—School board

(Continued from Page A1)

tions with the Maryland State Department of Education.

Last week, Dr. Norman Walsh from St. Louis, Mo. was named associate superintendent of curriculum development, planning, research and evaluation. Also named was Dr. Charlene Cooper-Boston, associate superintendent for external affairs.

Walsh's newly appointed assistant superintendents are Dr. Denise Glyn Borders, assistant superintendent of planning, research and evaluation; and Alice Morgan-Brown, assistant superintendent of curriculum development.

Borders is a federal government evaluation consultant for McGraw-Hill publishing company, while Brown is presently the supervisor of mathematics for the Baltimore City Public Schools.

Rounding out the field are Howard C. Hartsfield, assistant superintendent of business management; and Chester F. Preyar, assistant superintendent of labor relations/human relations.

Both will report to Dr. Patsy Blackshear, the newly appointed associate superintendent of human resources, labor relations and management services.

Also named at Thursday's meeting were Dr. Judson C. Porter, director of fiscal management; Lawrence F. Howe, director of research and evaluation; Curtis Lantz, director of facilities; and, Dr. Carroll Johnson, screening committee consultant.

As planned, all of the associate and assistant superintendent positions have now been filled by School Superintendent Richard C. Hunter.

It is expected that recommendations for the remaining positions will be made before the end of June.

"The schools and the young people the schools serve need the involvement, assistance and support of every segment of the Baltimore community," Dr. Hunter said when he announced his reorganization plan earlier this year.

"I am going to do my best to help him (Mayor Schmoke) make Baltimore the city that reads. Those who want to help—welcome. Those who don't, need to get out of the way. We don't have many chances left," he added.

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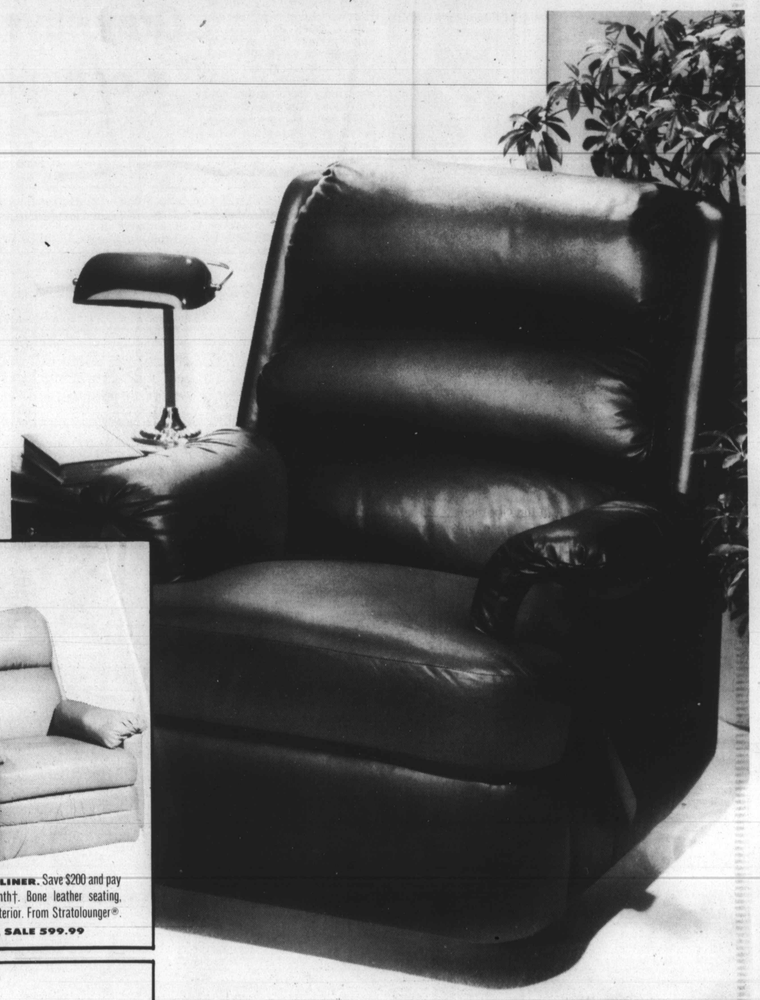

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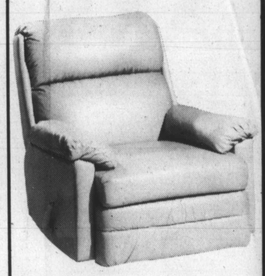

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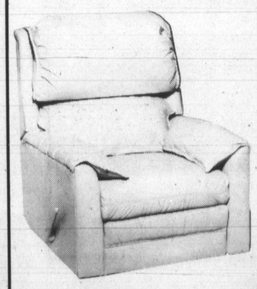

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METRO PROFILE

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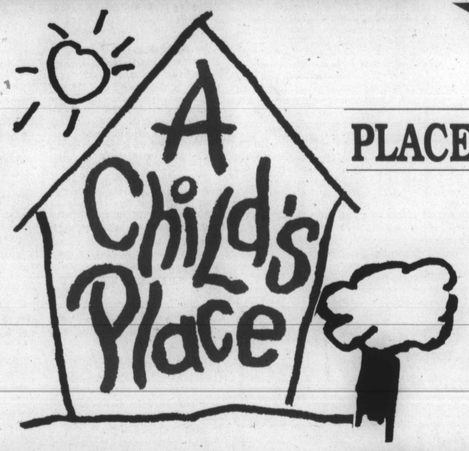
Saturday, June 3, 1989



A SAFE PLACE TO BE

By Helen Glover Cook
AFRO Staff Writer

Brenda Woods fondly looks back upon the days when her mother would remind her to find a child's place and stay there.

"A child should not be in adult conversations or adult places, they should always act like children, and stay "in a child's place," Brenda recalls.

Brenda has passed her fortieth birthday and her mom has been dead for over three years, but, "I pray each day that somehow my mother knows that I have finally found that child's place," Brenda says.

Brenda is now free from the clutches of 27 years of drug addiction and is at last seeing some of her dreams come true.

One of those dreams was to have a place to send her son, a place where he would be well taken care of and "wouldn't have to be around the house while I went through the changes brought on by my drug abuse," Brenda said.

"Either I had drugs and didn't want my son, Ansar, around in that environment or I wanted to be alone while craving for drugs that weren't available and wished I didn't have the added burden of caring for Ansar too," said Brenda.

Brenda wanted a place where tutoring was available to help youngsters with difficult homework problems as well as a place where they could have a nutritional meal and the company of their peers as playmates.

On July, 1 A CHILD'S PLACE, Inc. will open its doors to the 8-14 year olds who live in the neighborhood surrounding Greenmount and 22nd Streets where the center will be housed in St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church.

Brenda said, "So often in the city there are homes where one or both parents are substance abusers. These parents love their children but they have to devote most of their waking hours trying to deal with their drug problem. Usually, the youngsters are the ones who loose out. I want to change all that."

Those who know Brenda are familiar with the tenacity she has in getting things done, "especially those things which she believes are morally right," says Rev. Robert Williams,pastor of the Prince of Peace Baptist Church.

Rev. Williams is the person who Brenda says "gave my vision the opportunity to grow. He provided space for the program and gave us use of the church's kitchen. I was introduced to the reverend by the president of my neighborhood community association, Mitchell Henderson.

"I spoke to a group at the church about my program and the plans I had made for implementing it. They were quite receptive to my ideas.

"Annette March-Grier, visited a drug therapy group that I was attending on Greenmount Avenue. She was scouting for ideas on how she could contribute something meaningful to the groups' members or neighborhood," said Brenda.

"My vision was beginning to take shape, all the components of my plan were coming to me, one by one. I really believe that God answered my prayers because he knew that I was sincere and that I could now devote my time to helping someone else," said Brenda.

"Annette March-Grier provided the financial backing for 'A Child's Place.' Each day she made trips to the supermarket to buy food, then she would load her car with bags and physically deliver them to the church.

Finding money for this project was one thing but Annette also devoted a lot of her time, which is something money can never substitute for," said Brenda.

Through word of mouth, Brenda's center grew from its original small number of youths into a larger organization which provided a shelter for over fifty neighborhood children who lived within walking distance of the Prince of Peace Baptist Church on Lindwood Avenue in East Baltimore.

Rev. Williams called a church meeting once again asking for someone to assist Brenda. On any given day Brenda was cook, counselor, trip coordinator, chaperone, tutor, dance instructor, art teacher, and surrogate mother to an ever expanding group of youths.

Rev. Williams was also concerned about the center's lack of insurance. Brenda said, "He was afraid that the church would be in a very precarious position if some child fell or otherwise hurt themselves. He thought that it would be best to continue the program only with additional help for me and most of all, some type of insurance coverage."

Brenda says that she "once again took my troubles to God in prayer. Before I knew it I was once again blessed with another place and the help of some very dedicated people who had the knowledge to steer me and my vision on the right path."

Mrs. Grier introduced Brenda to Father Joseph Muth, pastor of St. Ann's Church. Father Joe, as he is affectionately known throughout the neighborhood, offered to provide Brenda with space in the church's Franciscan Youth Center.

Brenda would excitedly share her vision with each new person that she met. Each of those people in turn introduced her to others who would share some part of the building necessary to form a solid foundation for "A Child's Place."

Lillian Smith, who wrote grant proposals at The Community College of Baltimore gathered the information necessary for the center to be funded by a wider range of sources.

Joe Green-Bishop, brought the business knowledge he has acquired through publishing *The Black Church* (a community church newspaper) to the center's development and became the second business person on the center's list of business-mentors.

Brenda said, "When the center opens this time I will have a board of directors who will also act as advisers to "A Child's Place". Annette March-Grier is the board's president, Lillian Smith, vice president and Joe Green-Bishop is the secretary.

"Harold Jackson is the treasurer and I will be the program's Director. Others on the board are Melvenia McQuaige, Patricia Newton, William Murphy, Mary Joyner, Charles Wood, Father Joseph Muth, Christopher Cuffie, Sister Kathlean Delancey and Mitchell Henderson," said Brenda.

Brenda said, "The idea behind the business mentor program is to give some of the teenagers out on the streets selling drugs an alternative that is realistic.

"Those kids often ask how can they afford to give up large amounts of cash for low paying wages in some fast food restaurant? By becoming entrepreneurs they have a chance to raise their socio-economic status. Black business owners can pass on their knowledge to these youth," Brenda said.

Brenda never lets those things or tasks which others have labeled impossible stop her from reaching the goals she has set for herself or her vision of "A Child's Place."

Knowing how far her program has expanded in the almost two years since Annette March-Grier first offered the financial assistance that made the program a reality, Brenda is always seeking new ways of gaining space for the center.

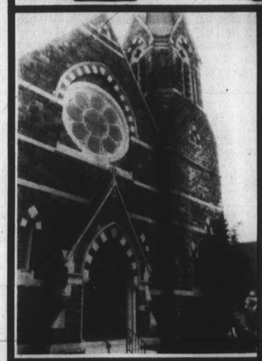
Brenda said, "I saw a house in the same Greenmount neighborhood not far from St. Ann's. I thought it would be ideally suited for our use. It was not occupied by anyone so I had to really work to find out just who it belonged to."

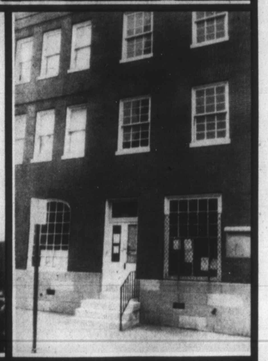
Brenda searched title records and was rewarded by finding someone who was in the process of filing bankruptcy and wished to turn over the house to "A Child's Place."

Brenda said, "When I followed the paper trail that led me to Doris Washington-Morton I found someone who although they had just met me, believed in me and my vision. I know I was lucky by some standards, but I'd like to think that God knew what I needed and provided it for me."

"When 'A Child's Place' opens in July it will be housed in St. Ann's Church until funding is raised to make the needed repairs on the building at 22nd and Greenmount donated by Doris Washington-Morton," said Brenda.

Brenda said, "This is only the beginning. I hope that one day each councilmanic district in Baltimore will have its own 'Child's Place,' so that our children will have a chance to grow and develop far from the drug culture that many of them see everyday, sometimes at home."





(Top) Brenda Woods and son Ansar now have time to enjoy each other's company. (Middle left) On July 1, St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church will be the new home of "A Child's Place." (Middle right) The future home of "A Child's Place" needs renovation. (Bottom) Prince of Peace Baptist Church gave Brenda Woods her first opportunity to start "A Child's Place."