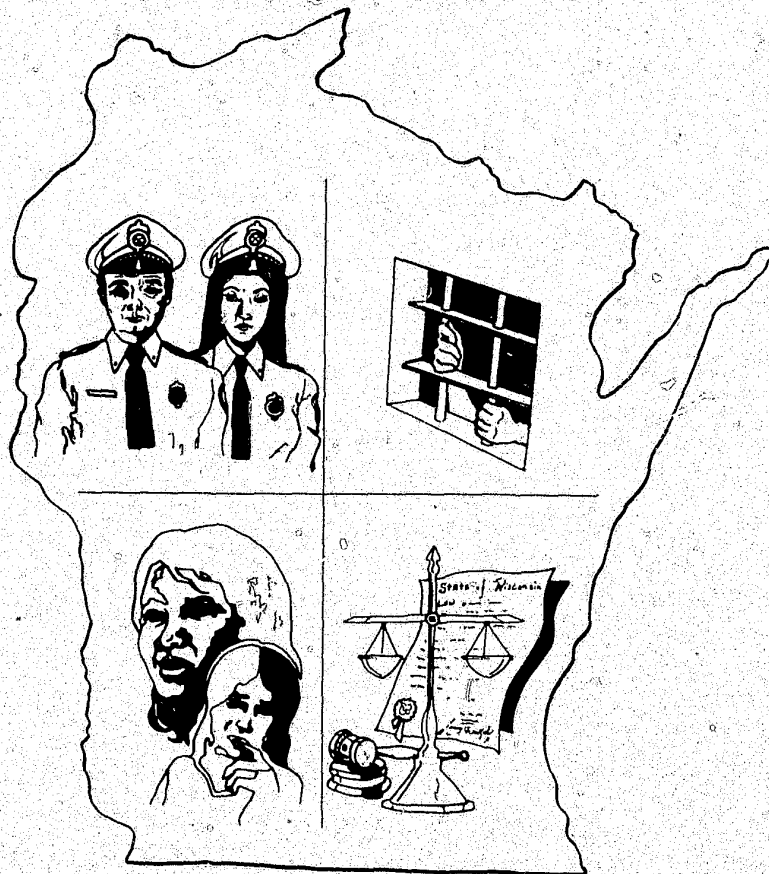




State of Wisconsin \ OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE



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PROGRAM EVALUATION REPORT

Refunding Report:

Caledonia Community Center Project

WCCJ Subgrant #78-6-SE-3129-J7

by

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Wisconsin Council on Criminal Justice
Program Evaluation Section
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NCJRS

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ACQUISITIONS

I. Project Description

The Caledonia Community Youth Foundation sponsors the Caledonia Community Center under partial funding from the Wisconsin Council on Criminal Justice (WCCJ: subgrant #78-6-SE-3129-J7). The Center's project incorporates recreational, educational, and employability skill-development activities for youth. Additionally, it is directed toward obtaining volunteer support, system modification and the expansion of local social and community services. The Caledonia Community Center opened in February 1978, although the positions of Executive Director and Director of Youth Services (the two full-time positions funded under the WCCJ grant) were not filled until June 1, 1978. The project began operations in May 1978.

The community of Caledonia is located ten miles south of Oak Creek, near Racine. The largest township in Racine County, its area is fifty-two square miles. It is a residential township for primarily blue-collar workers who commute to their place of employment outside the township. Transportation between Caledonia and its neighboring communities is by private automobile or school bus. All junior and senior high school students leave the community by day to attend various Racine public schools. Youth from the 4,500 residences in Caledonia reside in a community without a high school to serve as a focus of activity and with dependence upon adults or older youth to travel to points of recreational and cultural activities. At present the Caledonia Community Center is the sole community facility.

The Center is located in a school building which was heavily damaged due to a fire. The building is located in Crestview, one of four geographically distinct residential areas of Caledonia. To date, youth served at the Center primarily live in Crestview, but the project has reached youth from the remaining areas through its dispersed summer playground programs, held at elementary schools.

A Board of Directors serves as the Advisory Committee for the project. Currently nine positions on the Board are filled; the Project Director has informed Program Evaluation Section (PES) staff that it is expected the remaining six positions will be filled during December. Two members of the Board of Directors are youth. Parents, citizens, and law enforcement are also directly represented on the Board. While a representative from the social services area does not sit on the Board, a social worker serves regularly as an ad hoc technical advisor to the Board.

In addition to the two full-time positions funded under this grant, six part-time positions have been funded. Currently these are partially filled by two tutors who are working eight hours per week at the Center. Various youth have worked part-time throughout the project, in addition to adult temporary staffing.

II. Goals and Objectives

The goal of the Caledonia Community Center project is to create a well-organized and coordinated system of services to the township's youth in order to prevent their involvement in the juvenile justice system. Project staff plan to implement a specific set of activities to meet the following five objectives in conjunction with this goal:

1. Establish a structured process of informing youth and parents of the resources, services, and methods of operations for programs serving youth in Racine County.
2. Develop an effective volunteer program to permit and encourage youth and citizen participation in policy decision-making and activity programming, as well as in program implementation.
3. Assess the community needs relative to youth in Caledonia and assist in program modification or implementation of new programs where necessary.
4. Improve the employability potential for youth in Caledonia through development of employment opportunity skills, job training skills, and job resource listings.
5. Assist youth with educational needs and direct resources of the community toward improving the educational competency of youth.

A description of the project activities addressed to each of these objectives follows.

III. Project Activities

Objective 1 - Informational Efforts

Monthly meetings are held at the Caledonia Community Center for youth and parents of the community. While these meetings are directed primarily toward adult citizens of the community, youth are welcomed and the resulting interaction amongst age groups is encouraged. Attendance has ranged from ten people in a summer month to eighty in a winter month. At some of these meetings a professional has been invited as the guest speaker.

The Project Director attends regular meetings of the Committee of Agency Executives, Racine County, which is a mechanism for coordinating service delivery of social service agencies, schools, and related county community organizations.

Objective 2 - Volunteer Program

A Junior and Senior Youth Council has been established. This Council is composed solely of youth who are in regular attendance at the Center. The Council meets weekly to discuss programming of Center activities and problems which may have arisen in the recent week.

Objective 3 - Needs Assessment and Resource Delivery

The Caledonia Community Center has based some of its program planning on data obtained by the Racine Planning Council's earlier needs assessment. Recently, members of the Center conducted a survey of the Crestview area residents. The results of this survey are being tabulated. The questionnaire indicates that the interests of both adults and youth were addressed. (See Appendix)

A two-day session on the use of drugs and alcohol was presented by staff from the Cooperative Educational Service Agency (18) for the information of the entire staff of the Center. A second staff-training program is scheduled on the subject of crisis intervention and communication skills. These training programs are given to all staff members of the Foundation.

As of August 31, 1978 sixty youth had been provided information or had received referrals to other agencies. Staff attempts to contact parents where appropriate, when referral is necessary.

Objective 4 - Employability Development

The project held two Pre-Employment Training (PET) programs during the summer of this year. Twenty-three youth participated in training, job searching, and employment. Five of these youth worked in community service jobs because of their prior involvement with law enforcement agencies.

Specialists from Job Service of Racine and the Gateway Vocational and Technical Adult Education school presented the training programs. They provided both information and testing to youth in attendance. The testing program was not adequate and the project's staff intend to obtain help in providing this service more effectively in the future. Project staff coordinated referrals of youth to the Urban League of Racine where they subsequently were given assistance in job placements.

A work experience program was established at the Center to employ five youth, ages 14-16, for several weeks each at the Center. These youth had participated in the Pre-Employment Training program but had not subsequently been able to secure employment because of their age.

PES staff has been informed that an Advisory Planning Commission will soon be formed to create a plan for Cliffside Park which is adjacent to the Center. Five youth will be hired for one day a week for a month to prepare a plan for a spring program to clear up the wooded area of the park, design ski or bike trails, and plan a nature study program. The Advisory Planning Commission will work with the County Park Planner and also present the plan to the County's Board of Supervisors.

Objective 5 - Educational Competency Improvement

For pre-school children, a day care center staffed by child care workers serves an average of twenty-five children per day for two and one half hours per day. Young children are provided school-readiness activities and social skills are encouraged and guided by staff members.

For young children and youth the three summer playground programs provide the opportunity for development of both social and physical skills. Team activities provide the opportunity for learning cooperative behaviors and the development of gross motor skills which, in part, contribute to feelings of personal adequacy.

Socialization is a central concern of the staff in their provision of recreational opportunities at the Center. Youth activities are divided by age groups, with elementary youth attending in the late afternoons and junior and senior high students attending during the early evening hours.

Eight tours involving outside activities were made during the summer, using a rented bus for transportation. According to the Project Director, these should have been fewer in number and more directly designed to meet youth interests. More advanced planning will be undertaken for future tours. Part of the difficulty in this regard stems from the fact that summer attendance at the Center was lower than expected.

A tutoring program for youth is in the process of being established. It is anticipated three additional tutors will be employed if the referrals from area schools indicate such a need. Currently two tutors are employed by the project and are providing individual youth with four half-hour guidance sessions per week. These tutors have only been recently employed.

The Center also serves as the monthly meeting place for probation officers to interview their clients. This arrangement has caused no difficulty in the Center's delivery of services to the community.

A representative from the University of Wisconsin-Extension (Parkside campus) visits the Center two nights per month to encourage youth to take continuing education courses in their Adult Education program.

IV. Summary and Recommendations

The Caledonia Community Center project has been in operation for seven months. During this time it has undertaken a number of activities to serve the community's youth and to provide both adults and youth with an accessible social, recreational, and educational meeting place. The numbers of youth participating in different components of the project vary. An evening dance may draw eighty youth, while a particular employment training program may serve only ten youth. Based upon the range of activities already initiated, and the numbers of youth participating in the project, it is the judgment of PES staff that the project's major goal is being attained.

Several recommendations for the continued development of the project's effectiveness in its prevention efforts are as follows:

1. For compliance with the special condition of the grant regarding the composition of the advisory committee, it is recommended that at least two additional youth be placed on the Board of Directors of the project.
2. Greater involvement of youth in programming of Center activities is desirable. Such involvement facilitates program design which will be appropriate to the interests of youth served by the facility.
3. Continue efforts to coordinate referrals with the Racine schools for the purpose of providing tutorial services to youth.
4. No concerted effort has yet been made to establish an adult volunteer program. As soon as possible, efforts to design a program involving adults in the community should be undertaken.

APPENDIX

CALEDONIA COMMUNITY YOUTH FOUNDATION
7605 LAKESHORE DRIVE
RACINE, WISCONSIN 53402

In the interest of better serving the Crestview area, CCYF would like you to answer these questions to help us decide which programs to develop. Thank you.

1. Would you be interested in Physical Fitness classes for adults?

2. Would you be interested in Parenting Skills (Parent Effectiveness Training)?

3. Would you be interested in Adult Education Classes?
 - a. Adult High School Credits _____
 - b. Fundamentals of Income Tax Preparation _____
 - c. Civic Awareness _____
 - d. First Aid Classes (C.P.R.) _____
 - e. Arts & Crafts _____
 - f. Academic Courses

 - g. Other Suggestions:

4. If you have secondary school age children, are you interested in the evening programming at CCYF?

5. If you have elementary school age children, are you interested in the afternoon programming at CCYF?

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6. Would you be interested in the Model Airplane Class?
7. Would you be interested in Winter Sports, i.e. skiing, ice skating, tobogganing, etc.
8. Would you be interested in a tutoring program for your child?
9. Would your child be interested in a Career Fair Presentation?
10. What programs would you like to see instituted at CCYF?

Thank you,

The Staff of CCYF

END