

Community groups



"OutReach Tutoring is a way for university students to help kids from north-end Halifax who are having trouble with school work. An 'out reach tutor' usually spends an evening each week at the child's home trying to bring about some greater understanding of the subject (an maybe some awareness of the way schools work!). Anyway, the tutor usually learns as much from the kid as the kid learns from the tutor"

The initial proposal for the tutoring program was made by Vieth House, a north-end community centre. Student council at the universities were immediately enthusiastic. After some debate the name OutReach Tutoring was adopted. It was decided that the basis of the program would be that the university student would become a friend to the child and it's family.

Realizing that the program was too unwieldy for one person to run effectively, the tutors chose four student co-ordinators to run the project for 1972-73. All had tutored the year before.

Dalhousie granted the project free use of an office in the Transitional Year Program House, with furniture from the Dalhousie Student Union. Proposals were made to the student executives at St. Mary's and Mount St. Vincent Universities, which responded with office space, funds, and student co-ordinators for each campus. A \$1,400 budget from Dalhousie Student Union gave much needed

Several new projects have been started in the Halifax area recently with OutReach's participation. The following are among the new and existing programs the group has helped:

A remedial reading program under the direction of a remedial reading teacher at Richmond School and the vice-principal of Pinegrove Elementary School, continues a program started last year. The 14 tutors and 17 students meet twice a week, working at Vieth House, Richmond School or the child's home. In mid-December arrangements were made to have these tutors visit the mobile reading unit of the Department of Education to observe techniques used and approaches to remedial reading.

In Spryfield, OutReach is participating in the community school project at Pinegrove Elementary School. OutReach tutors approached the local J. L. Ilsey High School, and tutor students who were willing to volunteer time to tutor the children in Grades 6 and 7 Pinegrove. OutReach Tutoring is helping provide the initial organization needed to run such a program, but the idea is to let the community take over full control after the project has been running a few months, and to have it rely on OutReach only for advice and referral.

Another tutoring project has been begun at Armdale School Drop-In Centre. A number of tutors are available in the school one night a week to give help to students who need it.

OutReach has also set up Saturday recreation projects in selected north end schools using second-year physical education students. This program was established through the Dalhousie Faculty of Physical Education with the aid of department staff and the Halifax City Department of Recreation.

A similar project is being under taken by the University of King's College with the help of OutReach, tutoring about 15 students from Ross Road School in Preston. These students will have access to the King's swimming pool and gymnasium as well as tutoring by the Kings students.

In the hope of discovering the effects and potential of the program the Maritime School of Social Work has initiated a research study into OutReach's methods and consequences. The study may also indicate any need for similar or additional programs.

OutReach hopes to continue in service training throughout the year, to provide a forum for the university students to discuss their ideas, successes, problems and feelings about tutoring. As the year



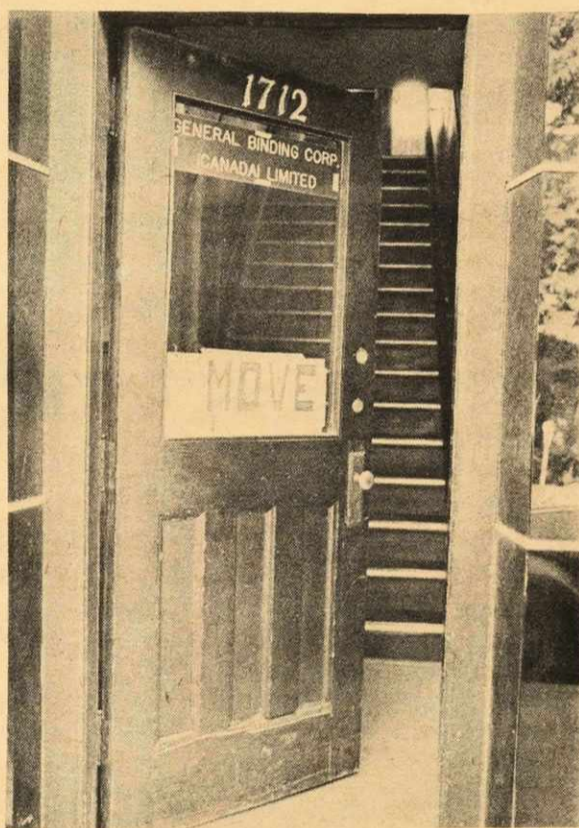
continues, a training film and slide projections will be made. There is a further possibility that a book about the program will be published this summer.

But whatever OutReach may get into in the future, its two main aims will remain the same. One is to provide voluntary tutoring to those children in Halifax who need it; the other is to help begin new

projects that will hopefully become self-sufficient in time. In doing so it hopes to bring the university to the people of the community.

The co-ordinators will be pleased to provide more information on their plans and projects. Write: OutReach Tutoring, 6034 University Avenue, Halifax, N.S.

MOVE



The movement for Citizens Voice and Action began officially in June 1971. Its forerunner was a Citizens Involvement Committee which formed as a response to the Urban Encounter Week of February 1970 and activity of the Halifax-Dartmouth regional planning authority. The Committee's goal was active involvement in the community for as many volunteer groups as possible. They soon found this could not be done without technical assistance or financial resources. With Provincial Secretariat assistance the Committee got funds from the regional authority for a conference of citizens groups.

The conference was held at Kentville in February 1971, and it agreed to a proposed citizens group coalition. An interim Board was elected to distribute the proposal to other groups and the

public. Legal status came about four months later. MOVE's first tasks were to seek government financing and to make regional government a public issue.

MOVE can be seen as a creature of our complex urban environment. A major feature of that environment has been the increasing inability of citizens to influence the decisions that affect their community. Increasing specialization both of technological knowledge and of institutions is perceived as a cause of this inability. Citizens can relate neither to the content of community issues nor to their decision-making machinery.

Futile or destructive attempts at community involvement lead to withdrawal of citizen support from vital community institutions. Decision-making becomes difficult because proposals are hard to understand and citizens are turned off anyway. Delays result, and these lead to higher costs and less time to consider all implications.

MOVE's object as a coalition is to enable a pooling of citizen groups' resources so that all can take advantage of professional personnel and other assets. Its stated objects include provision of a training center and a resource center with both personnel and facilities. A full-time staff, printing center and other services are presently available.

MOVE also aims to provide a structure for information gathering, analysis, negotiation and compromise among member groups. When appropriate it may become involved in the existing community decision-making process. These functions are carried out through monthly meetings of the member groups at which policy is decided. There are also an elected Board, working committees and the staff members to look at things in depth as a preparation for policy decisions.

The degree to which MOVE has and can pool resources reflects the diversity of its roughly forty-five members. The regular members include the Downtown Halifax Business Association, Ecology Action Center, Halifax Welfare Rights, Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia and the Voice of Women. Catholic Social Services, Dal Legal Aid and the Halifax Wildlife Association are some of the supporting groups. The Dalhousie Student Union joined MOVE last spring.