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**ABSTRACT**

Presented are approximately 75 reports from communities, states, and regions on activities stressed during the second National Action for Foster Children Week during April 1973. Described are functions of a national volunteer coordinating committee whose main purpose is seen to be stimulating formation of state and local Action committees to work year round to improve services for foster children. Noted is the national committee's development of a kit of information and communication materials and guidelines for citizen groups. Projects reported are said to be described as fully as possible according to information furnished by sponsoring agencies. The following are examples of Action Week activities: a foster children's art fair (Washington, D. C.), a workshop for newly licensed foster parents (Hawaii), recruitment of foster homes (Arizona), two teas for foster parents (Monterey County), (California), a 15-minute radio program (St. Petersburg, Florida), honoring of foster parents by women from 15 area churches (Manhattan, Kansas), sending a letter requesting Action Week recognition to all Baltimore churches and synagogues (Maryland), a state-wide annual meeting of foster parents (New Hampshire), and increasing efforts to place Indian children in Indian homes (Cherokee, North Carolina). (DB)

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NATIONAL ACTION FOR FOSTER CHILDREN WEEK

APRIL 8-14, 1973

A SURVEY OF ACTIVITIES BASED ON REPORTS  
SUBMITTED BY STATES AND COMMUNITIES

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
Office of Human Development  
Office of Child Development  
Washington, D.C.

CUT ALONG BROKEN LINE

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FROM: Name  
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Please retain or add my name for:

National Action for Foster Children Reports

Communications Kit  Guidelines

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## INTRODUCTION

On March 14, 1973, President Nixon in the Proclamation designating the second National Action for Foster Children Week, April 8 to 14, said, "I urge Governors and Mayors to join me in proclaiming this observance, and I earnestly call upon citizens everywhere to volunteer their talents, energies, and compassion in behalf of foster children, so that they may enjoy the sound development that comes from a full and happy home life."

At least thirty Governors and 100 Mayors, as well as County Commissioners and County Executives, responded to the President's request by issuing Proclamations. Many did much more by taking an active part in Action Week activities. Through good planning, preparations had already begun in many cities and communities well in advance of these proclamations.

In the year which had elapsed since the first Action Week in 1972, a national volunteer coordinating committee, National Action for Foster Children, had set up communications with many interested citizens in all sections of the country. The main purpose of the National Committee is to stimulate the formation of State, city and county Action Committees to work year round for improvement in services for foster children. Action Week activities will become a "show-case" for Action Committee work and reports, as well as for the recognition of the important contribution of foster parents, and on-going interpretation of foster family services to the community. To the extent possible this year,

information and special communication materials and guidelines were made available for the use of citizen groups who wished to initiate action in meeting the problems in foster family services in their own communities.

In the past year also, the number of foster parent organizations had increased, adding strength to the still small constituency for foster children who need a champion in the community. They need more help than other children, because of their temporary or permanent separation from the supporting own family relationships which every child requires in order to grow up whole. The community has assumed certain parental responsibilities for foster children.

From reports sent in to the National Action Committee, we know that there were at least 75 Action Week campaigns -- some statewide, some in counties or cities. The 1973 Action Week activities were most often social events, most honoring foster parents but also including parties and picnics for foster children. In some communities, where citizen involvement was strong, Action Week was used to communicate to a wider audience of citizens the special needs of foster children and their families and the resources which must be made available to help them. There was more coverage by the media this year but certainly not as much nor as comprehensive coverage as can be developed next year.

The majority of the Action Week events were sponsored by State or county social agencies and foster parent organizations. Many established a basis for an on-going program, with groundwork being laid for the formation of voluntary citizen's Action Committees. Community people working in cooperation with social workers and foster parent staff for foster children, can provide new ideas and fresh approaches,

and new strength and support for better services.

In other words, a good beginning has been made toward developing a citizen constituency in league with social workers and foster parents, to improve the life of foster children. Between now and March 31 - April 6, 1974, next steps must be taken. The NAFC has set a goal of 100 Action Committees -- 100 community groups who will take responsibility for advocacy for good and readily available foster family services for all children who can be helped by this service.

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ASKS EACH PERSON TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WORKING WITH OTHERS TO FORM AN ACTION COMMITTEE IN EACH COMMUNITY EITHER BEFORE OR DURING ACTION WEEK 1974.

\* \* \*

The first report which follows is a summary by Communications Public Relations of Philadelphia of the use made of the materials in the Communications Kit.

The second report is a compilation of information sent in by sponsors of Action Week projects which were received by August 1, 1973. We regret the omission of any report. In some cases, material has been condensed. No editorial comment has been added -- descriptions of merits and evaluations are those of the sponsors. Each project has been described as fully as possible according to information furnished, in order to provide experience models for other states and communities for next

ACTION FOR FOSTER CHILDREN WEEK, MARCH 31 - APRIL 6, 1974.

EXCERPTS FROM  
REPORT OF COMMUNITY PUBLIC RELATIONS, PHILADELPHIA,  
OF USE MADE OF COMMUNICATIONS MATERIALS

Altogether 76 replies to the communications evaluation questionnaire were received by July 30, 1973. These were analyzed and audited and the local Philadelphia efforts were also studied.

The statistical results were scattered. In many areas, outstanding coverage was achieved. In others, media coverage was minimal. But, in most cases, the Communications Kit proved extremely useful and laid a groundwork for subsequent organization of NAFC committees and a year-round effort.

An outstanding example of what can be accomplished as a result of the Kit was registered in the State of South Dakota. They arranged for 12 interview programs on 8 radio stations, totaling 4 hours. In addition, 34 radio stations carried news releases and spot announcements. On television, 5 stations used spot announcements and slides and carried interviews totaling 2-1/4 hours. Ten other TV stations gave coverage to special events. In addition, excellent coverage was given by the print media. They also arranged for a number of special events, which enhanced their coverage, and initiated a number of things such as bumper stickers and lapel buttons.

Many other areas approached South Dakota in results, some achieved better coverage through the print media; others through outstanding special events.

Generally, the posters and the brochures were excellently received, especially where there was some sort of organization for the distribution of this material.

The clippings showed that the Logo was used in some feature stories. Of course, we have no way of knowing how it may have been used in locally printed material.

Vertical public relations (that is, effective publicity emanating downward from public officials through Proclamations, Special Events, Etc.) was good.

Horizontal public relations (person to person, feature stories, news stories, TV and radio spots, interview programs, etc.) was excellent on the basis of limited number of clippings from the national clipping service and those received from respondents to the questionnaire.

It should be noted that many publications used the Kit's material verbatim!



The most consistent negative response was that the Kit arrived too late for full effectiveness. However, in many of these instances, certain elements of the Kit were used--such as ideas for special events, feature stories, etc.

A few of the respondents used the Kit as a "teaching tool" for staff and volunteers--a fall-out we had not counted on. It was also indicated that the Kit stimulated the thinking of the respondents (as was suggested!) and, as a result, they did things on their own, such as an open meeting of foster parents to which the public and prospective NAFC committee members were invited; an information booth at a shopping center; an all-day workshop sponsored by three agencies. Participating panelists in the workshop included school personnel, policemen, state senators, and other officials.

A few of the respondents said that the press response to NAFC Week, to Proclamations, and to special events was negative. "It was just another Week." However, these were in the minority.

In this connection, it should be pointed out that Proclamations, NAFC Week, special events, etc., have great significance other than media coverage. By bringing in top civic officials, legislators, community leaders, and others into the NAFC picture, a sense of involvement and awareness on the part of these officials is achieved. They learn something about the need and may be inculcated with a sense of commitment. Thus, public relations is achieved on a leadership basis rather than through the media.

A few of the respondents said that they felt that their need was for foster-parent recruitment rather than the formation of an NAFC committee. Therefore, these recipients of the Kit did not even attempt the formation of a Committee--some for fear of "competing" with recruitment, others for fear of diluting their staff. This indicates an on-going and intensified effort is needed to educate potential convenors and indicates a possible need for a tandem approach--advancing the NAFC program as well as the seeking of foster parents and homes. The success of a foster-home campaign and its implementation is dependent on public awareness and adequate financing and public awareness and adequate financing are part of what NAFC is all about.

There is no uniformity to the responses. No meaningful percentage of the effectiveness of any single element of the Kit, i.e., slides, features, news stories, electronic media, visibility, etc., could be pin-pointed.

Some or all elements of the Kit were used in one way or another with varied effectiveness and in many ways. This indicates the continued need for a scatter-shot approach. That is, to incorporate in the Communications Kit to be mailed about December 15, a

diversity of material from which each community can custom its own needs. This will be supplemented with a year-round consultation service in which the convenor can write or call and get specific help and information relevant to his particular needs. It is important for State, City and County Action Committees to highlight ACTION FOR FOSTER CHILDREN in all publicity so the national publicity that we are attempting to stimulate will reinforce the impact they have made.

Many respondents acknowledged the usefulness of the Kit and indicated that they are still using or will use throughout the year some of its elements. Also, the Kit material is being used for the recruitment of foster parents and in publicizing on-going foster-parent programs.

Juneau, Alaska

Sponsor: The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southeast Alaska Agency.

Action Week stimulated interested and involvement in foster care careers. For the first time, the Agency was able to send foster parents to the National Foster Parents Conference in Philadelphia. When they returned, they met with Agency personnel to discuss what had been learned at the Conference and how it could be used in the Bureau program. As a result of the Conference, foster parents have become interested in forming an Association in Juneau.

Foster parents are focusing attention on education. At a June meeting, foster parents, social workers from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and a child psychiatrist discussed the problems and issues of foster care during a question and answer session. It is planned to hold future meetings of this kind for all local foster parents.

Proclamation: By the Governor.

State of Arizona

Sponsor: Department of Economic Security, Family and Child Services.

Goals and Activities: In most of Arizona, publicity efforts were concentrated on recruiting foster homes and expanding membership in the National Foster Parents Association.

Since for some months previous to Action Week, there had been an effort by State and County foster care agencies to recruit, the emphasis during the Week was used for follow-up.

Better sources for recruiting foster parents are found to be other foster parents, social workers searching out specialized homes, and certain church groups or individuals.

Letters were sent to 750 churches in Maricopa County to be discussed with the congregations by the Ministers.

Publicity: Little effective newspaper reactions. Radio and TV gave the most response.

Community Participation: Not enough time on the part of employees for work in this area.

Evaluation: An increase of inquiries about foster parenting can be attributed to Action Week efforts -- resulting in about 20 new applications.

Public interest has tapered off after three months of special emphasis on foster home recruitment. Mass-media approach is good to obtain a general hearing for the need for foster parents, but an individualized approach is needed finally to produce a new licensed home.

Follow-up and On-going Plans: Arizona State Agencies are in process of major reorganization; some of the people who were involved in the project are no longer available.

Proclamations: By the Governor and by the Mayor of Phoenix.

Pima County, Arizona (Tucson Area)

Sponsor: Arizona State Department of Public Welfare.

Goals and Activities: Public education on the shortage of foster homes in Pima County and the need to recruit new foster parents.

Community Participation: There is as yet no citizen's Action Committee, but there was good support from the Church community.

Publicity: Newspapers, radio and TV stations were contacted and asked to publicize Action Week, but response was poor. Little media interest shown in the project. There was one radio talk show.

Follow-up and On-going Plans: Attempts will be made to strengthen the Foster Parents Organization and to form an Action Committee.

Proclamation: By the Mayor of Tucson.

State of Arkansas

Sponsor: Arkansas Social Services, supported by the two Foster Parent Organizations of Arkansas.

Goals and Activities: Thirty-four Counties participated in the Action Week promotional campaign to educate the public on the importance of good foster family services for the children of Arkansas.

The Counties planned their own special events -- such as special Proclamation ceremonies, parties, dinners, picnics, teas, trips to circuses, free movies for foster families. A statewide event of importance was the production of a film, "The Troubled Child", which tells the story of a runaway child who is apprehended and placed in foster family care.

Community Involvement: Arkansas Educational TV Commission assisted in developing, producing and distributing the film. The Junior Auxiliary, a group of volunteers, assisted the Agency during Action Week.

Publicity: The special film, "The Troubled Child", was shown statewide on April 8.

Twenty-three radio stations provided news coverage on Action Week activities.

Thirteen TV stations showed interviews and news coverage.

Informational materials and posters were distributed to counties throughout Arkansas.

Follow-up and On-going Plans: The Agency will encourage the formation of a citizen group which could promote constructive legislation.

The Junior Auxiliary, a volunteer group, will develop a demonstration project to study, recruit and develop foster homes.

Two new foster parent groups are in the process of organizing. The four groups will eventually join in a State organization.

Proclamation: By the Governor and by 8 County Judges and Mayors.

REGION IX REPORT  
OF THE  
NATIONAL ACTION FOR FOSTER CHILDREN WEEK  
April 8 - 14, 1973

All the states in Region IX actively participated in the National Action for Foster Children Week, although Nevada has not submitted a report to date. Each state utilized materials provided nationally, as well as those resulting from local efforts.

PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamation by the Governor of Arizona

Proclamation by the Governor of California

Proclamation by the Governor of Hawaii

Proclamation by the Governor of Nevada

Proclamation by the Mayor of Phoenix, Arizona

Proclamation by the Mayor of Los Angeles, California

Proclamation by the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County

Proclamation by Mayors of other municipalities of Los Angeles County

Proclamation by the Board of Supervisors of Sonoma County

RESOLUTION

Senate Resolution No. 139 - of the Hawaii State Legislature, 1973--

Appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Tryon and all Foster Parents--

"for their work and love to children in foster family care....."

MEDIA

ARIZONA

In Maricopa County, the five (5) Phoenix TV stations received kit material. Three stations gave spot announcements totaling approximately one hour for the week. One station presented a fifteen (15) minute interview program. There were two editorial type announcements, approximately one minute each.

PIMA COUNTY -(TUSCON)

Brochures were prepared and distributed locally. They were distributed especially from the week-long Foster Care Booth at the County Fair manned full-time by volunteer foster parents and staff members during off-work hours, who also could discuss the program with interested persons. (Attachment A) The Kit letter was reproduced and sent to about 750 churches in Maricopa County, where Phoenix, the state capitol, is located.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles County

The C.A.T.H.Y. Volunteers (Community Assistance to Homeless Youngsters) prepared 10,20,30 and 60 second spots and distributed them to both radio and television stations.

Many of the smaller papers gave excellent coverage to the National Action for Foster Children Week and the special events in their community to support it.

San Francisco County

Radio and TV public service announcements were taped on local stations and we had live and taped coverage surrounding foster care.

Sonoma County

Special programs were presented featuring Placement, Dependency, Mental Health, and Licensing workers, who discussed various aspects of foster care. Publicity was increased about foster care during the entire month of April.



PUBLICITY OTHER THAN MEDIA

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles County

The C.A.T.H.Y. Volunteers set up displays in 125 community centers and obtained the use of marquees throughout the county, carrying the dates of the President's Proclamation and a recruitment appeal -- "Be a Foster Parent."

Sonoma County

Obtained the use of marquees through the community people involved in the work of the committee.

Arrangements were made with a local dairy to publicize Foster Parent Recognition Month on their milk cartons during the entire month of April.

HAWAII

Television film spots were shown using "Debbie" and "Merry-Go-Round", while radio spot announcements were aired daily on the 24 radio stations in the state during National Action for Foster Children Week.

SPECIAL EVENTS

ARIZONA

Having a Foster Care Booth at the Pima County Fair, manned full time for the entire week by volunteer foster parents, and by staff after working hours.

CALIFORNIA

C.A.T.H.Y. Volunteers organized a family fun day at Magic Mountain Amusement Park, which was attended by 5500 foster families. Presented to the group on this happy occasion was a new song - "Make Way for Joy", composed by Doug Dombrih, a CATHY volunteer, with lyrics by Judi Dehn, one of the foster parents, expressing the joys of foster parenting.

The Junior Women's Club of Westchester and the Bay West CATHY Association,  
co-hosted The Spring Fling for 300 foster children and their families.

The Cathy Teen Club of the Greater San Gabriel Association organized a "Play" project for children at MacLaren Hall, which is to be an ongoing project. They provide lessons in skating, swimming, tennis, crafts and other skills, supplying equipment when necessary. This will be an ongoing project.

The Central Cathy Association held a Foster Children's Fun Night on April 13th, for the foster families in their area.

The Antelope Valley Foster Parent Association scheduled a special program on April 9th, which was attended by County and City officials, as well as members of the community, to honor foster families in the Antelope Valley.

A Celebrity Auction was held by the Greater South Bay Cathy Association to raise funds for scholarships for foster children. This was so successful that it is to be an annual event.

A "Salute to Foster Parents" was organized by a community group at the Hollywood Palladium. It was a dance and show with Rafer Johnson and many musical stars appearing. Plaques signed by the Mayor were given to each president of the fifteen foster parent associations and certificates of appreciation were given to all the foster parents in attendance at the affair. It is expected that this will become an annual affair.

#### Sonoma County

The County Board of Supervisors has proclaimed an entire month as Foster Parent Appreciation Month in Sonoma County, and scheduled it to coincide with an "Honors Dinner" for foster parents, which the Sonoma County Social Service Department has provided for the past several years for their foster parents. This year since President Nixon proclaimed one week in April as National Action for Foster Children Week, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and the Sonoma County Department of Social Services set-up the month of recognition and the Honors Dinner to coincide with that week.

The Social Service and Probation Departments sponsored the Honors Dinner for foster parents again this year. Since Sonoma County does not fund this event, a committee was established to hold raffles, to raise money and solicit products and money from local businesses and individuals, Active community members were invited to work with the Department committee and serve as members of it. This resulted in an improvement in public relations and better community involvement.

### San Francisco County

#### Symposium: Child Welfare Crisis

Key leaders from a broad cross-section of the community -- law, medicine, mental health, education, neighborhood and community action groups, government, and media discussed the crisis in child welfare and the federal cut-backs -- with emphasis on the area of foster care.

Monseignor Peter G. Armstrong delivered the keynote address. Supervisor Dorothy von Beroldingen, member of the Finance Committee of the Board of Supervisors, spoke on the issues, backed by a panel of experts.

The event was co-sponsored by Foster Parents United, the Department of Social Service, Juvenile Court and the San Francisco Chapter of the Children's Lobby.

#### CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL

This event was purely a fun day. It was planned by Foster Parents United and "Jackie", for foster children and their sisters and brothers. Three half-hour Disney nature films were shown, with intermission entertainment by a clown, with balloons, popcorn and candy available for refreshments.

#### BAND CONCERT

The regular Sunday Band Concert in Golden Gate's Park Music Concourse was dedicated to the National Action for Foster Children Week.

## HAWAII

A workshop was organized for newly licensed foster parents (81% attendance) focussing on the purpose:

"to provide better care to foster children with increased understanding and appreciation for the feelings of children and their parents who must be separated from each other, and by clarifying the role and responsibilities of foster parents."

## EVALUATIONS OF THE IMPACT OF THE NATIONAL ACTION FOR FOSTER CHILDREN WEEK ON THE FOSTER PARENT PROGRAM:

### ARIZONA

There were 20 actual applications filed to become foster parents, after the National Action Week, this may be misleading re the publicity's success in three respects:

1. Intensive recruitment which had been going on in Arizona for two months prior to the NAFFC Week left fewer potential prospects;
2. Some new groundwork may have been laid on which to build future interest;
3. The small size of both the general and foster child population in Arizona.

The purpose of the local application of National Action for Foster Children Week as used in Arizona was twofold:

1. by the state-wide public agency, the Department of Economic Security, it was to concentrate on recruitment of foster homes;
2. by representatives of the Foster Homes Associations it was to expand the membership of their Association.

## CALIFORNIA

In California the utilization of the National Action for Foster Children week was threefold:

1. To tell the foster family story to the community;
2. To honor our on-going foster parents, giving them recognition for their care of their children, and enhancing their 'mage in the community;
3. To serve as a vehicle for the recruitment of new foster families.

## HAWAII

In Hawaii the thrust of the use of the National Action for Foster Children was two-fold:

1. The retention of present foster families;
2. The recruitment and training of new foster families.

## General Observations

The Communications Kit received the most comment from all the states reporting:

### Arizona

Arizona received the kits on April 4, for programs beginning April 8, which greatly limited their effectiveness.

### Hawaii

Hawaii also received the kits too late to be of immediate use on TV. They plan to use them later as appropriate opportunities arise.

### California

California's kits also arrived "too little and too late." There was an insufficient number for the 58 counties to be supplied with them. They were distributed as far as possible, but again there were few available TV or radio slots left at such a late date.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Arizona, California and Hawaii all recommended an earlier receipt of materials. The recommendations are base on the realities of competition for media coverage and the need to allow time to disseminate material state wide. Arizona feels a need for more personalized approaches than the media. All the reports show a desire and a need for year round programming for the recruitment and retention of foster families; for bringing the foster family story to the public; and to increasingly involve the foster parents themselves in accomplishing these objectives.

Los Angeles County, California

Sponsor: CATHY (Community Assistance to Homeless Youngsters), a program within the County of Los Angeles Department of Social Services.

Goals and Activities: Events were organized to publicize Action Week and its goals, to pay tribute to foster families, and to strengthen citizen involvement and support.

Foster Family Day -- a large gala at Magic Mountain amusement park. Honorary Chairman was actor Sebastian Cabot. More than 500 foster families attended. There was a special presentation of a new song written by a foster parent and a CATHY Volunteer, "Make Room For Joy". The Junior Women's Club of Westchester and the Bay West CATHY Association co-hosted "The Spring Fling" entertainment for 300 foster children and their families.

The Junior Women's Club of Huntington Park entertained 100 foster children and their parents. The CATHY Teen Club of Greater San Gabriel Association organized a special project "Play" which provides lessons in swimming, skating, tennis, crafts and skills to foster children. This will be a continuing project.

The Antelope Valley Foster Parents Association sponsored a meeting and special program for County and City officials and community people to acquaint them with foster care services. The Central CATHY Association featured a Foster Children's Fun Night, with Easter baskets for foster children. Earlier, the Easter baskets had been displayed in the window of Broadway-Cranshore's Store.

A Celebrity Auction was held by the Greater South Bay CATHY Association to raise scholarship funds for foster children. This will be an annual event.

Community citizens organized a Salute to Foster Parents at the Hollywood Palladium -- a dance and musical show. Foster Parent organizations were awarded plaques from the Mayor; certificates of appreciation went to each foster parent.

Publicity: Radio and TV Spots especially prepared by CATHY Consultants and Volunteers were distributed. Many of the smaller newspapers gave excellent coverage of special local events during the Week.

Displays were set up in 125 community centers. The use of marquees was obtained throughout the county carrying the slogan "Be A Foster Parent."

Community Involvement: Community groups and business firms, CATHY Volunteers.

Followup and On-going Plans: Project "Play" to be an on-going project. An annual Celebrity Auction to raise scholarship funds for foster children is planned. "A Salute To Foster Parents" is to be an annual event.

It is recommended that local areas, city and county, have a designated coordinator for National Action for Foster Children Week.

Proclamations: By Governor Reagan, by the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and Mayors of many of the other incorporated cities of Los Angeles County.



Monterey County, California

Sponsor: Monterey County Welfare Department.

Goals and Activities: Action Week was an opportunity to recognize foster parents and educate the public in general regarding foster care programs. Activities consisted of two teas, one in Monterey, to which foster parents were invited as well as representatives from the Probation and Welfare Departments.

Publicity: Newspaper coverage in Monterey was excellent.

Evaluation: About 25% of the foster parents attended the teas. Since this was the first attempt to recognize foster parents and begin an active recruitment campaign, it was felt that it was successful in creating higher morale among the foster parents and as a beginning step in education.

Follow-up and On-going Plans: Next year, expanded activities are planned for Action Week, to include greater citizen and organizational participation.

Santa Clara County, California

Sponsor: Department of Social Services

Goals and Activities: Recruitment of foster homes, through media publicity.

Publicity: Radio, TV and Newspapers.

Follow-up and On-going Plans: In May a Foster Parent Reception was held which included all child-placing agencies and their foster parents. The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors issued a Proclamation designating May 16 as Foster Parent Recognition Day.

Proclamations: By Mayors of major jurisdictions throughout the County.

Denver, Colorado Demonstration Action Community

Convenor: Mrs. Kate Stonington. In March, Mrs. Stonington, with the assistance of Miss Carmah Lawlor of the Denver Department of Welfare, called together a small group of persons whom we felt had an expressed interest in foster child care, or who represented interest in youth services in the Denver metropolitan area community.

Goals and Activities: To inform a small group of interested citizens about the National Action for Foster Children program, and to identify what agencies and activities already existed in the Denver area relating to our interest. In addition it was our purpose to determine what would be meaningful ways in which we might give these activities further support and assistance.

Those invited to the first meeting were a Group Home Parent, the President of the Colorado Foster Parents Association, a Legislative Worker, a representative of the Denver Welfare Department, Foster Care, of the League of Women Voters (a Former Foster Parent), the President of Friends of Foster Children, the Children's Bureau representative in the Office of Child Development, the Foster Care Consultant of the State Department of Social Services and a Social Worker from the Foster Care Division.

The discussion identified two primary functions: (1) To develop and promote local activities for National Action for Foster Children Week; and (2) To develop suitable long-range projects to help foster children and their families.

(1) The Committee met weekly to work on the first priority, the upcoming Action Week. It was fortunate in having some very able professional help on a volunteer basis: Mr. Charles Sesle of Frye Sills Advertising Agency, Miss Mary Anne Ivey of the Colorado Department of Social Services, and Miss Carmah Lawlor and some members of her department.

The following activities took place in relation to the Week, some before, some during and some on a continuing basis: television spots, radio spots, press coverage, display booths in shopping centers, a department store window display, a contest among foster children to make posters and use of these in the department store display, pictures of the Governor and Mayor used in local press, television station break slide (12"x15") - "You Don't Have To Be A Foster Parent To Help A Child" (bright blue background with yellow lettering) - any station can put their own call letters and phone number on it.

(2) To carry out the long-range objectives of lending community support in working for better services for foster children and their families, it was decided not to form a new and separate organization. Rather it was decided to try to gather support through a group that would be associated with the Colorado Association of Foster Parents, called Friends of Foster

Children. Chairman of this group is Mrs. Robert Tucker, former foster parent and long active in the field.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Tucker, letters were sent to several hundred community groups, asking for support and urging them to send a delegate to a future Workshop on Foster Child Care. This group was to meet in June to form a steering committee and working groups to investigate some possible objectives. The Friends of Foster Children is urging support from many community-minded, child-oriented citizens. This group will meet again in the fall to get the program going under full steam.

The students at the University of Denver in the Mass Communication Department have been asked to draw up a proposal in regard to making a slide presentation in the field of Foster Care. This will then be presented to the Department of Social Services.

Proclamations: By the Governor and the Mayor.

Washington, D. C.

Sponsor: D. C. Department of Human Resources.

Goals and Activities: A Foster Children's Art Fair was held on Sunday, April 9, at the Martin Luther King Library, exhibiting sculpture, ceramics, wood carving, paintings and needlework by foster children. The exhibit traveled during Action Week to the Benning Library, the Anacostia Museum, and was used as a window display in Woodward and Lothrop's Department Store.

Teams were sent during the Week to speak to various groups in the metropolitan area about foster care needs.

The Goal -- the Art Fair was part of a campaign to publicize Action Week and the need for more foster families for the children of Washington.

Community Participation: The D. C. Council of Churches published an article appealing for more foster parents in the monthly newspaper, "Capital Councilor."

Publicity: There was an article about the Art Fair in the Evening Star, and a Public Service announcement on Radio 7 "Opinion Line."

An interview with a foster mother on Radio 7 "Community Look."

A taped interview on the Joe Page Show on two occasions.

A taped interview with foster parents on WHUR.

A series on foster care on TV Channel 9 News. Slides on foster care will be released by WTOP shortly.

Fliers were sent to Civic Clubs, PTA's and church groups.

Follow-up and On-going Plans: Joseph Yeldell, Director of the DHR has appointed a Task Force to work on a Comprehensive Child Care Plan. A foster care committee has been formed which is in the process of selecting a Convenor. The Mayor has appointed his Assistant, Mrs. Anna Westerfield, to work with the Committee on National Action for Foster Children.

Proclamation: Mayor Washington issued a Proclamation for the District of Columbia.

Wilmington, Delaware

Sponsor: Children's Bureau of Delaware, with Wilmington Foster Parents Association.

Goals and Activities: Media coverage on the needs of foster children.

Publicity: Radio spots announced Action Week and invited public inquiries.

Follow-up and On-going Plans: Presently organizing a public relations committee with representatives from child care agencies. Hope to enlist more interest and support from the communications media for next year's Action Week.

St. Petersburg, Florida

Sponsor: Division of Family Services, Department of Health and Rehabilitation Service.

Goals and Activities: Citizen and local administration awareness of Action Week and the need for local involvement. Newspaper publicity and the Mayor's Proclamation were the means used. The Regional Director participated in a 15-minute radio program.

Follow-up and On-going Plans: Efforts and plans are developing to organize a Foster Parent Association. Plans are at the talking stage to have a community-planned Action Week in 1974.

Proclamations: By the Governor and by the Mayor of St. Petersburg.

## State of Georgia Demonstration Action Community

During December 1972, contact was made by National Action for Foster Children with the Georgia State Department of Human Resources, Division of Community Services, for the purpose of getting a commitment that Georgia would consider developing a Demonstration Action Committee. The purpose of establishing the Committee was to provide a program model for stimulating citizen involvement in meeting the needs of foster children. It was anticipated that the model might be replicated by future committees. There was a commitment to develop an Action Committee.

### Initial Action:

A steering committee was developed with representatives from:

1. Volunteer Program Staff, Department of Human Resources
2. Child Advocacy Council
3. Foster Care Program Staff, Department of Human Resources
4. Community Council of Atlanta, Inc., 24-Hour Child Care Committee
5. Public Relations Staff, Department of Human Resources

In actuality the steering committee became the State Action Committee and the Convenor. A citizen convenor was identified but could not become active for health reasons.

### Plan:

Because of limited time and financial resources a plan with limited goals was developed. The State was divided into ten geographical areas around ten of the larger cities. A lay citizen convenor was to be identified in each geographical area. Convenors would be asked to commit themselves to developing a workshop for lay citizens during the week of National Action for Foster Children, April 8-14. The purpose of the meeting would be to educate lay persons about foster care and the needs of children, with the assumption that through education citizen participation in meeting the needs of foster children and their families can be generated.

### Identification of Area Convenors:

1. The Steering Committee identified a convenor for the Atlanta Metropolitan Area comprising seven counties.
2. In the larger cities of seven areas County Directors of the Department of Family and Children Services, with the assistance of their Volunteer Coordinators, were asked to locate convenors.
3. Several North Georgia Counties fall within the Appalachian Region where programs are directed toward comprehensive services. The Project Director assisted by suggesting the most logical grouping



of counties into two geographical areas and by suggesting personnel in each area who could find lay persons for leadership.

Commitment of a convenor was accomplished in nine areas. Leaders were not all lay citizens but there was good representation. Briefly they included:

Atlanta - The Personnel Director of the City of Atlanta and his wife. Both active in community organizations.

Macon - Housewife, husband in legal profession, adoptive parent and former caseaide with the public agency.

Gainesville - President of a women's service organization, Phoenix Society, wife of an attorney and part-time Juvenile Court Judge.

Albany - Co-Chairmen volunteers in the community.

Griffin - Retired employee of the public agency, an active volunteer for the agency and involved in community activities.

Rome - Employee of County Department picked up after identified convenor could not follow through.

Augusta - Co-Chairmen representing Junior Women's Club.

Savannah - Representative of Women's Civic Organization.

Athens - Foster Parent active in community Groups, such as Boy Scouts of America.

#### Staff Support for Convenors:

1. Orientation for Convenors - On March 2, 1973, all identified convenors were invited to Atlanta for a workshop in preparation of their own area workshops. Five areas were represented. Some had already set a date, found a place and made tentative program plans. The session was used for (1) clarification of purpose of the action committee and extent of convenors commitment, (2) interpretation and education about the needs of foster children through discussion and viewing of the Film, "You And Foster Parents", (3) providing a Kit with suggested materials for news media and for hand-outs, and (4) general program format suggestion.
2. Travel expenses to orientation session were reimbursed.
3. Printing and mailing of materials when local resources were unavailable.
4. Members of the Steering Committee gave consultation by telephone and visits to the community for one to three areas.

Committee Follow-up for Evaluation:

Convenors had been encouraged to build into their program format a plan for projecting plans for further action needed following the initial workshop. Though the convenors had not been asked to commit themselves for future leadership, there was the expressed hope that they, if motivated to do so, or emerging leaders identified through the workshop, would continue leadership following workshops.

Since the workshops during the week of National Action for Foster Children a questionnaire prepared by the Steering Committee and distributed for the purpose of obtaining information about:

1. Procedures for developing workshops
2. Programs
3. Results

Response to follow-up questionnaire was not 100%. Perhaps the most sophisticated plan was that developed by Metro-Atlanta Area since resources are more easily available to implement a plan. A sample has been previously submitted by the 24-Hour Child Care Committee of the Community Council of Atlanta, Inc. Short summary reports have been forwarded directly by the Griffin and Chatham-Savannah Area.

Conclusions:

With use of a Plan with limited goals:

1. Citizens have been informed about foster care services and the needs of children through the news media and by attendance and participation in a workshop.
2. Volunteers have responded; those responding usually have been interested in giving direct service to children.
3. There has been confirmation for foster parents that more actions are being taken on behalf of foster children and more recognition is being given for the valuable services they provide.
4. Some foster parents had their first experience of group interaction with other foster parents and staff of their agency.
5. Agencies have become aware of their own and foster parents' resistance to involving volunteers for direct services with foster children, natural parents and foster parents.
6. Agencies have been motivated to assess their attitudes and to take action for finding ways to capitalize on citizen participation in direct and indirect services to foster children. A tangible response to this need has resulted in a follow-up session with private and public agencies, a fosterparent and Volunteer Atlanta, Inc., to make plans for overcoming the problem.

7. One Area Action Committee Workshop has resulted in the sponsoring organization continuing assistance to the public agency for purposes of educating the community.
8. Another Area Committee resulted in the public agency and representatives of foster parents and volunteers working out guidelines for the use of volunteers in providing foster care services.
9. Stimulation of interest to become foster parents.

Comments:

1. The assumption that education of lay citizens about the needs of foster children will generate participation in providing their needs has been proven as a valid assumption. However, the wish to generate lay citizen leadership for initiating action committees appears to be minimally successful at this point.
2. The planning process for the 1973 Foster Care Action Model consisted exclusively of the State Department of Human Resources staff and the 24-Hour Child Care Committee staff. Voluntary foster care representative, private agencies and local county representation were absent. Since the voluntary action model was to have a voluntary emphasis, it is suggested that a Georgia chairman - a volunteer - be secured by the State Department of Human Resources at the very beginning with that chairman acting as a convenor throughout the State and representatives from the regions asked to attend 2-3 workshops prior to and follow-up sessions to any special week events, e.g., workshops. This would allow for more coordination and more State identity.
3. The goal of the 1973 model was to hold foster care action workshops for the purpose of educating and initially stimulating voluntary action for foster care. This short-term goal seems to have been appropriate and effective when follow-up activities were built into the program from the very beginning. The concept of holding a "workshop" seemed to have been well received both by staff and the community. It appeared to be easily visible and an accessible focal point for people to gather.
4. While the suggested program of the workshop seemed appropriate, difficulty did appear in getting resources. The Atlanta community had many resources available; the other counties did not. The program could have been improved by having more volunteers as part of the program itself. A problem did arise in meeting the needs of different levels of audiences. These differences complicated the planning of a uniform Georgia model. Some programs needed to focus on basic information about foster care while others went beyond in concentrating on volunteer activities.

It should be noted that there were a number of persons interested in becoming foster parents who attended the workshop in Atlanta; thus having the one-day workshop on what is foster care in order to recruit new foster parents may be an additional workshop goal.

Albany, Georgia (for 25 Counties)

Sponsor: Foster Parents Association, with help of local Welfare Agencies.

Goals and Activities: To inform citizens about the needs of foster children and their families. A briefing meeting was held in Albany to which people were invited from 25 counties. Brochures and posters were distributed in 15 shopping centers, schools and banks. Spot announcements were scheduled on local TV which reaches the South Georgia counties. News Items on the Mayor's Proclamation appeared in local newspapers.

Evaluation and on-going Plans: Turnout at the April meeting was disappointing. There is assurance from a legislator that foster care services will be on the agenda of the next Georgia General Assembly.

Proclamation: By the Mayor of Albany.

Athens, Georgia

Sponsor: Family and Children Services, and Foster Parents.

Goals and Activities: A meeting to which all service and civic clubs in the community were invited for discussion of ways in which the community could become involved in foster family care.

Proclamation: By the Mayor of Athens.

Savannah, Georgia

Sponsors: The Junior League in collaboration with the Savannah Foster Parents Association and the Chatham County Department of Family and Children's Services.

Goals and Activities:

1. Give recognition to foster parents and their role in helping children.
2. Stimulate public interest.
3. Recruit new foster homes and devise practical ways to use individuals and organizations interested in foster children.

The primary means of accomplishing these goals was through the use of the mass media, and through a problem-solving meeting of the Foster Parents Association which resulted in some on-going planning.

The Week began with a Proclamation issued by the Mayor, at which the three sponsoring agencies and the press were present.

Publicity: Foster parents and agency staff appeared on TV and radio talk shows. There were spot announcements also.

Follow-up and On-going Plans: Efforts will be made to better publicize the foster care program through appearances by foster parents on TV and radio, and by means of news articles.

Better communication will be maintained with State and local officials on foster care needs.

Educational Workshops will be held for foster parents, particularly with respect to exceptional children.

Closer interaction will be developed between agency staff and foster parents, with foster parents invited to agency board meetings, and case workers participating in foster parent associations meetings. Foster parents will be included in pre-placement planning.

Better communication will be sought with church groups who can help with specific needs, and with volunteers and community groups to assure that foster children are not stigmatized.

Proclamation: By the Mayor of Savannah.

State of Hawaii

Sponsor: State of Hawaii Department of Social Services and Housing, Honolulu.

Goals and Activities: (1) Introduction of Senate Resolution, No. 139, in the Hawaii State Legislature; Appreciation to Mr. & Mrs. Paul Tyron and all Foster Parents .... "for their work and love to children in foster family care ...." (2) Workshop for newly-licensed foster parents "to provide better care to foster children with increased understanding and appreciation for the feelings of children and their parents who must be separated from each other, and by clarifying the role and responsibilities of foster children." (3) TV Film spots, and daily radio spot announcements on 24 radio stations in the State.

Proclamation: By the Governor.

State of Idaho

Sponsor: Department of Environmental and Community Services.

Goals and Activities: Recruitment of foster parents. Promotional work by each of the seven regions within Idaho with local radio, TV and Newspapers.

Newspaper articles appeared covering the Proclamation signing by the Governor.

Evaluation: The Program undoubtedly made people more aware of the plight of foster children, but was not too effective in recruiting foster parents.

Proclamation: By the Governor

State of Illinois

Sponsors: Regional Planning Committee for metropolitan Chicago, made up of 10 Child Welfare Agencies in Chicago\*, co-sponsored by the Office of Child Development, Regional Office, coordinated Action Week activities in Chicago and for the State of Illinois.

Goals and Activities: To educate and inform the public on foster care programs and the need for good foster homes.

Under direction of a Subcommittee on Public Relations, Action Week activities were launched by a Press Conference on April 9. Speakers were State Senator Philip J. Rock, who has introduced several bills on children's rights in the Illinois Legislature, Dr. Jerome G. Miller, Director, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, who read the Governor's Proclamation, and Philip A. Jarmack, Assistant Regional Director, Office of Child Development.

Guests on the program were the President of the Illinois Foster Parents Association, a foster child and her foster sister.

Other Illinois activities during the week included meetings of foster parent groups, speeches at Universities, Community Colleges, high schools and churches. There was heightened action by State and private agencies and volunteer groups to provide citizen involvement and education.

Evaluation: Response was good and resulted in an ample supply of new foster parent applications. Groundwork was laid for future publicity efforts.

Proclamations: By the Governor of Illinois and the Mayor of Chicago.

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- \* Bensenville Home Society  
Catholic Charities  
Child and Family Services of Chicago  
Home for the Friendless  
Council for Community Services  
Evangelical Child Welfare Agency  
Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society  
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services  
Illinois Foster Parents Association  
Jewish Children's Bureau  
Lutheran Child and Family Services  
Looking-Glass



Danville, Illinois (Vermilieu County)

Sponsor: Vermilieu County Foster Parent Association.

Goals and Activities: To educate the people of the area on the need for foster family homes.

Foster parents and social workers attended the Mayor's reading of his Proclamation at the City Council Meeting.

An indoor picnic for foster families at Sears Center.

Publicity: A foster mother was interviewed on a local radio program. There was also an open-line radio talk show featuring a foster mother and a social worker.

Evaluation: Felt the week was successful if even one prospective foster family was reached.

Proclamation: By the Governor and by the Mayor of Danville.

South Bend, Indiana

Sponsor: St. Joseph's County Welfare Department.

Goals and Activities: Purpose of the Week's activities was to honor foster parents and to bring foster care to the community's attention.

Highlight of the Week was the annual Foster Parents Banquet, at which three families were given special awards as "Foster Families of the Year." Also honored was a Probate-Juvenile Judge for his years of service to children of the community.

Publicity: A thirty-minute television show promoting Foster Care Week, which was later re-run.

Posters and announcements were displayed by local business firms.

Community Involvement: Citizens serve on the Action Week Planning Committee. The Banquet was arranged and served by the staff of the Knights of Columbus. Cost of the Banquet was underwritten by local business firms, church and social organizations.

Black Hawk County, Iowa

Sponsor: Area IV State Foster Parents Association and the Department of Social Service.

Goals and Activities: A drive for new foster homes throughout the State, especially for retarded children and Junior High or High School-age children.

Publicity: During the week following Action Week, a two-part series on foster care appeared in a local newspaper.

A 5-minute recruitment TV show was scheduled during Action Week.

Follow-up and On-going Plans: A continuous news coverage campaign is planned to win and influence new foster homes and to inform the general public about the foster care program in the area.

The President of the Black Hawk Foster Parents Association presented a petition to the Board of Supervisors for an increase in rates of reimbursements to foster parents.

Evaluation: General reaction to publicity has been very favorable.

Douglas, Kansas

Sponsor: Kansas State Association of Foster Parents.

Goals and Activities: To make citizens more aware of what it is to be a foster child, and that "you don't have to be a foster parent to help a foster child."

Foster children in the family of Mrs. Donna Douglas made posters which were displayed in various locations in banks, stores, gas stations, car windows, etc.

Publicity: A TV interview with foster parents. A second and third interview were scheduled in July and August.

Community Involvement: Good support in publicizing the Week.

Evaluation: Calls received from interested citizens indicated a greater awareness.

Proclamations: By the Governor and by the Mayor of Douglas, Kansas.

Junction City, Kansas

Sponsor: Geary County Association of Foster Parents.

Goals and Activities: Explain to the public the meaning of Action Week.

Local publicity was the principal activity, including a radio program discussing Action Week and an article in the Junction City Daily Union.

Evaluation: Communications were poor and material was received late by the State Department.

Manhattan, Kansas

Sponsor: Riley County Family Services, Church Women United, and the Department of Family and Child Development, Kansas State University.

Goals and Activities: To bring Action Week to the attention of the community and to underscore the important services being rendered by foster parents, and the need for more foster parents.

Women from 15 Churches in Manhattan attended the Fellowship Meeting of Church Women United to honor the 18 couples in Riley County who serve as foster parents. The meeting's program focused on foster care.

Publicity: Newspapers' account of the meeting and a letter to the Editor from the Supervisor of Riley County Family Services.

State of Louisiana

Sponsor: Health and Social Rehabilitation Services Administration.

Goals and Activities: Recognition for foster parents and stimulation of interest in obtaining increased board payments for foster parents. A related goal was to recruit black adoptive homes.

In Orleans Parish all foster parents were invited to attend a program in which certificates were awarded to foster parents for years of service.

In the Shreveport area, a reception was held for foster parents, giving special recognition to a foster family which has cared for children for 25 years.

In the Lafayette area, foster parents were invited to a meeting at which they organized and elected officers.

Publicity: News article covering special events.

Evaluation: The effort to increase board payments was successful.

Follow-up and On-going Plans: Foster parents are proving to be effective spokesmen with legislators.

More State offices are being encouraged to give leadership in forming foster parent organizations.

It is believed that offices around the State which did not have any particular Action Week activities this year will be more interested in 1974.

Proclamation: By the Governor

State of Maryland

Sponsor: Social Service Administration, Department of Employment and Social Services.

In April 1972, Governor Mandel of Maryland responded to the President's Proclamation on National Action for Foster Children Week by delegating to the Advisory Committee on Foster Care, Maryland Social Service Administration, responsibility for on-going planning for Action Week as a part of a continuing program in the State. The Advisory Committee began to carry out the Governor's mandate in October of 1972, by establishing an Ad Hoc Committee to plan for the Action Week campaign.

The Ad Hoc Committee's membership was made up of persons who had proven concern about children's needs, and included representatives of The Maryland Association of Mental Health, the State Department of Education, the State Foster Parents Association and the Baltimore City Association of Foster Parents, a delegate from the State Assembly, the medical director of the Comprehensive Child Care Clinic at Baltimore City Hospital, Baltimore City Department of Social Service, Maryland Children's Aid Society, the Maryland Conference of Social Welfare, the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the University of Maryland School of Social Work, and four members of the Advisory Committee on Foster Care. Additional community organizations and individual private citizens were enlisted to join in the work of the Committee, including the Junior League, Baltimore Council AFL-CIO Unions, WBAL, WFBR, WWIN, Delta Sigma Theta, Baltimore Jaycees, the Ministry, The Advertising Club of Baltimore, the Rotary Club of Baltimore. A number of others unable to take an active part made themselves available for advice or help as needed.

Two subcommittees were formed: one on Public Information and one on Planning Activities for Action Week -- the two cooperated in their work.

Goals and Activities: The nature of the activities planned was basically informational--to create public awareness, to give as much information as possible about foster children, their parents and foster parents, and about their needs and gaps in services. The need to build on public awareness without losing impact was made an important thrust in the planning and discussion throughout. A long-range goal was the take-over of the project by a community organization.

Some stimulation of foster home applications was also made a part of the effort. Since this impact would be statewide while, in general, Action Week activities were centered in Baltimore and neighboring counties, other localities were a part of the planning effort through circular letters and telephone discussions.



The following activities were developed in connection with Action Week:

- 1) A letter was sent to all churches and synagogues in Baltimore requesting that pastors give recognition to Action Week in their sermons. An HEW leaflet was enclosed for information, and a suggested insert for church bulletins with instructions to those interested in becoming foster parents. A list of speakers for club meetings was included.
- 2) A leaflet was distributed to teachers, administrators, school personnel and PTA Presidents in Baltimore County schools intended as a first step toward fuller communication between schools, agencies and foster parents. It was written by a foster mother.
- 3) A speakers panel was set up, to be available throughout the year.
- 4) A special ceremony was planned in Baltimore City Hall for the Mayor's Proclamation. Dignitaries invited included members of the judiciary, state and national legislators, City Council people, foster parents, representatives from HEW and the Maryland Social Services Administration. The Judy Hochreiter Award was presented to two foster parent couples and to a member of the Baltimore City Department of Social Services for outstanding services to foster children.

Other Action Week events were YMCA "Family Swims" for foster families and a Clown Program for foster children at Hopkins Plaza.

Publicity: The campaign launched by the Subcommittee on Public Information was as follows:

Letters seeking support and participation, were sent to public service directors of all radio and TV stations, civic and service organizations and hospital auxiliaries. Speeches and items for newsletters were offered.

Posters from the National Action for Foster Children Committee were distributed to major local department stores for display in their windows and to the Enoch Pratt Library.

The Committee worked on arrangements for the Governor's Proclamation and reception and on Press Kits prepared for the Mayor's Proclamation at City Hall.

A committee member presented a resolution on NAFC in the Baltimore City Council.

Press releases were sent to all radio and TV stations regarding special Action Week events.

Statewide newspaper coverage included releases sent three weeks prior to, and up to Action Week. Also, pictures of the Governor presenting his Proclamation, with a follow-up release on April 23.

Feature stories appeared in the Evening Sun for three consecutive days.

Eight radio and TV shows were arranged.

In addition, a Frederick, Maryland, radio station presented an interview.

There were color slides and spot announcements on statewide TV and radio.

Community Participation: Broad civic participation was sought by including on the Ad Hoc Planning Committee such organizations as the JayCees, The Junior League, AFL-CIO, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and the Soroptomists Club.

Contracts were made with churches, schools and PTA. The Mayor's reception included members of the judiciary, city council people, state and national legislators.

Proclamations: By the Governor and by the Mayor of Baltimore.

Evaluation and On-going plans: The amount of public information about foster care generated by the campaign was substantial. If the program is to be continued in Maryland, it is important to include in some way a person knowledgeable in community organization.

Among the recommendations made by the Steering Committee, it was suggested that one community organization might be interested in taking on the project for a year or two, and then the responsibility might be rotated to another community organization or group of citizens. Two suggestions for concrete, realizable tasks that could eventuate in help to foster children, were to work with legislators so as to inform them about foster children and their needs; and to organize a large, annual event as a fund raiser to give scholarships to foster children for school needs, including graduation expenses, clothing needs, field trips and recreational costs.

The Ad Hoc Committee has submitted the following recommendations: 1) that a Statewide Standing Committee be established to carry out Governor Mandel's charge "to work with civic groups, voluntary organizations and interested citizens in planning joint action to increase and improve services for foster children and to assist in the rehabilitation of their families."

2) That the Standing Committee locate a community organization to work jointly with it; 3) That the Standing Committee be made up of representatives of those organizations which are ready to commit themselves to work with foster children; 4) That the Steering Committee be designated to work as an interim committee, to initiate work to be done now for Action Week 1974, and to function until a Statewide Steering Committee is established; 5) that a Staff Assistant be provided for 1973-74; 6) That there be a person skilled in community organization to advise the Standing Committee as to developing effective community interest and involvement; 7) That Honoring Foster Parents Week, scheduled for November 1974, be postponed to coincide with NAFC Week in '74 and become a part of it. Report on Activities by Public and Private Agencies Elsewhere in Maryland (as of June 19, 1973).

A questionnaire was sent in May 1973, to all Maryland agencies, public and private, on coverage by news media and community organization involvement. Members of 23 local departments and five of the 10 voluntary child placing agencies responded.

In capsule form, this is their report: Activities consisted of receptions, dinners and parties honoring foster parents. There were certificate presentations to foster parents, panel discussion meetings between parents and staff. Included in these events, besides agency personnel and foster parents and foster children, were legislators, business people, church groups, county commissioners, board members, and county executives. Foster children participated in special ways, such as putting on talent shows, making posters. One county held a workshop for foster parents.

Community organizations which were involved were: YMCA of Baltimore, The United Methodist Church in Allegany County, and the Methodist Church in Westminster, the Junior Women's Club in Carroll County, Western Maryland College, and local business organizations.

All agencies reported good to excellent news coverage. There was good picture coverage, and the use of TV and radio spots.

Although it was too early for evaluation, reports did show that publicity accelerated recruitment for foster homes; an opening was made with the schools which should be followed up.

Foster parents themselves, gained a better understanding of foster care, as did the public, and favorable relationships resulted from public meetings between foster parents and segments of the public.

Continuing plans are to stimulate and support foster parents' efforts to organize and develop programs; to attempt to provide an ongoing media program of public information and interpretation, and with this, to focus on recruitment.

In some communities, Foster Parents plan to work for increased reimbursement rates. There is a trend toward inter-agency and inter-county action, and toward the development of Foster Parent Associations.

Success in working with the news media is the result of long and careful groundwork. This will also be necessary in involving civic groups and interested citizens in working together to resolve problems and gaps in services. An excellent beginning has been made.

Carroll County, Maryland

Sponsor: Carroll County Department of Social Services.

Goals and Activities: Recognition of Action Week and its goal of improving services for foster children. A poster contest was organized by the Agency, for children under 12 and over 12. Prizes were provided. After presentation of awards at a reception, posters were displayed at various locations in the community.

Foster families were invited to use the Western Maryland College swimming pool one evening during Action Week.

A reception for foster parents was held in the United Methodist Church, with awards presented to foster parents according to their years of service.

Community Involvement: The United Methodist Church, the Carroll County YMCA, Carroll County Foster Parent Association, Junior Women's Club of Westminster.

Publicity: Newspaper coverage of special event, a daily report on the Westminster radio station.

Proclamation: By the Governor.  
By the Carroll County Commissioners.

Lenawee County, Michigan (The Townships of Adrian and Morenci)

Sponsor: Department of Social Services.

Goals and Activities: To inform the Community about National Action For Foster Children Week and the importance of improving services. Because of short notice, Action Week activities were limited to media publicity--newspaper articles, and radio spot announcements.

Evaluation: Somewhat successful, in that the Department received numerous calls from people interested in having their homes licensed for foster care.

On-going plans: A July picnic was held to honor foster parents, and a planning session in August in preparation for the 1974 Action Week. A local Action Committee is in process of being formed.

Proclamation: By the Governor, By the Mayors of Adrian and Monrenci.

Wayne County, Michigan (Detroit area)

Sponsor: Department of Social Services.

Goals and Activities: A reception was held to show appreciation for the efforts of more than 500 foster families in Wayne County, and to advertise the need to recruit new foster parents.

Invited to attend were dignitaries from the State Office of the Michigan Department of Social Services, City Council Board members, Directors of all private children's agencies, the Juvenile Court Foster Home Unit, members of local clubs and church organizations. Appreciation awards were presented to foster parents who had served 10 years or more.

Publicity: Press releases were sent to all local newspaper and radio stations prior to the event.

Evaluation: Not as successful as affair held last year. Attendance was quite low. This may have been due to time and place and to lack of transportation.

On-going plans: The Michigan Foster Parents Association and the Michigan Association of Children's Agencies have recognized the need to develop better public understanding of the problems of foster children and to improve and expand the resources available.

Proclamation: By the Governor.

Jackson County, Missouri (Kansas City and Independence areas)

Sponsors: The Child Welfare Advisory Committee, (State Department of Public Health and Welfare) and the local Foster Parents Association.

Goals and Activities: Publicity on NAFC and Action Week. Interview programs on TV and on radio when the Mayor read his proclamation followed by discussion with two hours for questions and answers with listeners. Appearing on the program was a Judge of the Jackson County Juvenile Court, a foster mother, and the Department's Family Service Specialist. Other shorter interviews on TV, and TV spot announcements. Newspaper articles in Kansas City and Independence Newspapers.

On-going Plans: It is hoped that the Advisory Committee will develop a means of permanent planning.

Proclamations: By the Governor.  
By the Mayors of Kansas City and Independence.



Jasper County, Missouri

Sponsor: Child Welfare Advisory Committee of the Jasper County Welfare Department, Joplin, Missouri.

Goals and Activities: To recognize foster parents and ensure continued availability of additional foster parents.

A recognition tea was given for foster parents to which were invited members of the County Court, the governing body for counties in Missouri, and the Press.

Publicity: A Salute to Foster Parents is published each year in local newspapers to develop greater public awareness of the foster care program and to generate interest on the part of foster parents.

Community Participation: The full-page "Salute" is paid for by local merchants as part of the "Know Joplin" project which recognizes and honors community development.

Billings, Montana

Sponsor: Big Sky Foster Home Association of Billings.

Goals and Activities: To educate the public regarding foster home programs and to recruit potential foster parents.

Local foster parents were interviewed on TV and radio shows, and the Billings Gazette carried a feature article on foster care in the Sunday Magazine Section, April 8.

The I.G.A. Stores featured Action Week on the cover of their weekly TV Program Bulletin which is distributed to customers at check-out counters.

Mayor Joe Leone formally recognized Action Week by a Proclamation which was read in a special ceremony to which foster families and social workers were invited.

The gala of the week was an Easter Egg Hunt and picnic for foster parents, foster children and natural children, arranged by the 4-H Club youngsters. This event was a 4-H project. 4-H youngsters dyed Easter eggs for the hunt. Dressed as Easter Bunnies they looked out after the younger children during the festivities.

Evaluation and On-going Plans: Activities planned by the Foster Parents Association helped the community understand better the Agency's Foster Home program, and some foster parents were recruited.

What is needed to enable the Social Services Agency to improve its foster home program is more staff to recruit and train new foster parents, to provide continuing education, to screen foster homes, and to provide social services to foster parents and their children.

Proclamation: By the Mayor.

State of New Hampshire

Sponsor: New Hampshire Foster Parents Association.

Goals and Activities: To publicize the State-wide Foster Parent Organization and its purpose -- to be a voice for foster children.

The highlight of the Week was the first State-wide annual meeting, which offered an opportunity for foster parents to meet, exchange views, and discuss concerns.

Foster parents testified for the first time as an organized group on legislation regarding adoption, termination of parental rights, and licensing of foster homes.

In Concord, House and Senate members sponsored a Foster Children Day Lawn Fete.

Publicity: Newspaper articles.

Evaluation: Action Week went by unnoticed by the general public.

Proclamation: By the Mayor of Manchester.

Manchester, New Hampshire Demonstration Action Community

Convenor: Mr. Robert Raiche, Director of Admissions, Nathaniel Hawthorne College, Antrim, New Hampshire.

Goals and Activities: The Action Committee was delayed in getting underway and did not have a program during Action Week. However, Mr. Raiche did schedule a July planning meeting with a group of 15 citizens including legislators, lawyers, business and press representatives.

Related Activities: The Foster Parent Association of New Hampshire, with the assistance of the Child and Family Services of New Hampshire, was instrumental in securing a Proclamation from Mayor Dupuis of Manchester.

Action Week efforts were concentrated on securing public support and understanding of the need to secure better care for children placed in foster family homes, and on publicizing the New Hampshire Foster Parent Association and its interest in protecting foster children. The Association held its first Statewide meeting at which foster parents were able to meet for the first time to exchange views, concerns and news of happenings.

Long-Range Goals: Foster parents testified for the first time as an organized group on four proposed bills, calling for (1) a new adoption law; (2) State support of children in foster care; (3) termination of parental rights; and (4) establishment of a State Commission for Children and Youth.

Foster parents are asking for an increase in reimbursement for child rearing costs. The average reimbursement is only \$65 per month. They also want to be involved in planning with the social worker for their foster children. Since case work loads average more than 100 for each worker, follow-up services after placement are too limited.

New Hampshire Senate and House members sponsored a "Foster Children's Day" on Sunday, April 29, as a gala celebration for all foster children in the State. A party was held on the State House lawn.

Proclamation: By the Mayor of Manchester.

Camden County, New Jersey (Haddonfield)

Sponsor: Camden County Foster Parents Association.

Goals and Activities: Publicizing National Action Week and its objective.

The "kick off" event of Action Week was an Easter Egg Hunt and Supper to which local politicians, the press, TV, radio, and local business people were invited.

Two 15-minute TV interviews were aired twice a day on successive days during Action Week. They were of particular interest to people not knowledgeable about foster care, because the first was with a former foster child, and the second was an interview with a foster mother who for some 21 years has cared for teenaged and emotionally disturbed children.

Materials and posters on Action Week were distributed in stores and other public places throughout the county.

As a joint project with the Gloucester County Foster Parents Association, a series of eight articles was written and submitted to a local newspaper. Some of the articles were published.

Proclamation: By the Governor.

State of New Mexico (Albuquerque, New Mexico)

Sponsor: The New Mexico Committee on Children and Youth.

Goals and Activities: Foster Care training, resolution of issues felt to interfere with the potential of adoptive and foster care programs, and identifying additional areas which need attention and follow-up efforts.

The climax of Action Week was a two-day Conference on Adoption and Foster Care, in which foster parents from all parts of the State, child care experts, and agency resource people participated.

The ten main topics discussed were: (1) the emotional needs of children; (2) volunteer activities of foster and adoptive parent groups; (3) what makes a good foster parent, adoptive parent, and child welfare worker; (4) the use and development of community resources; (5) how do you talk to children; (6) advantages and disadvantages of adoption and foster care exchanges; (7) the hard-to-place child; (8) confidentiality; (9) cultural and ethnic identity of children; (10) reuniting families, and termination of parental rights.

The keynote Speaker was Judge Garrelt Burks, Jr. Judge Burks spoke on the rights and responsibilities of foster parents.

Among the 20 resolutions passed were recommendations on education of foster parents; ombudsmen services; legal services for children in court proceedings; better mental health and medical care; an interstate compact standardizing rules, regulations and costs; funds for services for gifted children; increased board rates and allowances; clarification of legal responsibilities of foster parents for their foster children; and the establishment of a New Mexico Association of Adoption and Foster Parents Organizations for the purpose of providing coordination and communication between local groups.

Publicity: State-wide newspaper coverage; State-wide TV coverage.

Evaluation: Participants felt the Conference was excellent, both in substance and in organization.

Follow-up and On-going Plans: A progress report by June 1973 on resolutions was requested. Responsibility for research and follow-up was assigned to the Health and Social Services Departments, and to the New Mexico Committee on Children and Youth.

Proclamation: By the Governor.

New York City, New York

Sponsor: The Salvation Army Foster Home and Adoption Service.

Goals and Activities: As Action Week activities to recognize foster parents, the Salvation Army Foster Home and Adoption Service held a recognition dinner for its foster parents, which was a huge success. About 175 persons were in attendance; awards were presented for length of service; and Salvation Army dignitaries addressed the program.

On April 19, the Salvation Army Foster Home and Adoption Service took the occasion to present Bible to all its 9-year old foster children and to their foster parents.

Duchess County, New York (Millbrook)

Sponsor: Cardinal Hays Home for Children, Foster Home Department.

Goals and Activities: Community education and community recruiting of foster parents.

A buffet dinner was the highlight activity, honoring 40 foster fathers and mothers. Invited to the dinner were clergy of all denominations, the Mayor of the Village of Millbrook, Congressman Hamilton Fish, whose home is in Millbrook, Group Mothers and Sisters from Cardinal Hays Home and from the Catholic school.

Guest speaker was Dr. Vincent Beltrani of Poughkeepsie, New York, active in youth affairs and founder of the Duchess County YELL program, a "hot line" program for troubled youth.

Publicity: A Sunday feature story in the Poughkeepsie Journal interviewing four local foster families and was followed by a series of five articles appearing during Action Week, which were submitted by local agencies -- St. Agatha, St. Cabrini, Overbrook School, Duchess County Department of Social Services.

The Cardinal Hays Home sent a newsletter to 75 churches in the area. All pastors cooperated by reading the items on Sunday, April 8, or by placing it in their Church Bulletins.

The Cardinal Hays Foster Home Caseworker appeared on a local cable TV program during Action Week, sponsored by the St. Cabrini Home, and also wrote a Guest Editorial for the Pine Plains Reporter on "The Myths of Foster Care."

Evaluation: Action Week was fun, creative, and informational for all who helped. Many people were talking about a subject which did not ordinarily preoccupy their thinking.



Franklin County, Malone, New York

Sponsor: Franklin County Department of Social Services.

Goals and Activities: (1) to educate the public as to what foster care is all about; (2) to bring together foster parents and foster children; (3) to recruit foster homes. Activities included a week-long open house at the agency plus a special afternoon for foster parents and foster children.

Publicity: Local newspaper articles, one radio program.

Evaluation: Approximately one-fourth of the county's foster parents attended the open-house reception.

On-going plans: Hope to have a larger reception next year, and are looking for other ideas for Action Week.

Proclamations: By the Mayor.

Monroe County, New York

Sponsors: A cooperative effort of various child care agencies in the area which have an active foster family care program: Catholic Family Centers, Hillside Children's Center, Jewish Family Service, Monroe County Department of Social Services, Northside; Supportive assistance from the Foster Parents Council.

Goals and Activities: The purpose of the Week's activities was to recognize and honor foster parents and to use media publicity for the recruitment of new foster parents.

The Mayor of Rochester and the County Legislature issued a Proclamation, which was presented to the President of the Foster Parents Council (she was accompanied by her three foster children).

A reception was held on Sunday for Foster Parents at which certificates of recognition and silver mementos were presented to foster parents according to length of service.

Community Participation: Individual citizens and civic organizations were not available to help.

Publicity: Television and radio stations joined in recognizing foster parents with interviews with agency personnel and foster parents programmed on several stations during the Week.

Evaluation: A promising beginning.

Follow-up or on-going plans: There are plans underway to get additional support next year from individual citizens and civic organizations.

Nassau County, New York

Sponsor: Children's Bureau of Nassau County.

Goals and Activities: The entire focus of activities during Action Week was recruiting foster families to meet a critical need of placements for adolescent children as an alternative to institutional placement.

The recruitment drive was launched by the County Executive's Proclamation and the presentation of a Certificate of Commendation to an outstanding woman who has been a foster mother for 31 years.

An announcement stressing the Action Week slogan "Give Your Home A Child" was mailed out with paychecks to 15,000 county employees.

Recruitment teams composed of Volunteers and foster parents were assigned to shopping centers and supermarkets.

The climax of the recruiting drive was a Children's Fair held in the Park with cooperation from the County Recreation Association. Games, refreshments, and entertainment were provided for present and prospective foster parents.

Publicity: An all-out publicity campaign included special public service radio announcements describing the urgent need for foster homes for older children and handicapped children, which was on the air several times; a half-hour panel TV show with the County Executives and foster parents. Posters and bookmarks were sent to public libraries; brochures, bookmarks and posters were distributed to customers of a Nassau County black bank; posters were distributed to hospitals and public health clinics, the Motor Vehicle and Passport Offices and supermarkets. Lapel pins were given to Children's Bureau staff and to Department and Government officials. Announcements, posters and brochures were sent to every Roman Catholic parish, and to the Long Island Council of Churches, for Protestant congregations.

Community Involvement: The Open Door Society, Mobilized Community Resources (the Junior League), OFFER (Organization of Foster Parents for Equality and Reform), and volunteers of Social Services manned recruitment booths, addressed meetings, and helped plan and conduct the Children's Fair.

The County Executive not only gave wholehearted support to the campaign, but took an active part in events before and during the Week.

Evaluation: Results considered excellent. One year ago, three families were recruited to be foster parents to adolescents. As a result of this year's Action Week Recruitment Campaign, 389 families indicated an interest in becoming foster parents, and calls are still coming in.

Follow-up and On-going Plans: The original group of recruiters has become an on-going committee and will schedule return appearances at shopping centers, etc.

There is planned a round of speaking engagements for staff with PTA, service organizations, etc. "Living-room Dialogues" will be launched by present foster families to interest friends and neighbors in becoming foster parents. Because the TV stations serve urban New York as well as suburbs, coverage was not as good as desired. There will be an effort to "crack" the urban TV network with suburban news.

Proclamations: By the Governor,  
By the Nassau County Executive.

Niagara Falls, New York

Sponsor: Niagara County Department of Social Services.

Goals and Activities: To recruit new interest and give recognition to foster parents.

It was planned to exhibit a collection of foster children's art work and poetry, which would be given press publicity, but plans failed. There was no press interest and no community interest.

Publicity: A feature story on what it means to be a foster parent and how much they are needed, plus a notice on Action Week.

Evaluation: Drive considered a failure, it is thought that if the Presidential Proclamation had been announced in advance, more public interest could have been stimulated.

Suffolk County, New York

Sponsor: Department of Social Services, Division of Children's Services.

Goals and Activities: Educating the public and dispelling the myths regarding foster care were given the main emphasis by means of news releases, radio spots and two television shows featuring foster parents.

The Foster Parent Advisory Committee recruited new foster parents during an "Open House" for foster parents at the Agency.

The April FPAC meeting was devoted to an open forum discussion between foster parents and staff focusing on improving lines of communication.

Evaluation: The community was made more aware of the foster care program. The meeting between staff and foster parents on communication was very successful.

Proclamation: By the Suffolk County Executive.

Westchester County, New York

Sponsor: Department of Social Services.

Goals and Activities: To inform the public of the needs of foster children and to recruit foster parents. A recruitment and information booth was maintained in Sears Department Store in a large shopping area of White Plains, manned by both staff and foster parents.

On-going plans: Next year, the news media will be utilized.

Cherokee, North Carolina Demonstration Action Community

In January 1973, the members of the Cherokee Foster Parents Association were advised that the Cherokee Reservation, Cherokee, North Carolina, had been nominated by the National Action For Foster Children Committee to be one of the six sites selected for the establishment of demonstration action committees to work for improvements in service to foster children and their families. The objective was to broaden the base of citizen understanding and support by drawing into the program people who are not officially concerned with foster children services.

On January 29, as Chairman of the Foster Parents Association, I met with the members of the Social Service Committee. The Social Service Committee is composed of two representatives from each of the six communities of the Cherokee Indian Reservation and two members of the Cherokee Tribal Council. The purpose of the Committee is to assist and advise the Social Service Department of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the administration of Social Services to the members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. I felt that this Committee would be the logical place to enlist support for the Action Committee for Foster Children.

The Committee gave us full support and together with the members of the Foster Parents Association the group identified as our greatest need the improvement of Protective Services for Cherokee children and the establishment of more foster homes on the Reservation. It was felt that there were many children whose life situations were such that normal development was not possible; that every effort should be made to improve their home situations so that they could remain with their parents; that action should be taken for removal of the children if the protective services were not effective and finally that if it became necessary for the child to be separated from his parents, it should be possible to place him/her in an Indian foster home and/or in group care on the Reservation so that he/she could remain within the Indian culture.

The following Social Service Committee members agreed to serve on the Action Committee: Stella Bradley, Sally Allison, Jean Arch, Richard and Berdina Crowe. In addition, Charles Crowe and Dorothy Smith, members of the Foster Parents Association agreed to serve. Evanelle Thomasson, BIA Social Worker agreed to serve as Coordinator of the Committee, thus the original Action Committee consisted of nine people including myself as the Convenor.

Richard Crowe, who is an experienced entertainer, agreed to get together a TV documentary to be used during foster children's week.

This initial meeting was the first of some ten meetings of the Action Committee during February and March. Eight of the original committee members continued to be very active prior to Foster Children's Week, and four new members were added who gave freely of their time; Laura Blankenship, Mike Crowe, Bill Dickey and John David Arch. We estimate



that approximately 650 volunteer hours were given by this group in planning activities prior to April 8. Some of the Action Committee meetings were attended by as many as 15 to 25 persons but the core group of twelve volunteered well over 600 hours.

Plans for the TV presentation grew more ambitious since the Committee members were able to enlist the volunteer services of a camera crew of twelve from a television station in Raleigh, N. C. The group decided to put together a film on Foster Care on the Cherokee Reservation which they envisioned as being helpful to other Indian tribes in terms of making plans for foster care of their children as well as increasing the interest of more Eastern Cherokee in the matter of foster care. Mike Crowe, wrote a very dramatic narrative for an hour long documentation. The message of the narrative was the historical concern of the Cherokee people for all children. The Tribal Newspaper The Cherokee Phoenix, which was printed in both Cherokee and English in the early 1800's, documented a little known historical fact -e.g., that the very first protective legislation for children was passed by the Tribal Council in October 1826 - Seventy-four years before similar legislation was passed in the dominant society. This fact and the non-Indian adoptions by Indian people in pioneer days were used as historical background for the presentation of present day concern and programs for Indian children.

These efforts resulted in a 15 minute film which was premiered at the Third National Conference of Foster Parents held in Philadelphia on April 26. The film was written, produced and financed by the Action Committee at a cost of approximately \$500.

In order to finance the activities, the Action Committee held bake sales, Indian dinners, sold crafts and literature at the National Conference and coffee and refreshments at several events held on the Reservation during the two months prior to the National Conference. We felt that we were able to reach a large number of people with the "foster care message" due to our fund raising activities who may not have been otherwise informed.

To carry out our objective to accomplish better protective services on the Reservation we sponsored a three day workshop - April 2-4. The Children's Division of the American Humane Association provided the group leaders. The fact that probably the foremost authority in the field, Dr. Vincent DeFrancis, and his staff were the workshop leaders, attracted professionals from all over the State. The workshop was offered free of charge (no tuition) and was attended by two hundred and fifty representatives from most all of the 100 counties in the State. We have received numerous favorable comments from the participants in terms of the workshop content. The workshop really placed the Cherokee Reservation "on the map" in the field of Child Welfare and we have been pleased with the improvement in protective services and child welfare services which have been provided through the County Departments of Social Service. We think the workshop and the Action Committee's continued activity is somewhat responsible for this improved service. The two caseworkers who are assigned to the Reservation from the two counties in which the larger part of the Reservation is

located, attend our Action Committee meetings regularly and we are able to exchange concerns and information with them. We have had an increase in applications for foster homes and the workers assist in recruiting and licensing the homes. We therefore feel that the twin objectives which we originally identified as our great needs, are rapidly being reached.

The BIA Social Service Branch has served in the capacity of coordinator and enabler of our activities. The Branch furnishes technical assistance, supplies and stenographic help, etc.

The Action Committee financed the mailing of about 800 invitations for the workshop. The LOVE stamp which was used caused considerable comment.

We were able to pay the honorarium and other expense of the workshop through a grant which the Cherokee Children's Home had received and which was earmarked for training purposes.

TV coverage was given the workshop and several stations donated free spot announcements which were taken from the Communications Kit furnished by the National Committee. Newspaper coverage was good throughout April and May.

The Action Committee continues to meet monthly and several fund raising activities are planned. We hope to raise sufficient money through these activities and through the sale and rental of our film to pay the expense of several delegates to the Fourth National Conference of Foster Parents to be held in Spokane, Washington next year. Also, our fund raising activities will help us to meet some of the needs of children in the Community.

A flea market sale is scheduled for June 29-30. The proceeds are to be contributed to the fund to make possible an additional month of the summer camp for handicapped children. Thus, the Action Committee hopes to increase the awareness of the community in terms of the needs of all children.

Lou Crowe, Convenor  
Cherokee Action for  
Foster Children Committee

Fargo, North Dakota

Sponsor: Cass County Welfare Board.

Goals and Activities: A public media campaign to gain recognition and understanding of foster children and their foster families and to recruit foster families.

Publicity: Radio spots on three stations. Foster parents and a Social Service Worker were featured in three local TV talk shows. A notice in Church Bulletins. Articles in two county newspapers. A special program for a Church Women's group meeting at which a foster mother and a Social Worker spoke and showed a film "The Neglected Child."

Community Involvement: There was no involvement of local citizens.

Proclamation: By the Governor.

Evaluation: Recruitment has been disappointing but, there is a better public awareness of the Welfare Department's role.

Akron, Ohio

Sponsor: Summit County Children Services Board.

Goals and Activities: Publicity campaign to recruit foster parents.

Publicity: News releases sent to newspapers, public service spot announcements on radio; TV spots during March, April and May; two interview shows on TV featuring a social worker, foster mother and foster children. An interview with a college student who is a foster child.

Evaluation: Coverage not as good as last year.

Follow-up and on-going plans: Hope for a bigger and better Week in 1974, would like a newsworthy national event to support local efforts.

Proclamation: By the Governor.  
By the Mayor of Akron.

## Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Oklahoma

### Tulsa

Sponsors: Tulsa County Division of Social Services and the Foster Parents Organization.

Goals and Activities: The principle activity was publicity to inform the public on foster family services and to give recognition to foster families.

Foster children and parents were given a picnic at Tulsa Mohawk Park by the social workers. Another planned activity was a roller skating party and a banquet for local foster parents and staff with guests invited from the Oklahoma City Foster Parents Associations.

The brochure "Help a Foster Child" was mailed to nearly 800 local churches with information to be announced in church services or to be included in church bulletins during Action Week.

Evaluation and On-going plans: Public response to publicity and planned activities was gratifying. Foster parents already serving have felt the challenge to extend themselves by not only considering if they could care for more foster children in view of the need, but also in recognizing a responsibility to help others become informed and of service.

The Foster Parent Organizations in the two urban areas are looking for ideas for broader interpretation of the needs of foster children and how the community can be a beneficial part of the action. This common goal has developed a closer more meaningful relationship between the agency and foster parents, and including foster children in these plans has had a powerful influence on their own image and well-being.

### Oklahoma City

Five radio stations had spot announcements at various times of the day, which were used frequently during Action Week and afterwards. Two TV stations used spots during the Week and are continuing to use them. A news broadcast carried a 5-minute story on a foster family home, with an interview with the foster parents and the Foster Home Unit supervisor.

Proclamation: By the Governor of Oklahoma, By the Mayors of Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

Salem, Oregon

Sponsor: Department of Human Resources and Oregon Foster Parents Association.

Goals and Activities: In view of cutbacks in funds for children's services, it was felt that it would be inappropriate to campaign for foster children because this would be interpreted as a campaign for more foster homes. Therefore the Department chose to observe "Foster Parents Week" instead of National Action for Foster Children, as a time to honor foster parents.

In many areas dinners were given in honor of foster parents at which certificates were awarded.

In Coos Bay, however, National Action for Foster Children area proclaimed by the Mayor, and a citizen's meeting was held at which foster care services were explained by a Foster Parent and a caseworker.

On-going plans: The Department of Human Resources hopes to take better and more effective actions next year.

Proclamations: By the Governor, By the Mayor of Coos Bay and the Mayor of Portland.

Middletown, Rhode Island

Sponsor: Rhode Island Foster Parents Association.

Goals and Activities: To inform the public about some of the problems of foster care and the goals of the newly formed Foster Parents Association. The importance of the Foster Parent Association was publicly underscored by the Mayor of Middletown when he called a special meeting of the Council at which the first officers of the Association were installed.

Publicity: Three one-hour radio programs on foster care. Two talk shows on radio. A TV recruiting spot interviews two foster mothers. The Governor's Proclamation ceremony.

Evaluation: Public awareness was increased.

On-going Plans: Three bills affecting foster children are to be proposed by the General Assembly. Foster Parents are being encouraged to help support passage. Rhode Island Senator Dykeman, former Chairman of the Legislative Commission, is a co-sponsor of a bill to establish a permanent commission to study foster care placement.

Proclamation: By the Governor.  
By the Mayors of Newport and Middletown.

State of South Dakota

Sponsor: South Dakota Public Welfare Department.

Goals and Objectives: Main objective was to put foster care before the public in a favorable light in order to develop more foster homes and volunteer efforts. Local workers organized activities in their communities, contacted local officials for Proclamations and local news media for coverage. For many, this was a valuable first experience in community activity.

Pot-luck suppers, meetings for prospective foster parents, awards ceremonies, etc., were scheduled.

Community Participation: Good support from civic minded business people. In at least two communities, other agencies participated--Lutheran Social Services and the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

Publicity: News and feature stories appeared in news papers in 11 township; editorials in 3. In addition, articles have appeared since, or will appear in four other localities.

An announcement of an increase in board rates was made during Action Week and was covered extensively by all the news media. There were interviews shown on 11 radio and TV stations, plan spot announcements and news stories.

In three cities, bumper stickers were printed and distributed. In Sioux Falls and Huron flashing bank signs carried messages. Church bulletins were sent announcements in several communities. Lapel buttons were worn in Huron, Mitchell and Brookings. Several hundred posters and about a thousand brochures were also distributed in more than a dozen communities.

Proclamations: By the Governor, By the Mayors of Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Philip, Yorkton, Huron, Memmo, Aberdeen, Brookings, Freeman, Rapid City, Pierre, and Fort Pierre.

Follow-up and on-going plans: Plans for next year's Action Week should start as soon as possible. A theme reflecting needs in South Dakota will be developed. Foster parents will play a greater role in promotional activities.



Knoxville, Tennessee

Sponsor: Child and Family Services.

Goals and Activities: Publicizing their foster home program.

Publicity: Interview with a foster care worker on a local TV show to explain a new foster care program for teenagers.

A public service film shown by a local TV station.

Newspaper articles.

On-going plans: Continuing efforts to publicize program through the news media and in speaking engagements with community groups.

Proclamation: By the Governor.

Austin, Texas

Sponsors: "Parent Scouts", a community volunteer organization for the recruitment of foster parents, in cooperation with the State Public Welfare Office in Austin.

Goals and Activities: Activities were confined to publicity on the need for more foster families to care for older children, those with special needs, and children of minority social backgrounds.

Community Participation: Community volunteers, who make up "Parent Scouts", with help from the Women's Alliance of the Northwest Baptist Church, the Unitarian Church and St. Ignatias Parish.

Publicity: Radio and TV interviews during the Week with foster parents, former foster children; newspaper and American-Statesman articles on foster care.

Follow-up and On-going Plans: There is need for a citizen-initiated Action Committee which could address itself to the unmet needs of foster care in Austin other than recruitment. The staff of the State Welfare Office must devote its time to finding additional foster families for children awaiting placements.

Proclamations: By Governor Briscoe for the State of Texas and by Mayor Butler for the City of Austin.

El Paso, Texas

Sponsor: State Department of Public Welfare, Social Services Division.

Goals and Activities: A morning coffee to which 14 civic organizations were invited to be briefed on the needs of foster children.

A Foster Parents Award Banquet.

Publicity: The Mayor of El Paso's Proclamation announcement was televised and written up in El Paso Herald Post. There were newspaper articles on Action Week, on the Foster Parent Award Banquet, and on the needs for more foster family homes.

Community Involvement: Community organizations were briefed at meetings.

Proclamation: By the Mayor of El Paso.

Houston, Texas

Sponsors: Action Week activities were a cooperative effort between the seven agencies in Houston involved in working with foster family care: Harris County Child Welfare, De Pelechin Faith Home, Catholic Community Services, Lutheran Social Services of Texas, Christian Child Help Foundation, and Harris County Probation Department.

Goals and Activities: The goals of Action Week activities were to honor foster parents serving the seven agencies, to make the community aware of the work of foster parents, and of the need for foster families for children awaiting placement.

A coordinated effort was made by the seven agencies to involve the news media, TV and radio. Both social workers and foster parents were involved in the planning.

At a ceremony in the Mayor's office, to which foster parents were invited, the Mayor read his Proclamation for Action Week. The Mayor was guest speaker at a luncheon honoring the foster parents of De Pelechin Faith Home.

During Action Week the Public Relations Director of De Pelechin Faith Home appeared on a local talk show "Callendar of Channel 39." On April 15 and 22, teenage foster children were featured on two half-hour TV programs, "Turn On"; the first dealt with separation from one's own home and adjustment to a foster home, and the second dealt with living with a foster family. One of the foster mothers also appeared on the show.

Eleven radio stations featured public service announcements about foster parents during the week. The Texas Catholic-Herald and other church newspapers carried articles.

All agencies collaborated on an inter-agency picnic for foster families which had a good turnout.

Evaluation: It was felt that this first attempt for all agencies to work together was a good start. For next year, more foster parent exposure should be promoted in the press and on TV, rather than featuring a social worker.

Proclamation: By the Mayor of Houston.

Jefferson County, Texas (Beaumont)

Sponsor: Jefferson County Child Welfare Unit assisted by the Junior League of Beaumont.

Goals and Activities: NAFC Week activities culminated a month-long foster parent recruitment drive in Jefferson County. In addition to finding more homes for hard-to-place children, goals for the campaign were to inform the public about the needs of foster children and to obtain a much-needed increase in the board rate for foster children.

Activities included a group meeting for prospective foster parents. Just prior to the start of Action Week, a reception was held for County Commissioners honoring them for their support of the foster care program. Local foster families and protective services workers attended the reception to meet the Commissioners.

During Action Week the most experienced foster family was presented with a citation for service to foster children by the County Judge, during the Commissioners' court meeting.

Community Participation: Local citizens and organizations were involved. Members of the Junior League and local churches contributed the money to have foster care posters printed. Members of the Child Welfare Board, and a committee of foster parents assisted in the effort to get a board rate increase.


Publicity: The editor of the Beaumont newspaper contributed free advertising space. Local TV and radio stations managers were very cooperative in publicizing the campaign.

Other publicity during Action Week included two television interviews held with caseworkers and foster parents on evening news programs. Public service announcements were broadcast on many radio and TV stations.

Evaluation: On a local level, the public information campaign and the recruitment drive were very successful. Many inquiries were received and caseworkers were invited to speak to church groups. Also, the County Commissioners granted a generous increase in foster care board payments, from \$2.25 per day to \$3.00 for a child under 12; \$3.25 for those over 12; plus a \$10.00 allowance for children over 12.

With respect to State-wide and National efforts, much better media publicity is needed.

Professionally prepared printed material should be furnished to communities who cannot afford to print their own.

 Proclamations: By the Mayors of two Jefferson County cities, Beaumont and Port Arthur. By the County Judge.

Laredo, Texas

Sponsor: State Department of Public Welfare.

Goals and Activities: (1) to make the community aware of foster children; (2) to encourage interested citizens and organizations to volunteer time and services, and to form an Action Committee; (3) to advertise the need for more foster homes. In support of these goals, there were two newspaper articles and a 14-minute TV talk show giving a brief history of NAFC and emphasizing the need for citizen and voluntary organization support.

Evaluation: Not successful.

Follow-up and On-going plans: Have found two citizens interested in devoting some time to foster children. Continuing to recruit foster homes by speaking at meetings. This presentation includes a plea for volunteers.

Proclamations: By the Mayor of Laredo.

Waco, Texas

Sponsors: The McLennan County Child Welfare Board, Protective Services Workers and Foster Home Licensing workers cooperated.

Goals and Activities: To spread information about the work of the Child Welfare Unit and to recruit new foster homes.

A group meeting for foster parents and prospective foster parents was held, with a talk on "Child Abuse" by a doctor from the Bell County Mental Health - Mental Retardation Unit. Caseworkers spoke to "Career Days" and foster care classes at two high schools and the Community College.

County PTA's were notified of Action Week. A board member and licensing worker spoke on the need for foster homes at two PTA meetings.

Publicity: A TV spot was scheduled before and during Action Week. This is still shown periodically.

A 15-minute interview with a social worker and a Protective Service Worker on the subject of "The Emotional Needs of Foster Children" was shown on local TV.

The Mayor's reading of his Proclamation was televised.

The Protective Service Supervisor and a caseworker appeared on a 30-minute radio interview.

A follow-up TV interview on foster care was shown later in April.

Newspaper articles announced the foster parents meeting and a full page picture story about a foster family appeared in the WACO Tribune - Herald.

Evaluation: Very good response.

Proclamations: By the Mayor of Waco.

Salt Lake City, Utah

Sponsor: Mrs. Calvin L. Rampton, wife of the Governor, served as Honorary chairman of a group of involved citizens organized to spearhead Action Week activities. This Committee was assisted by the Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services.

Goals and Activities: National Action Week activities were coordinated with an acceleration of an on-going recruitment program.

The principal activities were public education: a billboard campaign in which 20 billboards furnished by community sponsors displayed this theme, "Will you share your home while ours is being rebuilt."

Several hundred posters and pamphlets were distributed within the community. TV and radio stations scheduled 30 and 60 second spots.

An annual Foster Home Recognition Dinner was the concluding activity, to which 450 foster parents were presented. A local business sponsor covered the expenses of the affair. Media coverage was obtained.

Immediately after Action Week, a Media and Foster Care Recognition luncheon was scheduled in appreciation of the support given by individuals and businesses to the recruitment campaign. Plaques and Certificates were presented.

Community Involvement: Well supported by the news media, local businesses and civic minded individuals.



State of Vermont

Sponsor: Department of Social Welfare, Agency of Human Services,  
Montpelier, Vermont.

Goals and Activities: Recruitment, training and licensing of  
foster parents.

Speaking engagements before voluntary groups, radio public service  
announcements, window displays in several districts were the means  
used to bring foster care before the public.

On-going Plans: It is believed that better results could be ob-  
tained in the future if a volunteer worker and public relations  
personnel could concentrate on the project, as the agency lacks  
time and manpower to do it.

Proclamation: By the Governor.

State of Virginia

Sponsor: Bureau of Family and Children's Service,  
Department of Welfare and Institutions.

Goals and Activities: The sponsoring Department distributed Action Week information to local departments and a packet-kit was sent to seven regional offices for local distribution. Goals: to assess needs, set priorities, and establish goals.

Various events -- presentations, luncheons, news articles, honoring foster parents, occurred from February through May. Generally, these were initiated by local departments.

On-going Plans: Through joint efforts of the Department, Foster Parent Organizations and Action Committee, it is hoped that Virginia will have a State-wide Proclamation next year which will stimulate activities.

Hampton Roads, Virginia

Sponsor: The Junior League of Hampton Roads,  
Youth Services Committee.

Goals and Objective: Locating additional  
Foster Parents and bringing the plight of the  
foster child to the public's attention.

Publicity: Two television spots on Foster  
Care were purchased from the Junior League of  
Pittsburgh. All TV stations were contacted  
and were most cooperative in showing the spots  
on their channels. A local TV show, the Dick  
Lamb Show, arranged for foster parents and a  
casework supervisor for Newport News Social  
Services to be interviewed on this "talk" show.  
Time was allowed for questions phoned in from  
viewers.

Newspaper coverage was disappointing. One  
article appeared during Action Week.

Richmond, Virginia

Sponsor: Mrs. Walter N. Street, Jr.

Goals and Activities: Media coverage was scheduled during Action Week to activate community awareness of foster care from the standpoint of local needs, to clear up misconceptions, and to recruit additional foster homes.

Publicity: Coverage included a presentation to Church Women United of the Second Presbyterian Church by a Receiving Home Parent, who is President of the Capitol City Area Foster Parent's Association. Participating was a member of the staff of the Social Services Bureau's Homefinding Unit. There were appearances by foster parents and representatives from the Social Service Bureau on both radio and TV public opinion and news broadcasts.

Periodically, 60 second TV spots were shown during Action Week, based on the recruiting theme "Make Your Next Child One of Ours."

Community Participation: Working with Mrs. Street were foster parents from the Capitol City Area Foster Parents Association, representatives from the Richmond Department of Public Welfare, Bureau of Social Service, local newspaper and radio-TV stations.

Follow-up and on-going plans: Mrs. Street has volunteered to serve as Convenor of the Richmond Action Committee, a continuing project to improve foster care services. Plans are underway to produce an hour and a half special on foster care by Channel 23 TV. Funding has been approved.

News articles are planned for the Times - Dispatch, The News Leader, Afro-American, and Mercury.

State of West Virginia

Sponsor: The State Department of Welfare coordinated activities of twenty-seven local area offices.

Goals and Activities: To honor foster parents and to bring before the public the Governor's Proclamation urging all citizens to support services to foster children.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to 2,200 active foster parents in West Virginia.

The Commissioner of Public Welfare gave special recognition to outstanding foster parents who were nominated by Area Offices. Three families were chosen to receive a special certificate from the Governor. There was hometown newspaper and TV coverage, as well as media publicity in the State Capital.

In Martinsburg, a special recognition award went to a couple on the basis of their outstanding voluntary services in their community over a number of years, while, at the same time, they have operated an emergency foster home for children of all ages and races.

Public media activities included purchase of the Junior League TV spots which were distributed to all TV stations in the State.

The Department of Public Welfare also made its own 30-second video tape featuring a foster family in Charleston. This was produced with the cooperation of the State Department of Education and tapes will be sent to each TV station in the State later this year as a means of keeping the needs of foster children before the public.

Area office activities included dinners, luncheons and teas for foster parents at which certificates were awarded. There were special outings for foster children sponsored by local citizens' groups.

There were displays of art by foster children, and some Area Offices designed their own recruitment posters.

Huntington TV had a talk show featuring a former foster child who is now herself a mother, and her former foster mother, in which foster mother and child discussed their feelings at the time of placement, the progress of their relationship, and present feelings about one another.

On-going Plans: Area Offices continue their activities during the year.

Marion County, West Virginia (Fairmont)

Sponsor: West Virginia Department of Welfare (Area 3 Office)

Goals and Activities: To bring attention and recognition to foster homes and foster children, and to stimulate public interest.

Foster families were given flowers, certificates for service, and tickets to special activities.

Publicity: Newspaper articles and a TV spot announcement.

Follow-up and On-going Plans: More advance planning next year, and the focus more clearly defined. Foster parents will be directly involved next year.

Summerville, West Virginia

Sponsor: West Virginia Department of Welfare (Area 19 Office).

Goals and Activities: Providing better homes for foster children, and enhancing foster parents' self-identification by recognizing their contribution in caring for homeless children. Developing better mutual understanding between Agency and foster parents.

A tea was given in honor of foster parents, and an open house at the Area and Satellite Offices as a means of providing knowledge and understanding about the program.

Community Participation: West Virginia Department of Mental Health, and Webster County Superintendent of Public Schools.

Publicity: Newspaper articles on Action Week and on the Foster Parent Tea and Open House.

Evaluation: It was felt that the program was successful.

Follow-up and On-going Plans: Will make plans to expand efforts during next year's Action Week.

Dane County, Wisconsin (Madison)

Sponsors: United Foster Parents Association in cooperation with the Inter-Agency Foster Home Committee of the Department of Social Services.

Goals and Activities: A general recruitment drive throughout Dane County.

The Department of Social Services conducted a foster home seminar for 45 participants (prospective foster parents) to acquaint them with the various licensing agencies in Dane County, their requirements and needs in terms of the type of children requiring foster placements. Representatives of eight agencies making up the Inter-Agency Foster Home Committee were present: Dane County Social Services, Catholic Social Services, Central Wisconsin Colony and Training School, Madison Public Boarding Home Program, the State Divisions of Corrections and Family Services, Children's Service Society, and Lutheran Social Services.

A Pot Luck Supper at St. John's Lutheran Church was given for Agency staff, sponsored by the Foster Parents Association.

Publicity: The Department of Social Services coordinated "all news releases, television and radio recruitment."

TV and radio short interviews with foster parents were scheduled throughout the week.

All commercial TV stations were sent two 60-second recruitment films, "Debbie" and "Merry-Go-Round."

All newspapers (15) were sent press releases to be used during Action Week.

Evaluation: Thirty-two inquiries were received during the week -- two new foster homes were licensed.

There was excellent response from editors and daily and weekly newspapers as well as from the broadcast media.



Eau Claire, Wisconsin Demonstration Action Community

Convenor: Dr. Edward Martins, Pediatrician. He is a former foster child, and the adoptive father of a four-year-old handicapped boy.

Goals and Activities: To determine where the community's interests lie in caring for foster children, to decide what resources are available, or can be developed, and to establish a permanent Action Committee.

The means chosen was an all-day Workshop organized with the help of the University of Wisconsin, which provided the meeting facilities.

The working session was devoted to presentations by Dr. Martins, Mrs. Sue Gambrell, an adoptive mother, Robert Swanson, Sociologist, and County Judge Karl Peplau.

From Dr. Martins' briefing and discussion there emerged three problem areas: (1) the need for more emergency foster care arrangements in crisis family situations; (2) the need for better foster parent selection procedures to eliminate abusive foster parents; and (3) the need for increased support for foster parents -- higher allowances and reimbursements, educational opportunities, particularly in caring for special children with emotional or medical problems, better rapport between social agencies and foster parents in understanding and defining the role of foster parents.

Dr. Martins spoke of his experience with his severely handicapped adoptive son, pointing out the remarkable rate of progress and improvement in a handicapped child which can occur when foster parents or adoptive parents give the child the care and attention he needs.

Mrs. Sue Gambrell, who has adopted two black children, spoke of the importance of safeguarding the racial and ethnic heritage of foster children, describing some of the problems to be faced in reactions by a white community.

Robert Swanson, who is writing his doctoral thesis on foster parents and homes, discussed "what makes a good foster parent and a good foster home", defining the motivation which brings people into foster parenting.

Judge Peplau spoke of the constitutional rights of children, the need for better court procedures, and good rehabilitation services for juvenile delinquents.

The afternoon sessions broke into small discussion groups on the three problem areas.

Community Participation: All interested citizens had been invited, because the object was to establish a permanent Action Committee representative of the whole community. Because of a driving snowstorm, unfortunately, attendance was off, with participants mostly professional social workers and students.

Evaluation: A good beginning was made for an Action Committee that fulfills criteria in that it is a new initiative undertaken by citizens outside social work practice.

The proceedings were taped, and the tape can be made available to other communities interested in the discussion and analysis of problems which may be similar to their own.

Follow-up: Intention is to contact local organizations, such as Federation of Women's Clubs, to enlist support, to contact the Governor and legislators on the need for better support to foster parents. The Juvenile Courts may become interested in according children due process in court proceedings.

Publicity: Dr. Martins and his project were introduced to the public on a morning radio talk show. The April 9 meeting was publicized in advance in the local newspapers, and proceedings were covered by the press.

Proclamation: By the Governor.

Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

Sponsor: Department of Social Services.

Goals and Activities: The Agency like many others in the State tries to stress the special and unmet needs of foster children, interpret the services provided by foster parent homes, and interest individuals and groups in contributing their efforts. Community groups have been involved in recruiting drives and in sponsoring an annual Foster Home Recognition Night, financed with the help of local business and industry. This year the Lieutenant Governor attended and delivered a special message on foster care.

A highlight each year is the presentation of certificates to foster parents for years of service.

Follow-up and On-going Plans: The County is seeking more receiving homes for children until an approved foster home can be found. Group homes for adolescents are also needed. There is no detention home for aggressive or hostile adolescents in Fond du Lac, consequently Fond du Lac jail cells are used as detention homes. The Plymouth Congregational Lutheran Church has been working with the Department of Social Services to find receiving homes for emergency care when children must be placed temporarily for up to 30 days.

Next year it is planned to coordinate local and State activities with the April Action Week if possible. June has always been Foster Parents Month in Fond du Lac.

Madison, Wisconsin

Sponsor: Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Service, with the cooperation of the Inter-Agency Foster Home Committee (eight placement agencies), and the United Foster Parents Association.

Goals and Activities: To familiarize the public with the general concept of foster care and information on the immediate placement needs of children (recruitment).

A multi-media approach with contacts with all radio, TV and newspapers in the area.

A foster parents seminar focusing on familiarizing the 45 participants (prospective foster parents) with foster care issues, a description of children currently in foster care, and characteristics of children in need of placement. Each agency was available to talk individually with participants regarding their respective programs.

Follow-up and On-going Plans: There is impetus to establish advocate groups which can be influential in areas such as insurance, board rates, training programs and a more appropriate voice in planning.

Proclamation: By the Governor.

Briefly Noted Action Week Activities

Chicago, Illinois

A press conference opened NAFC Week. Legislation designed to improve the lot of foster children will be introduced soon, to end parental rights when a child has been in foster care for two years.

Mattoon, Illinois

A Foster Parent Conference was held at East Illinois University to provide an educational training experience for foster parents.

Villa Park, Illinois

A "Learning Experience" seminar was held at Elgin Junior College under the sponsorship of foster parent groups from Southern Illinois. Mary Reistroffer, University of Wisconsin, was guest speaker.

La Plata, Maryland

Public ceremonies in Wills Memorial Park on April 15.

Montcalm County, Michigan

The Montcalm County Department of Social Services took action to inform the public of National Action for Foster Children Week of news releases to the local newspapers, The Greenville Daily News, and to the local radio station. These releases mentioned the President's Proclamation message and described foster care services in Montcalm County. Both releases invited people interested in becoming foster parents to contact the Department of Social Services.

Jefferson City, Missouri

A Proclamation-signing ceremony by the Governor of Missouri, at which were present officers of the Division of Welfare and foster parents representing St. Louis and Kansas City Foster Parent Associations.

State of Montana

Two southeastern Counties, Richland County and Custer County, held meetings for foster parents.

Salem and Cumberland Counties, New Jersey

To make everyone aware of foster children and some of their needs, especially foster homes for teenagers, and Spanish-speaking foster homes.

Trenton, New Jersey

Public awareness and public education about foster care. A Public Forum was held, co-sponsored by the Trenton Times. Foster parents, social workers, and the supervisor from the local district office were on the panel.

Ulster County, New York

Proclamation issued by the Legislative Chairman of Ulster County in a special ceremony.

Berks County, Pennsylvania

A workshop sponsored by the Berks County Children's Services, Catholic Social Agency, and Lutheran Children and Family Services.

A film presentation on the emotional needs of foster children, group discussions with professionals, and an ecumenical prayer service . Sister Ann Maura, Supervisor of Catholic Social Services of Philadelphia, was guest speaker.

Newport, Rhode Island

Mayor Humphrey J. Donnelly, III, of Newport read his Proclamation designating April 8-14 as Newport Action for Foster Children Week. The event was covered by the press.

The first officers were installed in the Rhode Island Association of Foster Parents on April 10. The cost of the Association's incorporation was assumed by the Mayor's office.

State of Tennessee

National Action Week was proclaimed by the Governor. Offices of the Department of Public Welfare across the state were notified, and activities planned relating to honoring foster parents.

State of Tennessee (Cont'd)

On April 14, the Department was host to 50 foster children in Nashville at an Easter Egg Hunt held at the Governor's residence.

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Fort Worth, Texas

National Action Week was proclaimed by the Mayor of Fort Worth, with newspaper coverage.