

Police Work Is People Work



Susan Coffey-Frost

of a tomboy and decided in high school I wanted to be a police-person. I don't believe in working at all unless I enjoy what I'm doing and I love this work — the people I meet, the chance to learn about and improve the legal system and the fun of conducting investigations."

The federal mandate which accompanied the allocation of Title VI funding stipulated that the new dollars support projects which provide new community services. The CETA Security Guard proposal was an outgrowth of a survey taken of senior citizens residing in Housing Authority buildings — a survey which showed that all elderly are concerned about the ever increasing incidents of vandalism, theft and muggings.

Clifford Fowler, Chief of the Housing Authority Police Services, explained that "the CETA security program really fills a void. Many of our senior residents are afraid to even report the incidents at their buildings. By having someone they know around, the seniors are more likely to voice their concerns." Fowler went on to say that "almost anyone can be *trained* as a security guard, but this kind of work needs someone who has special sensitivities — who can really relate to the elderly and make them feel comfortable. I'm glad that a number of the guards are women, be-

cause I believe they are naturally compassionate and understanding."

Deborah finds the change from military life to security guard a refreshing one. "The military, like it or not, is still pretty much a man's establishment. I didn't want to lose my 'woman's ways' completely. Now that the people here have learned to trust me, I've made many good friends. It wasn't easy at first, but now the senior citizens go out of their way to show their appreciation. I'm meeting fine people and on Saturdays I often ride my bike over to visit my new friends."

"... this kind of work needs someone who has special sensitivities ..."

And Deborah Shanklin is getting a chance to continue working in her chosen field. "I lucked out. My first interview after applying for a CETA position was for a job I knew how to do. Maybe when this year is up I'll try to become a part of the regular police force in New Haven."

More of the elderly are coming out of their apartments at night to chat with their neighbors. An occasional summer afternoon reader hauls out a folding chair. One smiling resident whose garden has been vandalized in past summers probably best summed up the new feeling around Prescott Bush: "Debby's here and she's taking care of everything." ■

Title VI: A Fresh Coat of Paint

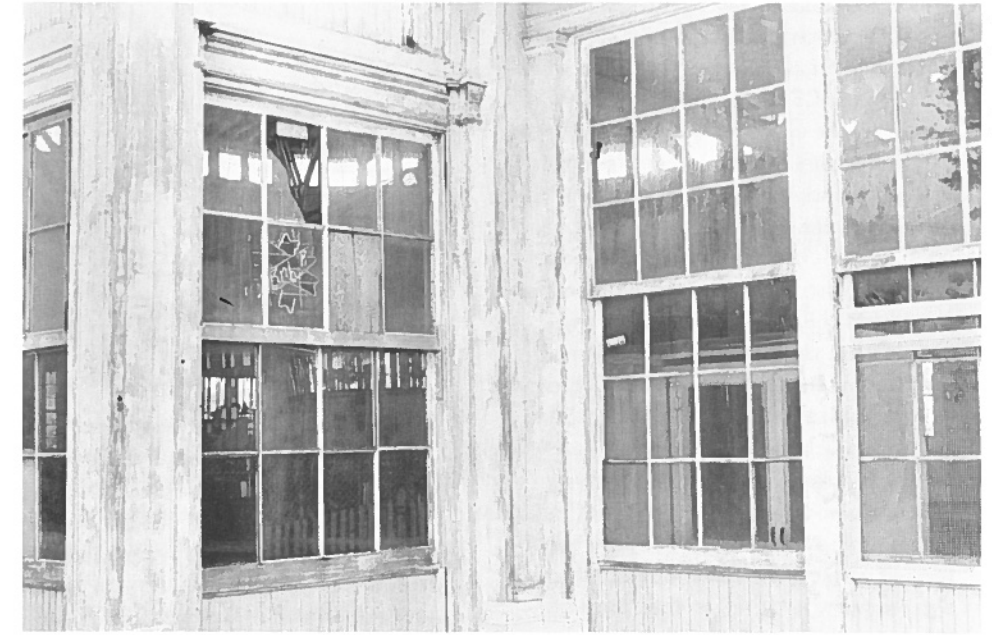
Six previously unemployed men are out painting the town and they've been doing a fine job. The men are all members of a painting crew funded with CETA Title VI project funds. The crew is available to do work for city and non-profit agencies which want to renovate their facilities or tackle long ignored restoration projects.

The crew recently completed phase one of the restoration plans for Lighthouse Point Park, which were conceived through the cooperation of CETA and the New Haven Department of Parks and Recreation. Mr. Pat Rubano, Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance for Parks and Recreation, points out that "Lighthouse Point is New Haven's most beautiful public shorefront. It is heavily used during the summer months and the job of daily maintenance alone is staggering. With the labor shortage that has faced the Parks Department in the last few years, CETA Title VI funding marked the advent of major improvements in park service. Now we've got the right help, the right manpower, and the additional monies we've needed so badly. I can see a definite improvement in all park sites since the Title VI crews have begun their work. CETA has also provided the supplies for this particular project. The heavy use this area experiences combined with the corrosive effects of salt air make Lighthouse a tough place to keep in good shape."

"... a definite improvement in all park sites since Title VI ..."

The crew has painted the bathhouse interiors, rust proofed and painted interior metal supports, and exterior concrete overhangs. Some of these surfaces have not been painted in over ten years. Work on the main pavillion and the carousel will begin once architectural plans have been approved.

Both Pat Rubano and Title VI painting Supervisor and Out-Of-School Work Experience Foreman Chris Serfillippi remember the carousel as children and look forward to seeing its gilt and glory restored. According to Pat Rubano, "The carousel is an outstanding piece of local craftsmanship and even in its present condition has been valued in excess of \$200,000. It's gratifying to see significant efforts being made to revive this source of local pride."



Jehanne Arslan

This corner of the Lighthouse pavillion is representative of the amount of work needed to restore the structure.

For Chris Serfillippi the added responsibility of being a Title VI Supervisor while continuing to be an OSWE foreman has brought unexpected job satisfaction. Chris selected potential crew members from the Title VI applicant pool and was pleased to find that three OSWE graduates were best qualified for the jobs. He commented, "It was a wonderful thing to know that the young men I had trained stood out from the crowd. They worked hard, and now it has paid off."

"... I can look up again."

Doug Proto, one member of the team, spent two years in pipe construction but was laid-off when he couldn't gain admission to the union. A year of unemployment and hard times made him reassess his career plans. At one time, Doug painted houses.

His selection as a Title VI worker gave him the opportunity to rediscover skills he

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Art For The Community

The CETA Mime Troupe gathered early for a final run-through before the second annual CETA Arts Festival. All summer long, the CETA performing arts groups have been preparing for this major production. Underneath the clear evening sky, CETA artists transformed a simple stage into a world of wonder. The audience assembled on the Green applauded as lithe figures mimed and danced through shafts of light. Dramatizations of African folk tales ignited sparks of primitive awe that flashed across the darkness. As music and song drifted over the crowd, the night air swelled with pleasure and New Haven shared in the special spirit that gave life to the young performers' dreams.



Richard Quirk



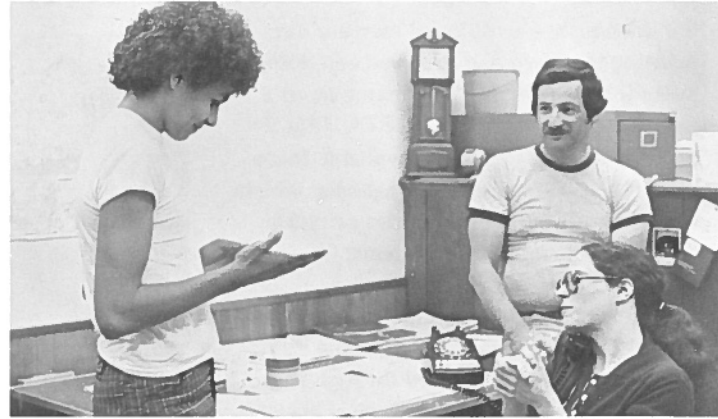
Hear With Your Eyes

This is the second year that three hearing impaired youths, Patricia Mitchell, Juan Lopez and Diane Wright, have been working with the CETA Summer Youth Program. At the end of last summer all three received letters thanking them for their fine work and inviting them to return the following year. The CETA Summer Program was not only their first work experience, but also a step towards independence in a sound filled world. These young people were referred by the Concerned Citizens for the Deaf to the CETA Program. Both organizations have been promoting an awareness of the employability of aurally handicapped persons. Many people do not know that some deaf individuals can speak, and that all aurally handicapped persons can communicate through sign language, writing, an interpreter or "hearing with their eyes."

... impairment of one sense does not prevent full participation in the working world.

Patricia Mitchell has been working as a library aide at the New Haven Public Library. She is a graduate of Mystic Oral School and will begin working there full time this fall as a dorm counselor. Seventeen year old Juan Lopez, at first withdrawn and shy, now mingles freely with

Juan Lopez speaks with Al Berke and CCFD counselor Diane Wixted.



the other employees at South Central Community College, where he works on the lunch program. Juan has been attending the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, and is a statewide interscholastic wrestling champion there. Diane has been working in the Hill Cooperative Youth Services day camp program. She will finish high school here in the New Haven school system. In addition to attending school, Diane is looking for a part-time job working with children, or in a library. All of these enrollees have shown that the impairment of one sense does not prevent full participation in community life and the working world.

For the past two years the CCFD has had its offices at the CETA Skill Center, but

now the growing organization is looking for a home of its own. Director Al Berke is trying to expand services to the deaf and hearing impaired citizens of the New Haven area, an estimated 1,000 persons.

CCFD is funded by the New Haven Foundation, CETA and CDA. Other funding and area cooperation is actively sought to further plans for special day care centers, increased emergency medical services, counseling groups, legal assistance and advocacy organizations. Opening up job opportunities is an important part of CCFD's program. With the example of the fine jobs done by Patty, Juan and Diane, at least three employees now know that it makes good sense to hire deaf workers.

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La Biblioteca Aprende Español

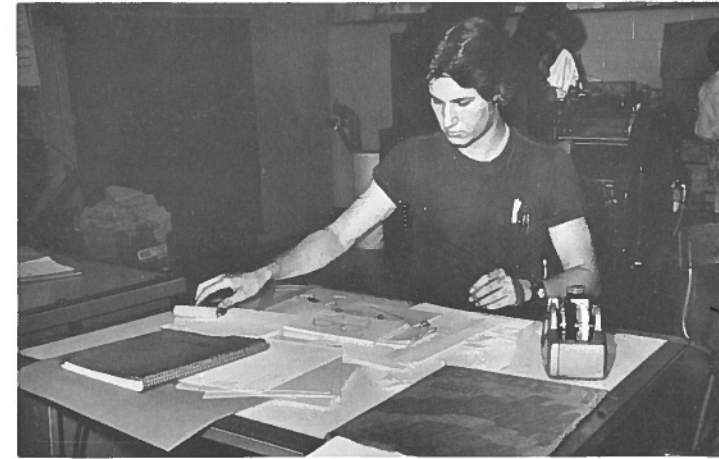
"Hola" is heard as often as "Hello" since Evelyn Cedeno began working in the New Haven Public Library this summer. Evelyn, a CETA Summer Youth Program enrollee, is helping to inventory and shelve the library's vast collection of children's books. Flora Van Dyke, Evelyn's supervisor and Coordinator of Children's Work, made a special request for a Spanish speaking summer employee. She explains, "We are trying to expand and improve our services to New Haven's Spanish speaking community. Before Evelyn came none of us working in the children's section were familiar with the Spanish language. Not only is she doing a fine job with the books, but she's also giving us lessons in her language and customs. Evelyn is a wonderful, open young woman."

Evelyn was born nineteen years ago near

the city of Ponce on Puerto Rico's northern coast. Growing up with eight brothers and sisters has had its advantages — she is perfectly at ease sitting in the children's section. Evelyn's soft and pretty voice barely interrupts the quiet of the reading room: "I've never worked in a library before, but I like it very much and think I'd like to continue in this field. It's hard learning a new language, but the more languages you speak the more people you can get to know."

The New Haven Public Library is more responsive to community needs thanks to Evelyn's special talents and the CETA Summer Youth Employment Program. A few familiar words can make a new or strange place more inviting, and the more ways we have of saying "hello", the happier we will all be. ■

Building Toward The Future



73 CETA Summer Youth Employment Program enrollees are helping the Board of Education prepare for the coming school year. Leonard Taddei, Supervisor of New Haven's Vocational and Industrial Arts Program, surveys the rows of massive storage cabinets and stacks of printed forms. "This is a great program," he says. "The enrollees get a feeling of solid accomplishment — and it remains with them throughout the year. They see the results of their work reflected in their own schools. For most of the enrollees this experience opens up a whole new source of pride."

"They get a feeling of solid accomplishment . . ."

The carpentry and graphic arts crews build the cabinets and tables and print all the forms used in the fifty New Haven schools. Mr. Taddei points out, "This single aspect of the CETA Summer Program saves the City roughly \$30,000 to \$40,000. A general storage cabinet, for example, would cost about \$450. With CETA youth providing the labor, we pay for only \$50 of materials for that same cabinet."

Waldron Roberts and Carl DeGuiseppe supervise the carpentry unit at Wilbur Cross High School. The twenty enrollees working with them are introduced to quality mass production techniques. They execute most of the preliminary tasks, and then ship the pieces to Hillhouse High School where another group of enrollees completes the assembly and puts the finishing touches on the furniture. During the process of building library shelves, kindergarten tables, storage cabinets and science tables, the youth learn how to use



A summer job teaches this youth how to paste-up copy before sending it to press.

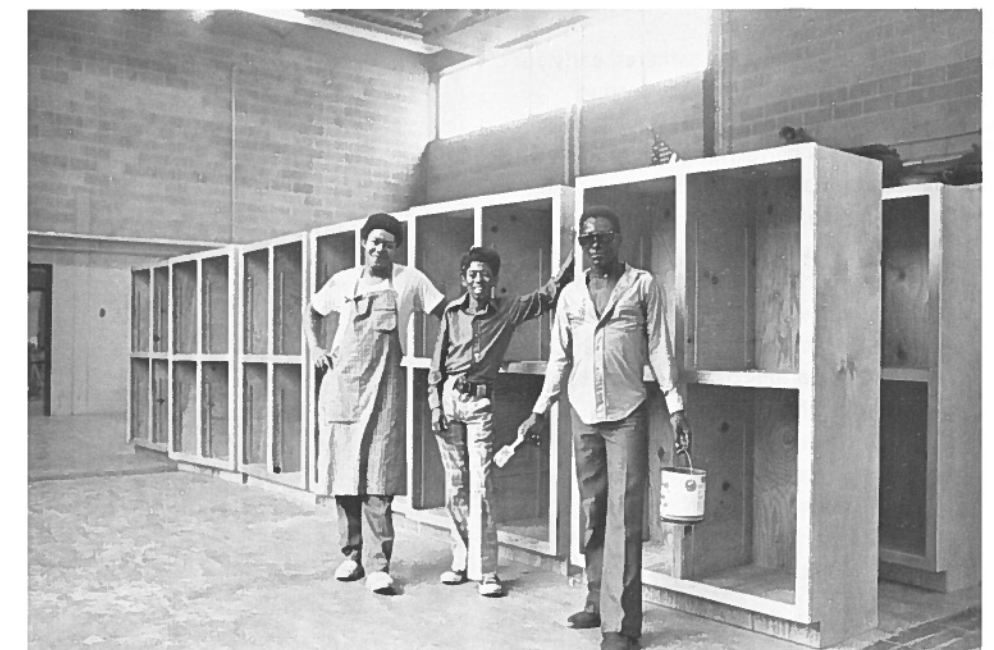
precision machinery and become familiar with a variety of construction materials and techniques. Waldron Roberts notes, "The summer program here is interest-generating. Many of the enrollees have never had any skill training. They have no idea that they can do it, and exactly how rewarding this work can be. When the school year begins, most of these young people choose to continue their skill training. It happens year after year."

Down the hall from carpentry, the Printing and Graphic Arts Unit roll off the presses the thousands of forms used by the New Haven School system throughout the year. Paul Falcigno and Dave Lyons

teach CETA youth how to care for and use the professional machinery. The enrollees learn the working of Heidelberg off-set presses, reduction cameras and darkroom equipment. They also receive training in plate preparation, paste-up and bindery processes. As fast as the sheets come off the presses, the reams are sent to the Distribution Division where another crew packages, labels and ships them to schools around the city.

... saving precious tax dollars.

The Industrial Arts Program trains many youngsters in a marketable skill while saving precious tax dollars. ■



Evelyn Cedeno

Painting the Town:

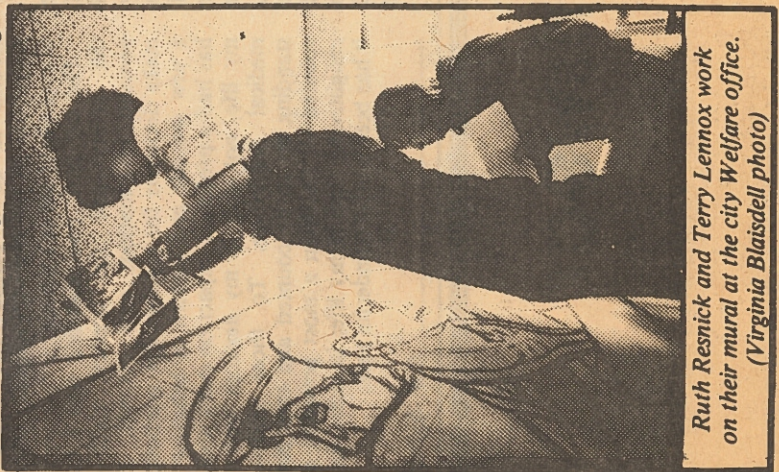
Murals with a Message

By Ellen Lesser

The two young white women wearing work jeans and sneakers, lugging paint buckets, brushes and sketch pads, push into the New Haven Welfare Department on Bassett Street. As they pass the clients' benches, a worker behind the partition waves to them. "Look who's here. It's the muralists!"

Behind the worker's desk, the wall is primed white with a blue grid sketched on it. The muralists, Ruth Resnick and Terry Lennox, edge through the wooden gate to the "Employees Only" office. The white primer—which they will color today with the first strokes of their mural—stretches from the waiting room across the back wall of the office.

When the workers first saw the plan for the mural, some said it showed too much suffering. The muralists had pictured a line of jobless people, sitting. The critics thought



Ruth Resnick and Terry Lennox work on their mural at the city Welfare office. (Virginia Blaisdell photo)

they should represent action. To revise the drawing, Ruth and Terry asked the workers to pretend they were outside a factory that said "NO JOBS" on its door. They took pictures as the actors clenched their fists, stretched their arms toward the factory, looked down in disgust or confusion.

Ruth tapes the pictures up in the office lunchroom and workers gather around, pointing at the poses and laughing. Then Ronnie Wright, a young black woman pictured in many of the snapshots, grows serious. "This scene where we're turned down for work," she says. "We don't look frustrated enough. We were having too much fun."

But some of Wright's co-workers argued for peaceful landscapes or graphics. They said the clients don't need reminders of their plight, any more than the office needs something to make it drearier. They saw the drawing moved toward hopeful symbols, but still didn't want to see the problems on the wall.

"If a picture is hanging in an art museum, you try to understand the symbolism," says one older woman. "The people who come in here don't want to see more pain. They don't know anything about it having a message." She pauses for a moment, looking at the photos she posed in. "I didn't either, until they explained it to me."

Murals with Messages

In their work as community muralists, Ruth and Terry have shown many in New Haven that murals have messages. As supervisors for the CETA Summer Youth and CDA after-school programs, they've led teams of inner-city kids to design and paint murals about problems and progress in the neighborhoods. The Welfare mural, funded by CETA, is the first one they've done on their own. For the 25 or so team murals around the city's schools, streets and playgrounds, the kids themselves created the messages.

Living for the City

In the Lee High School cafeteria, the



A giant mural, "Path of the World," was painted on the Lee High School gym wall facing Cedar Street. (Virginia Blaisdell photo)

bulletin board of pastel college posters is inked with graffiti. On the next wall, the CETA after-school Muralists' "Living for the City" is spotless. Left to right, the mural narrates Stevie Wonder's song.

A boy is born in hard time Mississippi surrounded by four walls that ain't so pretty.

In a bare cube of brown, cracking walls, a black mother stands behind her son and holds him by the shoulders; the father sits cradling his girl between his knees.

(For the young black man, *To find a job is like a haystack needle/Cause where he lives they don't use colored people.* Looking for a break he moves north. New York—New Haven—just like I pictured it: a wild painted psychedelic street scene—A.G.'s Disco Hall, K.B.'s Record Shop, all the lure of the city's closed doorways.

(A stranger comes up to him, says, *Hey, brother want to make a quick five bucks?* Before he knows it, he's left with the bag and) two police cars screech up, yellow headlights flooding the alleyway, sirens blaring green shapes of sound. The young man stands, stunned, in a brown space.

I hope you hear inside my voice of sorrow and that it motivates you to make a better tomorrow.

This place is cruel

No where could be much

Colder if we don't change

The world will soon be

Over living just enough

Stop giving just enough for The city

Lee graduate Kenny Belle helped paint

"Living for the City" while still a student at the high school. "We came down to the caf one day and they were painting the wall white," he remembers. "We came up with the idea to do the Stevie Wonder song, we drew it on the wall and we painted it." Kenny hadn't done much drawing before, but Ruth and Terry taught him and the others "how to make things look real."

Kenny's brother Johnny, now a sophomore, also worked on "Living for the City." He already knew how to draw, but learned a lot and loved painting.

Both Johnny and his brother say Ruth and Terry were the reason they liked doing murals. "They were all right," says Kenny. "They brought down some music and sometimes they treated us to pizzas. They did everything to have a good time."

After "Living for the City," Ruth and Terry supervised murals all over Lee, and the Belle brothers and their friends kept painting. Kenny and Johnny think the murals have done a lot for the school. "The murals symbolize what's really going on with the neighborhood," says Kenny. "So people look at them and get into them." The kids painted four murals altogether, in the school's halls and classrooms. Then CETA's Summer 1976 Arts Program funded Ruth and Terry and a team for a grand finale—a giant mural on the gym wall facing Cedar Street, where the Lee school grounds meet the neighborhood. The team called the painting "Path of the World" and dedicated it to David Siquieros, a revolutionary Mexican muralist, and to the Hill community.

Path of the World

On the mural's left stands a block of (Continued on Page 16)