COMMUNITY LIFE CENTER PROGRAM

NEED

Durham's older persons with low or moderate incomes who live alone or in households where they are left alone all day have no alternative but to go into a nursing home when they need some type of surveillance either for medical or social reasons. Figures from the Department of Social Services show that their workers had to place fifteen persons in nursing homes last year who actually could have remained in the community if some provision for care during the day was available. There is no reliable statistic at present to document how many more persons were similarly affected, but the professional estimate at least triples the number.

PLAN

The Coordinating Council for Senior Citizens - a non-profit United Fund agency - proposes to open a Community Life Center, that is, day care for older persons, in a facility in the community that will have a maximum enrollment of thirty persons who can benefit from group experience.

Funding for such a program has been approved by the County Commissioners and the Department of Social Services; however, the entire administration of the program will rest with the Coordinating Council.

The budget provides for a quality operation. A paid staff includes: a Coordinator who will be skilled in group activities; an assistant who will have patient care experience; three aides to permit grouping into units of ten persons each; secretary-bookkeeper; one aide for food service assistance. It is planned for the food to be catered, and maintenance and utilities items are provided. There is no rent item, but equipment and program supplies are included.

The Coordinating Council has a bus with a hydraulic lift which will be used for transporting those who need it.

The desired space must include at least one office used exclusively for the staff. In addition space will be needed for resting, eating, health station, three program units, exercise area, and rest-rooms. The space must be on one floor and accessible either by being on ground level or by elevator.

In addition to the staff, volunteers will be welcome to assist in all phases of the program.

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The Administrative Board of Duke Memorial United Methodist Church will meet on Tuesday, October 3, at 7:45 p. m. in the Bradshaw Room. This is an important meeting so please be present if possible.

M. Laney Funderburk, Jr. Chairman

