LINKS, INC. DEDICATED TO:

Services to Youth Services to Youth Organizations organizations abound and many

organizations abound, and many can point with pride to accomplishments. One of the top groups is Links, Inc., which in its 33-year existence, has grown to 170 chapters in 32 states and D.C. Current thrust of the group is an effort to meet the needs of children.

By Ora Brinkley Bundy

In this International Year of the Child, the United Nations has called upon all of the world's countries to study the conditions in which their children live and to strengthen programs which will make their lives better.

This year is also the 20th anniversary of the United Nations' adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and it is an

Pauline Campbell, Mt. Holly, N.J., displays her crafts at a Black Youth Arts Festival put on by the Rancocas Valley chapter. Minnie Henry, left and Catherine Johnson, look on.

appropriate time to recall the efforts of Links, Inc. to meet the needs of children through its Services to Youth Program.



Services to Youth Committee of the Richmond chapter. Seated: L to R, Evelyn Kindle, Julia Thornton, Thelma Hawkins, Violet Winston; standing, Faith Norrell, Wendolyn Johns and Diane Marsh.

Links, Inc. was founded in 1946 in Philadelphia, Pa. by Mrs. Margaret R. Hawkins and Mrs. Sarah Strickland Scott. It now consists of 170 chapters in 32 states and the District of Columbia and a membership of more than 4,300 members.

In a history, - making philanthropic gesture, this service organization of black women, has contributed \$500,000 to the United Negro College Fund. Links, Inc. was the first national group to adopt the UNCF as a nationwide project.

Within the framework of the Links' national theme and the statement of purpose for its programs, the Services to Youth prong has established as its goal a requirement.

It is that "every Link chapter will become involved in upgrading the academic skills and contributing to the positive socialization of minority students in their respective communities by making a special effort to identify, counsel and work with the gifted



Julia B. Purnell, President of Links, Inc.

black child as well as the under - achiever."

Reading as a communicative skills is failing increasingly in our schools and interest in reading is often difficult to initiate, much less to maintain, but Links are doing it.

Among Link chapters meeting this challenge in their communities are the Tallahassee, Chesapeake - Virginia Beach, Montgomery (Ala.), Tulsa, Annapolis, Houston and Golden Triangle (Beaumont, Texas).

The Golden Triangle Chapter is in its fifth year sponsoring the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) program in the Beaumont Independent School District.

Anita Wallace is chapter president and Bobbie J. Johns is RIF program coordinator.

The Austin, Tex. Chapter participated in a project with the Austin Independent School District and the local CBS affiliate in involving minority children at the 5th grade level in the production of TV spot announcements.

The goal of the project was to encourage the development of language and communication skills among the city's disadvantaged youth.

Ora A. Houston is chairman of the chapter's Services to Youth Committee.

The Central Jersey chapter recently sponsored a spring workshop-luncheon to benefit the Nyerere Education Institute in New Brunswick, N.J. The Institute grew out of the concern of many parents that the local public schools were not addressing the

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needs of the black students.

This private non - profit school was created to serve the academic needs of youth ranging in ages from three to 15.

It has an upgraded system in order to focus on the individual needs of each student and to better assist each student to achieve his/her potential. The theme of the Links' workshop was "Reach Out and Touch."

The Dallas, Tex. chapter has for a number of years sponsored five students from predominantly black high schools to take the ACT-SAT Workshop Preparation Class in order to enhance greater skills in taking national examinations.

The presentation workshop, held at the Dallas County Community College the Saturday before the ACT-SAT examination was instrumental in raising the scores of these students.

In addition, the chapter contributed \$200 to the Dallas Personnel and Guidance Committee of Black Counselors to aid students in need of financial assistance to take the College Board exams.

The chapter's on - going fund - raising service for youth included the awarding of four scholarships totalling \$8,500.

Bergen County (N.J.) Links sponsored a career clinic for junior high and senior high school minority students at the Benjamin Franklin Junior High School, Teaneck, N.J. The clinic, now in its third year, reached more than 450 students.

Carolyn Booker is chapter president and Jacqueline B. Styles, committee chairman.

The Rancocas Valley, N.J. chapter sponsored a "Black Youth Arts Festival" at the Willingboro Plaza, N.J. The project provided for talented black high school youths to exhibit their art in painting, sculpture, etchings, pottery, macrame and the like.

The Oakland Bay Area chapter will award its third annual \$5,000 scholarship and \$1,000 runner - up to students to attend a UNCF college. The chapter will also award its annual \$500 scholarship for Consumer Education.

Bridge Home, a temporary home for girls 13 to 18, which helps



Students at the Career Clinic sponsored by the Bergen County chapter listen to a lecture by Bernard Brooks.

Minneapolis-St. Paul chapter held a basketball clinic.

Clinic coach Linda Roberts confers with Central High

School principal Dr. Joyce Jackson.

them work out their problems instead of running away from home.

The Savannah, Ga. chapter has an interesting project, "S.T.P.," (Stop Teenage Pregnancy).

A successful on - going program in a Day Care Media Resource Center is sponsored by the Toledo, Ohio center along with representatives from six day care centers. With a primary focus on pre - schoolers, this center is providing books, services and materials to many pre - school centers in trying to accommodate individual needs.

The Memphis chapter is working in the area of Family Life Education with great success.

Through monthly seminars, round table discussions and individual counseling, a broad spectrum of problems and concerns of adolescent youth is explored. Mose Yvonne Hooks is chapter president and Link Addie D. Jones is chairman.

The Quad Cities chapter was awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Federal Law Enforcement Assistant Act (LEAA) to provide an emergency shelter facility for female juvenile offenders. The shelter facility for girls between the ages of 12 and 16 is a temporary home for those charged with such offenses as curfew violations, truancy, traffic

violations and alcohol and drug abuse.

With the help of federal funding of \$152,000, the Sacramento chapter provided personalized vocational/career guidance to disadvantaged youth in a community - school cooperative.

The Jackie Robinson Middle School in cooperation with the New Haven (Conn.) Links sponsored a Career Week. The theme, "Today's Youth Exploring Career Preparation for a Better Tomorrow" dealt with communications media, business/office and allied health.

Carol Moore is chairman and committee members were Laura Stuart, Theoria Boyd and Demetri Williams. Freddie Massie is president.

A basketball clinic for 25 teenage girls at Central High School in Minneapolis, Minn. was sponsored by the Minneapolis - St. Paul chapter. The goals of the clinic were to assist young women in the development of positive attitudes for athletic competition and to provide an opportunity for improvement of techniques.

In addition, for the past five years, this chapter has sponsored a toy collection and distribution project at Christmastime for the St. Paul Martin Luther King Center. With cooperation from community clubs, business or ganizations and individuals, Links have distributed toys to more than 150 families.

The Miami chapter has implemented a series of activities to assist sickle cell youth at the Miami Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center. It began with an orientation dinner for identified sickle cell students in order to establish an understanding of the program and rapport with identified target population.

The Services to Youth Committee of the Brunswick, Ga. chapter has focused all of its activities this year in meeting the needs of children who have hearing impairments. Thechapter decided to help and have bought garments, cards, custom - fitted ear molds and hearing aides as well as keeping up repairs on some equipment.

In the area of the mentally retarded, the Austin chapter provides a stipend and gifts on special occasions each year to two young men who reside in local

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