

A S T U D Y of
the
MARKET STREET Y. M. C. A.
and the
PHYLLIS WHEATLEY Y. W. C. A.
and
RELATED NEEDS OF NEGRO YOUTH

160,000

Conducted by
38 Community Leaders
including representatives of the
Market Street - Y. M. C. A.
Phyllis Wheatley - Y. W. C. A.
Central - Y. M. C. A.
Central - Y. W. C. A.
City of Asheville
The United Fund

with the Professional Guidance of:

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Study Director

Miss Florence Harris, National Council of YWCAs
Consultant

sponsored by

THE UNITED FUND OF ASHEVILLE AND BUNCOMBE COUNTY, INC.

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INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

A. THE PROBLEMS

This study was first recommended by the Finance and Budget Committee of the United Fund following an expansion of the budget request of the Market Street Branch YMCA in October, 1952. The Committee called attention to the location and condition of the Market Street building and the need for better facilities and program for colored people in Asheville.

The suggested study was formalized when president John B. Veach of the United Fund, in collaboration with the YMCA and the YWCA, appointed a committee of prominent citizens and asked the National office of the YMCA to provide a Study Director.

The Study Committee held its first meeting on June 16 to further define objectives and plan the scope of the study. President Veach in his letter calling the meeting said "the first of these studies will have as its object the improvement of the YMCA and the YWCA for the Negro people". At the first meeting, the following general objectives and plan for this study were recommended by the Study Director:

OBJECTIVES:

- to develop and adopt a plan of action which will improve character building youth services with Negro people in Asheville.
- to suggest ways in which the Market Street YMCA can make the greatest contribution to the total plan, either by itself or in some form of cooperative relationship with the YWCA.

This will involve a study of -

1. The total youth program and facilities available for Negroes in Asheville.
2. Distribution of population and other community factors influencing the YMCA.
3. The Market Street Branch - its program, its location, its building and its relationship to the total Asheville YMCA.
4. Possibilities of relocating the Market YMCA, with special reference to the Ashland Avenue property.
5. Attitudes of the Negro people toward sale of present facilities.
6. The program and facilities of the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA.
7. Experience of the YMCA and YWCA with joint occupancy of facilities, including agreements, kinds of buildings and costs.
8. Financial resources which might be made available.

B. THE PLAN AND METHOD OF STUDY

The study plan outlined below calls for maximum participation on the part of the Asheville people in determining the scope of the study, gathering essential information and in making of recommendations.

The Study Director will contribute a suggested plan to be followed and will work in cooperation with the Study Committee in evaluating the findings in relation to standards and experience of the YMCA Movement. The steps in such a plan are:

1. Planning for the study - June 16, 1953.
Definition by the Study Committee of the purpose and scope of the study and methods to be used.
2. Securing the necessary information - June 16 to August 1, 1953.
 - a. Meetings with Market Street Committee and with Asheville YMCA board.
 - b. Interviews with key persons by Study Director and collection of available information from official sources.
 - c. Suggestions to be received by letter from all persons on the Study Committee.
 - d. Program records and other information from the YMCA and the YWCA.
 - e. Community information from key members of Study Committee who have accepted assignments.
 - f. Meeting of Study Committee chairman with Market Street Committee and with Phyllis Wheatley representatives.
3. Interpretation of materials secured - August 1 - 12, 1953.
The Study Director will prepare a workbook containing a digest and interpretation of the information secured, together with a work outline. Copies are to be duplicated and made available to each member of the Study Committee.
4. Study of the workbook and judgment on major problems - August 17-21.
The Study Committee will hold three meetings to prepare suggestions and recommendations around each major question which has been raised.
5. Preparation and presentation of the final report -
The Study Director will prepare a rough draft of the final report from the suggestions and recommendations of the Study Committee. This report will be reviewed by the Study Committee and considered for adoption.

The Chairman of the Study Committee will submit the final report to the boards of directors of the United Fund, of the YMCA and of the YWCA for final action. This final report will include:

- a. The report of the Study Committee with general recommendations,
- b. any additional recommendations which the Study Director believes are desirable.

Section I - GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT ASHEVILLE AND ITS PROGRAM FOR NEGRO YOUTH.

A. Important Community Factors.

1. Population growth and distribution

<u>Total Population of</u>		<u>1940</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>% of Growth</u>
ASHEVILLE	51,310		53,000	3.3
BUNCOMBE COUNTY	108,755		124,403	14.4

<u>Non-White Population of</u>		<u>1950</u>	<u>% of Total Population</u>
ASHEVILLE		12,464	23.5
BUNCOMBE COUNTY		15,277	12.3

<u>Analysis of Non White Population in</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
ASHEVILLE		5,699	6,765
BUNCOMBE COUNTY		7,306	7,971

<u>Asheville-Age Range (non-white)</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
7-9	253	280
10-14	464	460
15-19	390	570
20-29	868	1099
30-39	832	1094

Location of non-white in Asheville

<u>Ward</u>	<u>Number of Dwelling Units</u>	<u>Occupied by non-white</u>
1	1166	868
2	2927	153
3	2290	545
4	2584	1369
6	1447	156

Conclusion:

Total Negro population to be served about	-12500
Total possible constituency for Negro YMCA program about	- 2800
Total possible constituency for Negro YWCA program about	- 3450

2. Economic Factors:

<u>Median income for families (1949)</u>	<u>All Families</u>	<u>Non-White</u>
ASHEVILLE	\$2,795	\$1,490
CHARLOTTE	3,346	1,531
DURHAM	3,014	1,613
GREENSBORO	3,505	1,229
RALEIGH	3,253	1,234
WINSTON SALEM	2,668	1,501

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3. Program and Facilities available to Negro Youth
RECREATION DEPARTMENT PROGRAM:

Saturday morning athletics for boys at Stephens-Lee school grounds. Youth center and Teen Canteens for boys and girls at
Burton St. Center
Teen Canteen
Asheland Avenue Center

Special summer fun program, tennis, softball, playgrounds, Teen Canteen and swimming, the latter at Walton St. Park.

Park facilities are open for use at Walton St. Park.

In addition the Negro citizens have the use of the following city facilities under the same conditions as the white.

Stadium - high school football games
Baseball Park - high school baseball games
Golf course - one day weekly (Monday)
Auditorium - dances, concerts, conventions,
etc., (the Auditorium is too large and the cost prohibitive for normal community activities)

Churches

There are several large Protestant churches with memberships of from 500 to 700, and many others with memberships of under 200. The churches are very much interested in the YMCA and its program but church facilities are so limited there is little opportunity to provide club or recreational activities in cooperation with the YMCA.

The Catholic church has a gymnasium for basketball and conducts an extensive recreational program.

Schools

The three grade schools and the new junior high school provide very little in the way of after school use of buildings. The school playgrounds are supervised by the Recreation Department in the summer.

The Stephens-Lee high school and gymnasium is extensively used, principally for school programs. It is used by community groups when available.

The Board of Education policy permits the use of school buildings after school hours by responsible community groups, with a charge for janitor service and heat.

Boy Scout Program

Consists of two troops for Negro boys, one of which meets at the Market Street YMCA.

Troop 50 has 45 boys registered.

Troop 54 has 38 boys registered.

Total 83 boys

Girl Scout program

5 Troops

Membership	Class	No. of Troops	Age Group
29	Brownies	2	7 - 10
20	Intermediates	1	10 - 14
<u>37</u>	Seniors	2	14 - 17

86 Total served

The Asheville area Girl Scouts own no building facilities and their policy has been to carry the program to the neighborhoods, using community resources. One Brownie and one Intermediate Troop meet at Brown's Temple C.M.E. Methodist Church, Phifer and Blanton Streets; one Brownie Troop meets at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Spruce and Eagle Streets; one Senior Troop meets at Allen High School, across from Phyllis Wheatley YWCA; and one Senior Troop meets at Berry Temple M.E. Church, College and Woodfin Streets.

A camp site has been selected and soon to be purchased which will be used by the Negro troops on a scheduled basis.

NEGRO YOUTH AND DELINQUENCY

Juvenile problems of colored youth in Asheville as related to areas of greatest incidence, and with reference to housing conditions and recreational facilities; and general suggestions for improvement of the situation.—

The experience and observations of the Domestic Relations Court, and its probation staff, indicate that the juvenile problems of the colored youth are found chiefly in certain areas where the worst housing conditions are found, and recreational facilities are woefully inadequate.

These spot areas are roughly as follows: Brick Street, Velvet Street, Eagle Street, and the areas just behind City Hall, and East of Biltmore Avenue. Another spot is the lower end of Ashland Avenue on Southside, and including the Southside apartment area. Another spot includes the lower end of Livingstone Street, Scott Street, Black Street, "Death Alley", and the Depot area. Many problems have arisen from areas known as "Stump Town", Butterick Street, and the area just behind Hill Street School. In West Asheville the area including the lower part of Burton Street, and the area behind Burton Street School, have produced a number of cases.

We who have served the Court for a number of years as case workers, and as probation officers, feel that recreational facilities for negroes are pitifully inadequate. We have only one poorly equipped and rather

