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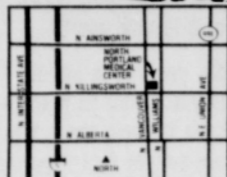
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## Urban League's Senior Service Program: An Important Resource

by Stephen McPherson

There is an old adage that it is the squeaky wheel on a cart that gets the most attention. If that truism is accurate, it does not apply to a special program at the Urban League that has enjoyed a singular success for more than 15 years with hardly a complaint from its clientele. To be sure, in some instances, some of the 900 hundred people whom the Senior Adult Service Center sees on a regular basis would have no other place to turn to if the Urban League did not exist.

Mrs. Margaret White, 72, the user of these services for the last decade said, "I would not know where to turn if these services were not available." She spoke about the warm and active social environment the center provides where elderly residents are involved with each other in a wide range of social activities.

"I am very active and would lead a very lonely life if the center were not here. It is deplorable that they are going to lose so much money this year. Elderly people deserve better treatment from our society. We have worked long and hard. I would like to show the people who are concerned about the environment what we are doing to recycle some of the plastics that are polluting our environment."

Each Wednesday the clients of this program gather together at the center where they are involved in various crafts. Mrs. Emma Wilbert, 80, also has been a part of the program for the last 10 years. She, like Mrs. White, attributes her good health to the

fact that she is able to get involved with activities such as those provided by the Urban League.

"I enjoy coming to the crafts program every Wednesday so that I can see so many of my friends and at the same time make a contribution to a very special social effort. I don't know what I would do if the center were not here. It certainly is beneficial," Mrs. Wilbert said.

The center also provides an information and referral service whose activities also include a news letter. In its most recent edition there was an announcement about free tickets to the circus and information about a nursing clinic where diabetics and other chronically ill persons may be treated with their special medications. The Urban League, itself, in association with HealthLink will provide free health screening next month. Persons interested should call 289-2638 for more information.

According to Joseph Payton, director of the program these and other services are available such as advocacy in providing assistance and intervention when the elderly are not able to provide such services themselves. They also provide counseling, transportation and telephone assurance. The latter is especially important to those senior citizens with limited mobility who cannot leave their homes frequently.

The public can be assured that they are getting the benefit of their dollar from this program. The operating budget for 1988 was only \$177,000. It is comforting to know that the elderly are in such good hands.

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