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Services Supported by U F Torch Drive Fight Delinquency

Services supported by the United Foundation's Torch Drive will be fighting juvenile delinquency in the most effective way known.

The problems of teen-agers have been dramatized widely in recent years. Combatting juvenile delinquency is a fight that has met a tremendous response in the hearts of grown-ups. It probably has been the topic of more discussion, formal and informal, than any other civic problem since the war.

The fight is, for the most part, a matter of providing wholesome outlets for the surplus energy of growing boys and girls.

Many organizations participating in the Torch Drive channel the energies of growing Detroit youngsters into the sort of activity that will make better men and women of them. Their success is indicated by the fact that Metropolitan Detroit has received nationwide acclaim for its youth program.

It is a program, however, which must be continued through each

lic lies in the "alumni" who return to Farmington each year for an annual picnic.

The responsibility for building character rests for the most part on the home, with the church and the school playing an important part. Several services appealing to youngsters interested in mental health provide all of these elements for homeless youngsters.

A particularly effective attack on juvenile delinquency at its source is that of the Detroit Torch Drive, which will benefit from the Torch Drive. It carries on a limited, specialized service among youngsters from 8 to 14 years of age whose conduct indicates the probability of teen-age trouble unless corrected.

The value of teen-age recreation opportunities in reducing juvenile delinquency is well known and generally accepted. But in practice it has been found that there are youngsters who do not fit into such programs because of behavior patterns. These are the very ones who need group activity most.

The Detroit Torch Drive goes behind the scenes in an effort to correct juvenile behavior before it becomes a delinquency problem. It offers a clinical and diagnostic service to educational and recreational organizations.

THE STAFF of the Group Project is made up of psychologists, therapists, educators and advisors connected with school, col-

lers and Wayne University. It serves groups of selected youngsters through weekly club meetings and a summer camp. It operates on an inter-cultural and inter-racial basis.

Children between the ages of 8 and 14 whose behavior and emotional problems make special consideration necessary are referred to the Group Project by organizations interested in mental health.

The children referred to Group Project are too wild and uncontrolled or too shy and withdrawn to make successful use of the regular community services such as Boy and Girl Scouts or the "Y". They are separated from the pressures of large and more organized groups which are necessarily geared to normal children.

Small, protected clubs are organized with referred children. A trained leader is assigned to work with them.

EIGHT GROUPS are meeting now under the Group Project. The first group is made up of boys from 11 to 13 who are described as "tough" as well as sophisticated. The second group is made up of boys 10 and 11, who are "neurotic" rather than "tough". The third group, boys from 8 to 10 are "babys" who are impulsive and disorganized.

Another group which meets on Saturday mornings in a community house is made up of a number of shy "sissy" boys. The other clubs have been formed among

groups of boys presenting similar problems.

Each year the Group Project review the individual members in the groups. It recommends their removal into regular neighborhood organizations when they are ready. And it follows through with observations of the child's progress after he has been fitted into his surroundings.

The number of children referred to Group Project is relatively small, only 156 last year, but the work done is considered particularly effective in curbing juvenile delinquency because of behavior problems already evident in the youngsters. Of those referred, 112 were boys, 44 were girls.

(This is the third of a series of six articles on the Torch Drive. The fourth, telling of the renewed spirit of neighborhood brought back to the metropolitan area by the United Foundation fund-raising effort, will appear in The Birmingham Eccentric next week.)

Wives to Be Guests At Kinwald Meeting

The Rev. Reginald Becker was moderator for a round table discussion by Kinwald club members at their meeting Tuesday at the Community House.

Ladies Night will be observed next week when a special showing of the Dearborn Motors film, "Waves of Green" will highlight the program.

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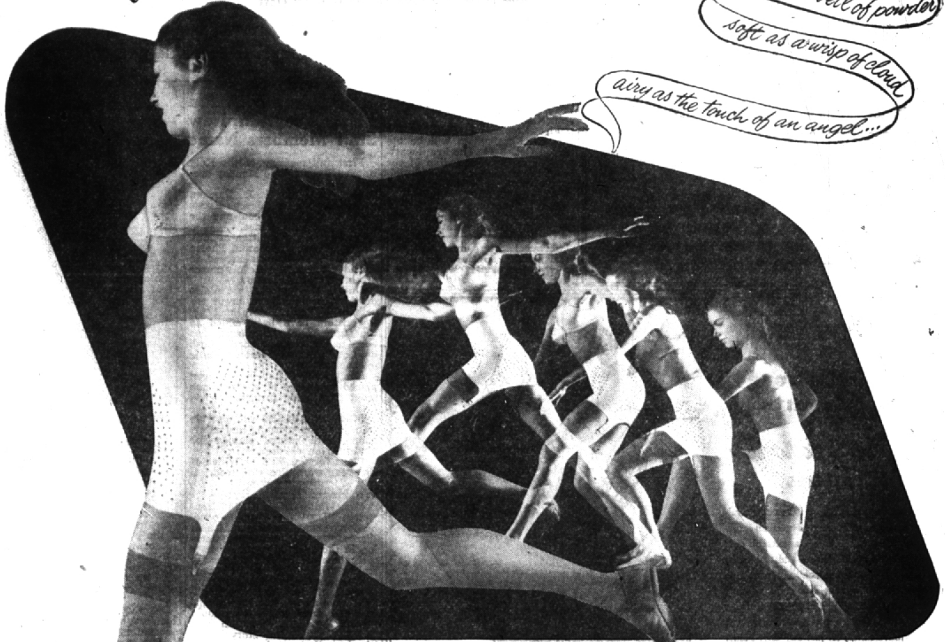
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succeeding generation. Permanent services with long records of accomplishment behind them in this field are included in the United Foundation appeal.

THE EXTENT of their combined programs is shown by the fact that 166,319 members were listed last year by 12 character-building and youth guidance groups. An additional 17,023 persons are included in classes, archery and fly-tieing for a total of 481,144 times.

The activities conducted by these organizations among growing boys and girls include nearly every wholesome pursuit found in adult life. Athletics, camping, boating, handicrafts, nature study, homework, dramatic arts, archery and fly-tieing are only a few.

Permanent, substantial club houses serve such groups as the Detroit Boys' Club, Catholic Youth Organizations, the YMCA and YWCA.

The most important youth training organization, from the standpoint of membership, is the Boy Scouts, with 50,960 members in 1949. The YMCA had 45,013 members, which figure included adults also.

The Catholic Youth Organizations enrolled 21,121 members in its Community Center and a total of 20,000 young people in a year-long educational program last year. Boxing, basketball, baseball, softball and bowling leagues were conducted throughout the city under CYO auspices.

ONE of the CYO's most dramatic and effective attacks on potential juvenile delinquency is its boxing tournaments. These attract many boys not interested in "sissy" sports.

The 280 CYO boxing meets drew some 300,000 paid admissions and gave nearly 3,000 youngsters the opportunity to try out their fistic powers in public.

Citywide organizations sponsored by the Torch Drive also provide a wide variety of recreational and educational activities for growing girls. The WWCA has a complete program for teenagers, including 31,307 members. The Girl Scouts listed 20,246 members in Metropolitan Detroit last year, and the Camp Fire Girls 5,559.

The Girl Scouts, in the belief that "The Right Doorway to Life is a Happy Childhood" provide a wide variety of activities. These are roughly grouped into eleven major fields: agriculture, arts and crafts, community life, health and safety, homemaking, international friendship, literature and drama, music and dancing, nature, out-of-doors, sports and games.

GIRL SCOUTS are divided into four age groups: Brownies, 7-10 years of age; intermediates, 10-12; teenagers, 13-15, and seniors 16-18.

There are 702 troops in the Detroit metropolitan area. They are sponsored by PT, men's and women's service clubs, veterans' organizations, churches, civic improvement associations, business firms, housing units.

In addition to the 20,246 active Girl Scout members, there are 5,400 adult volunteers connected with the Girl Scouts as leaders, committee members, and program consultants.

A comprehensive training program has prepared 2,849 adult Detroiters for Girl Scout group leadership, committee work, and training in camping and program skills.

Camp Fire Girls learn to worship God, seek beauty, give service, pursue knowledge, be trustworthy, hold on to health, glorify work and be happy. Their activities are sponsored by Jewish, Protestant and Catholic churches.

Home and family life are stressed, along with camping and nature study.

In addition to the more formal organizations which keep future citizens busy in wholesome activities, there are a great number of services seeking funds under the Torch drive which reach additional thousands of teen-agers.

THE COMMUNITY Chest lists 48 recreational centers among its services. These recreation facilities are not confined to children and teen-agers, however, but include opportunities for adults and old people to get together with their neighbors.

In all, about 190,000 persons enjoyed recreational and educational facilities provided by Red Feather services in 1948.

A more direct frontal attack on juvenile delinquency probably is that of Boys Republic, at Farmington, which was founded in 1907 when public thinking on juvenile courts was still in the controversial stage. Boys Republic has become the model for many others, better-known institutions of its kind throughout the world.

Since that time, more than 3,000 boys from 14 to 17 years of age have enrolled in the school. Its outstanding contribution to society has been proof that the best way to "salvage" boys who have come in conflict with established authority is to place the authority, and responsibility, with them.

Last year, there were 204 citizens of the Republic.

The boys at the Republic elect their own officials, make their own laws, conduct their own court, operate their own bank and stores. They are taught useful pursuits and earn while they learn.

PROOF of the soundness of the principle behind Boys Republic