

Prospectus

CHESTER HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, 1965

Robert Wade Neighborhood House

Chester, Pennsylvania

The Chester Home Improvement Project hopes to accomplish three goals: to make substantial improvements in the housing conditions of a number of people in Chester, to provide an opportunity for people living outside Chester to make a tangible contribution to the welfare of disadvantaged Chester residents while they learn about Chester's housing problems, and most importantly to provide a model of what can be done by cooperative effort on the community level.

To these ends a series of work camps is being planned for this summer. Each will involve 15 to 20 volunteers drawn from the Delaware County area, working with an equal number of local people to make minor repairs, clean, and paint in houses which would otherwise remain in poor condition because of the owner's or occupant's unwillingness or inability to undertake the improvement alone. (Owners will be encouraged to have major repairs made simultaneously when they are necessary.)

Most of the camps will last for a week-end, but one-day and week-long camps are also possible. Volunteers will be fed and housed in Chester and the evenings will feature recreation and discussions, (with the help of local leaders) of the problems of poverty.

CHIP is sponsored jointly by the Christian Association of Swarthmore College and the Robert Wade Neighborhood House. The Project's initiator and director is Lowell Livezey, a senior at Swarthmore College.

Persons or organizations interested in helping CHIP might be able to meet one or more of the following needs:

Volunteer Workers 15 - 20 volunteers will be needed each week-end from June 11 to August 13, 1965. They should be 15 years or older, and may come as individuals or as a group. A few people with skills in decorating, carpentry, masonry, etc., are needed, but willingness to work is the only pre-requisite. Volunteers are asked to bring a bed roll or sleeping bag and a donation of \$2.00 for meals and insurance if possible.

Funds CHIP needs at least \$1,500 to pay for salaries of staff, transportation, insurance, and communications.

Materials Some residents and landlords will be genuinely unable to provide the materials necessary for improvements. Donations of paint, plaster, glass, and other building materials will be used to meet these situations.

Tools Paint brushes and rollers, scrapers, hammers and other repair tools, and ladders are needed for use by volunteers.

Vehicle A gift or loan of a panel or pickup truck to be used during the summer for transporting materials and tools would be welcomed.