

Little People's asks you to be a Little People's People

The Little People's is a project sponsored by Charlottetown Youth Services which provides a program for the youth of Charlottetown between the ages of 6 and 15. These kids do not fit into the already established youth serving agencies and usually spend the majority of their free time on the city streets.

The program follows along the idea of a free flowing atmosphere, with the needs of the children being tended to, rather than emerging them into a structured program situation. The project started four years ago in the fall of 1970 and was based out of Trinity Church using the facilities there such as the gym and classrooms. In the spring of that year, 71, an OFY application was made for a summer camp but was turned down. The project closed and resumed again in the fall of 71 using the same facilities and same program. In the spring of 72 and OFY grant was attained which ran a summer camp at Clear Springs near Souris, P.E.I. There was a series of 4 ten day camps with 20 - 30 kids. The campsite is 200 acres of land with both a rocky and sandy shoreline. There are fields and woods with various trails blazed through them with a fresh, clear spring from which wonderful drinking water is obtained. All in all it is comparable to a paradise on earth with the exception of a few insects.

The camp had moderate success due to the fact that the majority of the staff had limited camping experience. In the fall of that year the project continued to work out of Trinity Church. In the spring the OFY grant was reattained to run Little People's day care camp at Rocky Point. The kids were taken every day via the Rocky Point ferry for 10 days with a 3 day camp out experience at Rocky Point. The day care situation was not successful in that there was inconsistency in participation and attendance but there was a relatively good response to the camping out experience.

The fall of 73 program at Trinity was set up again and ran until the spring of 74 in which the kids raised \$320. on their own through coffee shops and dances to be donated towards the 1974 summer camp. At that time

funding was attained for a full time person to work year round in co-ordinating the project. For the third year there was an OFY grant to run Little People's summer camp at Clear Springs. The camp ran basically the same as the first year but this year stressed the environment and gave an opportunity to live in the country as opposed to spending the whole summer on the city streets.

In addition to the OFY funds were attained from the Secretary of State to hire 3 people to work in town to do follow up and recreation

work with those children who could not go to camp, who were waiting to go to camp and those who came back from camp. This project was daily, the aim being to get the kids off the streets. There were many trips to Rocky Point and Fort Amersst, 2 trips to Rainbow Valley, one to Fairyland and one to the Drive-In theatre as well as various facilities around town. This program was found to be successful in that it helped the camp program out in recruiting kids for both programs and did not have to deal with the problems the camp had such as home-

sickness, weather and insects.

For this fall the Little People's Project will be working in various program areas such as a good tutorial program for children having a hard time with their studies in school, a sports oriented program, arts and crafts program and possible week-end excursions to an indoor camp.

To carry out the project in these programming areas more volunteers could be very helpful to the project. If you are interested please contact Mike Doyle at 2-4289 or Louise Mould at 2-9863.

