



Dr. Carl Parker with young children in his summer program to stimulate their interests in learning and motivate them in being productive citizens. Photo by Richard J. Brown

CITY Dedicated To Children Education

by Jerry Garner

It is a well-known fact to almost all experts in the field of education that a good education during a child's early years is

the key in developing the skills, study habits and content required to excel in science, math and technology in the intermediate, high school and college years.

Unfortunately, it is also a known fact that many African-American children are not receiving the proper education in kindergarten and the early grades. Realizing this, Citizens Involved in Teaching Youth (CITY) was created.

CITY was organized in 1985 under the auspices of the People to People Ministries. Dr. Carl E. Parker is the Founder/Director of CITY and also Career Specialist with Portland Community

College. Parker said the purpose of CITY is to help students build their basic skills and enhance their awareness of computers.

Children participating in the program receive the following benefits: improvement of their academic skills; higher motivation; computer literacy; instructional recreation; development of social skills; and increased self-esteem. Dr. Parker said CITY is reaching children at earlier grades in order to stimulate their interests in learning and motivate them in being productive citizens.

The program, which is for children in kindergarten through 6th grade, has reached some 143 children since it began. According to Dr. Parker, 35 children are enrolled in the summer program at PCC Cascade Campus.

"Our summer program lasts six weeks, Monday through Friday. In the morning we deal with academics. In the afternoon, we give the kids an opportunity to choose between group piano, crafts or computers," says Dr. Parker.

Dr. Parker said CITY operated out of Humbolt and King schools this past year. He said he would like to expand the program to more inner-city schools. "We are looking at Verdon, Woodlawn, Irvington and Sabin schools. I plan to contact the principals of those schools to see if we can get in."

Dr. Parker said response to the program has been good. "Portland Public Schools have given us access to the use of their books; Sharon Church, through their Urban Ministry Program, gave us a \$1,500 donation; United Methodist Church in Salem gave us \$450; and Immaculate Heart School provided us with use of their computers and two instructors."

Dr. Parker said he would like to see more African-Americans involved with CITY. "Although others may help, if people perceive that we are not concerned with educating our children, perhaps they will also become apathetic." He said African-American professionals and para-professionals need to become more involved with working with African-American children. "Either society will pay now or later. We are paying now with after school programs: remedial programs and enrichment programs for minority and disadvantaged children. Or we will pay later." If the children don't receive what they need now and somehow get on track, get inspired and motivated toward being the best they can be, what is going to happen, perhaps not absolutely, is a life of crime or joblessness," said Dr. Parker.

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 Tuesday-Friday: Noon Day Prayer
 Friday: The Pastor Speaks 7:30 p.m.
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 284-5659

Services:
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 7:00 p.m., Evening Worship
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Rummage Sale To Benefit Crisis Line

Metro Crisis Intervention Service is presenting its first annual rummage sale on August 9, 1986, 9 AM - 5 PM. The sale will be held at the Friendly House Gymnasium located at 2615 N.W. Savier. Furniture, clothing, camping equipment and toys are among the items for sale.

All proceeds of the sale will go towards support of Metro Crisis Intervention Service, a 24 hour crisis hotline. Metro Crisis Service provides free, confidential telephone counseling, information and referral to callers in the Portland metropolitan area.

To donate items or to find out more about the sale, call 226-3099. All donations are tax deductible. Metro Crisis Intervention Service is a United Way agency and contacts with Multnomah and Washington Counties.

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