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MEMORANDUM

To: Everyone
Fr: Jina
Re: Baltimore site visit
April 1, 1993

On March 31st I traveled to Baltimore to visit two community service programs. Because of Susan's prior commitments I was able to attend this grand tour in her place. The visit included a stop at a "Magic Me" session in progress and lunch with the Chair of the Board of Directors. This was followed by a visit to the college class of students who also take part in the program. Afterwards, I was able to look at the community service programs at the University of Maryland at Baltimore County (UMBC).

All of us in the office can benefit by visiting a program. The itinerary was very well organized by the Magic Me staff. I imagine we receive these sorts of invitations quite often. Even without an invitation most programs are probably thrilled to set something up for any of us who work here. We can learn about their program and they get to ask us questions about the Office of National Service. Before you go I would suggest reading over the talking points.

Attached are program descriptions which you can add to your briefing books (Magic Me in K-12 and UMBC in Higher Ed) along with an introduction page for the notebook.

Magic Me -- Linking at-risk youth with the elderly is the aim of Magic Me. In 25 cities a program has been set up that takes middle school aged youth into a nursing home where each youth is paired one-on-one with a resident of the home. The youth keep the same resident as a partner from year to year and often continue the relationship even after their three years of middle school. From the onset, both the elderly and the youths are told that their purpose is to help the other. Students are selected by the schools, but they are never labeled as special or risky, in fact, they are told by the principal that they are the best candidate for the project. The key for interesting the youth in the program is they get to leave school. Of course they grow to love what they are doing.

At the Waxter Center (nursing home) Magic Me staff and I interacted with the youth and the elderly while they made and filled Easter baskets. Two students from UMBC participate to ensure the program runs smoothly. They are part of a social work course taught jointly through the University and Magic Me. The 15 students must keep journals, write papers and participate in the sessions at the nursing homes.

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Center for Learning -- UMBC has a Community Service program which includes not only undergraduate students, but also includes a post-college program developed in part by Mark Shriver (son on Sargeant). The CHOICE program works with youth that are actually termed delinquent. Students who have recently graduated from schools around the Baltimore area are employed full time to look after the nine youth they are each assigned. Face to face contact is made with each youth between three and five times daily to provide the youth with a positive role model and to keep an eye on behavior.

The UMBC undergraduate students are involved with CHOICE through tutoring the youth in math and reading which take place at the university every Wednesday. I was able to visit the pre-tutoring session where the youth and students eat together in the campus cafeteria. To give you an idea of the mind set of these youth, one young african-american male during his fist trip to UMBC told his tutor that he didn't know black people could go to college.

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INTRODUCTION

This notebook of community service information is divided into 4 categories:

1. Youth Corps
2. K - 12
3. Higher Education
4. Post-College Programs

After an overview of each category, several program examples follow. These were chosen for their regional and programmatic differences.