the above projects and effective monitoring enforcement can be accomplished by January 1981.

In the following year, the city should be encouraged to survey all city facilities to locate remaining barriers and action should be taken to resolve those problems. Monitoring of projects begun earlier should continue while the new survey projects are undertaken.

The Barrier Committee should begin working with the business community to see that businesses are accessible to handicapped persons. Businesses are to be surveyed and the committee should advise merchants on needed changes. Curb-cuts and designated parking areas are to be emphasized with lesser emphasis on restroom door, isle widths, checkout counters, water fountains, and employment opportunities. This project will require a lot of manpower and will need the co-

operation of other benevolent groups. Before it can be undertaken, a coordinator who can spend a minimum of 10 hours per week should be recruited. A budget and detailed plan of action should be constructed in the initial stage of the project. In order for this project to be successful, the Barriers Committee must set concrete goals and objectives. These detail plans in writing need a timetable established. Alliance with architectural student groups and other support groups must be forged to increase the committee's strength. Due to the amount of work involved to accomplish the "merchant accessibility program", planning should be extensive to prevent expensive mistakes which will require more time of the committee. Hopefully the bulk of this project can be completed by January 1983. The time necessary for completion is contingent on the size and the scope of the objectives.

The Housing Committee activities will become as important during 1980 as the Barriers and D.E.C. Committees have been in the past 2 years. Activity in the past has been limited due to small amounts of resources which could be spent on attendant care housing and has been slowed by the size of the undertaking .

The committee has drawn a written plan outlining problem areas, goals, objectives, budget, and other supporting materials. The committee has established important contacts with Texas Rehabilitation Commission, Department of Human Resources, Arlington Housing Authority, Congressman Martin Frost's office, etc.. Due to the multiple government funding sources used to pay the residence expenses, these contacts are important. Planning of the project is fairly complete but implementation of the plan is needed. Implementation will take place when a full-time administrator begins shepherding the project.

Texas Rehabilitation Commission has approved a \$17,000.00 grant to pay the administrator's salary and other start-up costs.

A budget which outlines expenditures by A.H.A.'s general fund and a close watch over monthly spending will be necessary. The A.H.A. treasury can stand the added expenses of the attendant care housing program only if cautious spending in the housing and D.E.C. programs are maintained.

A time table of objective completion should be constructed and evaluation techniques will be drawn. Hopefully the administrator will begin August 1, 1980, but no later than September 1980. The opening of the program can be achieved by January 1981 if resources are found. The project should begin no later than June 1981. A detailed account of the project can be found in the "Shared Attendant Housing Project" report published by A.H.A. All A.H.A. Directors and Committee Chairmen are urged to make a thorough study of this publication. The project will probably consume a large part of the A.H.A. treasury.

Administrative Problems To insure the continued success of A.H.A. administrative changes must be made to make the association more efficient, stronger, and guard important documents. The following is a list of problem areas which need to be explored:

A. Recruiting - The A.H.A. needs to recruit able-bodied volunteers, disabled participants, and their families and professional people. Able-bodied volunteers are necessary for the smooth functioning of all three A.H.A. committees. Churches, other civic groups and various other sources need to be developed to produce a steady flow of volunteers. Disabled persons should be contacted by using the "Handicapped Persons in Arlington" list and by making repeated contacts with social agencies serving handicapped persons. Public Relation mass-media and on-going Public Relation programs would help greatly stimulate new volunteers and donors. A P.R. calendar which outlines significant yearly events should be constructed to help supplement newly occurring events. Professional persons need to be con-

tacted on an individual basis to serve on the Advisory Board. The present board members need to recruit new members and also be consulted to find a more effective way to use the Advisory Board. The advisory committee structure needs to be researched and changed from its present form.

After new personnel are recruited into A.H.A. they need to be guided by a formal trainee program and rewarded for their contributions to A.H.A. A formal training program for new members should be constructed and include a history of the Association, explanation of the committee structure, future goals, service opportunities, etc.. A formal training program for D.E.C. volunteers is also needed. The D.E.C. has a high rate of volunteer turnover and needs to have a step-by-step training program which is thorough but easy to administer. The A.H.A. needs to implement a formal on-going awards presentation program for persons giving generously of time and resources to A.H.A.. The D.E.C. already has implemented such a program but A.H.A. has not.

B. Record keeping - Administrative changes need to be made in the areas of record keeping, resource materials and lists of vital data. To this date A.H.A. has not established a central collection point for its records. Each officer and committee head has retained correspondence and documents pertaining to their duties. A central collection person should begin to copy important records and file them; either the original or the copy will then be returned. Resource materials, such as publications on Day Enrichment Center activities, housing, barriers, etc. need to be placed in a library format at one location. Many expensive and hard-to-get items may be lost if not indexed, recorded and stored. The Association also keeps lists of donors, members, handicapped in Arlington, mailing list, financial, etc. which could be handled in a more efficient manner. Central storage of these items should be investigated. Perhaps another method of recording such as using a mini-computer would aid in this task.

LIST OF AHA SHORT-TERM
OBJECTIVES JULY 1, 1980

DAY ENRICHMENT CENTER

- A. Find permanent home for program.
- B. Find more stable source of funding.

BARRIERS COMMITTEE

- A. Correct flaws in parking space ordinance.
- B. Get Building Inspection Staff to enforce curb-cut sidewalk plan or if staff does not enforce plan get curb-cut ordinance passed.
- C. Promote city recreation program for physically and mentally handicapped persons.
- D. Monitor police for effectiveness.
- E. Monitor new apartments for accessibility.
- F. Monitor enforcement of handicapped parking ordinance by police and courts.

SECOND YEAR BARRIERS COMMITTEE PROJECTS

- A. Merchants Accessibility Program.
- B. Survey all city-owned facilities for remaining barriers.
- C. Continue monitoring begun in first year.
- D. Begin monitoring second-year projects.

HOUSING COMMITTEE

- A. Hire housing director by August 1, 1980.
- B. Begin first 6 residents moving in before January 1, 1981.
- C. Begin second 6 residents moving in before August 1, 1981.

SECOND YEAR HOUSING COMMITTEE PROJECTS

- A. Begin third 6 residents moving in before August 1, 1982.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

- A. Recruiting
 - 1. Recruit disabled persons to increase general membership.
 - 2. Recruit able-bodied persons for help in ongoing programs. (D.E.C., Barriers, Housing)
 - 3. Recruit professional persons for Advisory Board and

reorganize board for more effectiveness.

B. Recruiting aims needed:

1. Ongoing PR program built around a calendar of events.
2. Written history of A.H.A.
3. New member trainee program for A.H.A.
4. Volunteer trainee program for D.E.C.
5. Formalized awards program for A.H.A.

C. Resource material, record-keeping and data storage.

1. Designate central collection point for correspondence.
2. Begin central library of resource materials which are categorized, recorded and indexed.
3. Explore recording list of important data on computer.