



NEWSLETTER

January 1994

Volume VIII Number 5

Plans for Violence Prevention

Once again, lots of energy and enthusiasm was evident at the monthly Coalition meeting, held December 10th at the Baptist Church in North Adams. Seventy five Coalitioners signed in for the meeting, attendance was probably over eighty. The plan for the meeting was to review the work of this group over the past several months, and to then break into smaller working groups that will work on solutions.

Elsewhere in the newsletter are items that have been highlighted during the previous two meetings about violence and confirmed during the December meeting. The topic of violence is broad-reaching, and one that the Coalition could talk about at length for the entire year. There comes a point where it is important to work towards solutions of the problem. There's a variety of opinions about the topic, yet there is a willingness of most in attendance to begin to work towards solutions.

In working towards solutions, we need to develop strategies to steer our work. Do we work on

the root causes to area violence? Do we work to build an organization that can confront the issues that lead to violence? Do we look to mediation, or other tactics that will address violent encounters as they occur? Do we educate the community about
continued next page

Martin Luther King Day Dreamer's Brunch

St John's Church of North Adams

Monday, January 17th 10 AM to Noon

Admission : your dream, a pot-luck dish, or your listening ear.

Directions for the Dreamers

1. Welcomes, Refreshments, Setting the Stage.
2. Let's Dream : Coalitioners, while munching on the delicious brunch prepared by many at the meeting, spend some time talking about what their hopes and dreams for their neighborhoods might be. Natalie Cain will also introduce her program, Northern Berkshire Neighbors during this gathering.

The Northern Berkshire Health and Human Services Coalition is supported by the Berkshire Area Health Education Center with funding from the UMASS Medical School. It is also supported by contributions from Coalition members. Family and Children's Task Force is supported by the Berkshire-Taconic Foundation. The Coalition is hosted by North Adams State College.

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non-violent resolutions of our differences? Who are we addressing? How will we know if our strategies are working?

After listing over twenty different solutions to the problem of violence among our youth, the Coalition meeting elected to break into a small number of groups to begin discussing the solutions they wanted to work on. The topics chosen include a "Tighting isn't cool" campaign. Another small group discussed organizing a senior buddies program within our local schools where older students work with both very young students in elementary schools and freshmen in the high schools, helping all learn the lessons of non-violent resolutions to our differences. Another topic that was talked about in a small group was creating school mediation programs like the one that Drury students put together. Lastly, meeting attendees gathered together to talk about the teen TV show that NASC

students Peg Pagliarulo and Andre Girard are organizing.

Wow! There's so much energy in these meetings. Our challenge is to harness it to build effective strategies for confronting area violence. The Martin Luther King Day celebration planned for January 17th may be a start. Watch for the premier of local TV produced by teens addressing some of the causes of area violence. Let's look towards the sharing of information among school children about what works in their own settings. Let's congratulate the Drury students who have put in place a fighting mediation plan.

The next Coalition meeting planned to address the issues of area violence will be Friday, February 11th at the Baptist Church in North Adams. Come and share our work, and help us to celebrate our results. For more information, contact Al Bashevkin at NASC, 664-4511 x 519.

There's a Host of Activities Scheduled in Celebration of Martin Luther King's Birthday

A committee of Northern Berkshire residents has been working to organize community activities in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday. Representatives of many Northern Berkshire organizations have been meeting for the past month to organize activities that promote the theme of "non violence", and will be fun for many young people in the area. All these activities will be held on the holiday to celebrate his birthday, Monday, January 17th. All are free and are open to Northern Berkshire residents.

The day will begin with a "dreamer's brunch" to be held from 10 AM until noon at the St. Anthony's Parish Center. The theme of this event is for participants to share their dreams and hopes for Northern Berkshire with others who will listen. The "dreamer's brunch" will help to introduce a new

program of the Northern Berkshire Health and Human Services Coalition, Northern Berkshire Neighbors. Admission to the "dreamer's brunch" is a dream for the area, a listening ear, or a pot luck dish. All dreamers are encouraged to attend.

The Northern Berkshire YMCA will be sponsoring a program entitled, "Learning how to Play" from 1:30 to 3 PM. Cooperative, non-competitive games will be offered teaching elementary and middle school aged school-children new ways of playing together. For transportation to the YMCA, call 663-6529. Pre-registration is requested.

The day's activities will come to a close with a candlelight walk followed by an interfaith service celebrating the life of Martin Luther King and the theme of non-violence. The candlelight

Your Neighbors on Tour

Who's the latest party favorite for area neighborhoods? What time-treasured activity works in bringing people together? How can you get to know the folks who live in your neighborhood in the hopes of creating a better community? **Answer:** Invite "your neighbors" to your home for song and reflection about how to build a healthy neighborhood.

"Your Neighbors" is the eclectic folk sing-along group of the Coalition. Natalie Cain, Al Bashevkin, and Wendy Krom blend their guitars and flute into songs about peace and community, that participants help to sing. It's fun with a purpose, and it's a great way to invite "neighbors" into your home for discussions about how to build a healthier neighborhood. It's also free, and is part of the Northern Berkshire Neighbors program.

To get "your neighbors" into your home, call Al Bashevkin (664-4511x519) or Wendy Krom (447-2407)

walk will organize from many neighborhoods of Northern Berkshire and will meet at 4 PM at the square opposite the North Adams Public Library, the Congregational Church, and the Baptist Church. An interfaith service with local music and a reading of the "I Have a Dream" speech by local school children will follow at the First Baptist Church in North Adams.

An educational component to this celebration includes a writing contest offered in all area schools to encourage young people's expressions of their dreams through poetry, essays, or pictures. Interested young people should contact their schools principals for more information.

The next meeting of the planning committee for this group will be Thursday, January 6th at the Baptist Church in North Adams. All who would like to help plan this event are encouraged to attend. The committee is particularly interested in seeing Northern Berkshire residents who have had personal experiences with Martin Luther King help to plan these events.

NB Legislative Contacts

Rep Dan Bosley	3 Elmwood Avenue NA 01247	663-7486
Rep Shaun Kelly	30 Florence St Dalton 01226	684-4418
Sen Jane Swift	8 Bank Row Pittsfield 01201	442-5240
Cong John Olver	78 Center St Pittsfield 01201	442-0946

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COALITION

Public Health Grant Awards Over \$5000 for Area Public Health Projects

A committee of the Public Health Task Force met to review the Public Health Incentive Grant applications for this funding round. There were twenty two applications received, requesting a total of \$15,306. Sixteen projects were funded, totalling \$5,282 that was given in this round of incentive grant funding. Of the sixteen awardees, only two were given the full amount requested, and these were for far less than the \$750 cap. The average grant was \$ 330. Next funding round is planned for April.

What follows are the winners of Public Health Incentive Grants for this round:

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day Planning Committee : To offset expenses for their celebration.
- Association for Alternative Action

& Activity : Community activities to promote non-violence.

• Adolescent Parent Support Group : Resources to start up monthly Craft Workshop for members.

• North Adams Youth Basketball League : Augment and add additional space for youth basketball

• North Adams Council on Aging : Pager service for their transportation system.

• Greylock School H.O.P.E. (help our people educate) : Help pay for computer to publish newsletters

• Williamstown Parent Advisory Committees for Special Education : Series of advocacy training workshops

• ECU-Care : Costs of their incorporation

• Paul W. Marino independent Videographer : Offset production costs for set of six historical documentaries

• Marty's T-Ball : Bathroom facilities at their playing field.

• Berkshire County Literacy Corps, Inc. : To offset costs of Northern Berkshire English as Second Language (ESL) program.

• Williamstown Nature Program : To support special programs about environmental health and local ecology.

• Barbara Michaud : 60 Chestnut St Living Center : To offset expenses related to organized activities program.

• Library Mothers of North Adams : Supplies for craft activities with goal of introducing books to young children.

• Campus Community Co-Existence Council - 4C's : Field trips for residents of the Campus Neighborhood

• Turner House Living Center for Veterans, Inc. : Donation to create a boarding house for veterans.

Family and Children's Summit Planned

The Family and Children's Task Force met early in December to discuss a report about child maltreatment written by UMASS School of Public Health graduate student, Craig Stevens, to talk about the distribution of the Family Bill of Rights; and to set future directions for the task force.

Many thanks to Craig for writing this report that addresses child maltreatment prevention. Coalitioners interested in copies of it or its executive summary can contact Al Bashevkin at the coalition office at NASC.

The task force hopes to distribute the revised format of the Family Bill of Rights to every student and their family in Northern Berkshire. As reported earlier, the Bill of Rights has been adopted by the town legislatures of North Adams, Adams, and Williamstown. The North Adams school district students will be the first to receive this document, hopefully during the week of Martin Luther King's birthday. We then hope to make arrangements for distribution of the document through the other area school districts.

During the latter part of the meet-

ing, participants looked at "what's next". Guests from the Parent's Task Force that is part of the Berkshire Partnership talked about their goals. The group began to think . . . (usually a dangerous activity during Coalition gatherings). With a number of organizations that address planning for family and children's programs (Coalition task force, partnership, DARE advisory groups, youth boards, school related boards, etc.), perhaps the best direction would be to bring all these committees for a planner's "summit". In this way, information about the goals and activities of each group could be shared, assisting each group in their missions. Who knows what might come out of this summit, but it would be helpful for all groups to come together.

This summit will be scheduled in February, with Wendy Krom of the Berkshire Partnership assisting Al Bashevkin of the Coalition in its organization. Stay tuned, and let Wendy or Al know of groups you think should be involved in our Family and Children's summit.

*Coalition Newsletter is a publication of the Northern Berkshire Health and Human Services Coalition. Its function is to keep the mailing informed of what's happening around the Northern Berkshire area. It is a service to the entire Coalition membership and friends (over 370 at this point). Announcements submitted to the newsletter will reach our entire mailing list. So, take advantage of this unique, free mechanism for informing our membership of news important to all. For inclusion into the Feb Newsletter, please submit announcements to Al Bashevkin, Coalition Coordinator, NASC Box 9075, North Adams, MA 01247 by Jan 20, 1994
Coalition Coordinator : Al Bashevkin (413) 664-4511 x 519 ; NB Neighbors : Natalie Cain 663-5832*

Coalitioners Offer Thoughts about the Roots of Violence

Over the past three months, Coalitioners have explored what the roots of area violence among our younger population are, and to what extent violence is seen as a means of resolving disputes. What follows is a consensus from the December meeting of the key thoughts about area violence in our youth:

- Attitudes towards violence have changed. Violence is tolerated more.
- Perception is key. We need to check out what we think is going on to see if it is actually occurring. An example is students at McCann's carry knives for their work, but seeing them, some may misperceive they are weapons.
- It's "cool" to fight.
- Young people are confused by adults behavior. (ex adult's behavior at sporting events)
- Lots of attitudes are around. Young people do not have to provoke violent behavior to be victims of violence. "looking at someone the wrong way" can start a fight.
- Initiation pranks have become more violent.
- Students are concerned about school policy concerning violence.
- There's a "mob mentality". Young

people are "egged on" to fight.

- More females are fighting with other females or with males. Fights among females are less likely to be broken up or are seen as entertaining.
- Young people see a lot of violence on TV and in the movies.
- Violent language used to be a way of "letting off steam". Now it is a part of everyday language.
- First year students are afraid of upper class students.
- Young people from other towns are entering schools and starting trouble.
- There is violence in many Northern Berkshire homes that may or may not lead someone to being violent.
- We should worry about young people and adults who do harm to themselves.
- Some of our young people are struggling with getting basic needs met. (food, shelter, clothing, belonging)
- Alcohol and other drugs are not good for resolving differences peacefully.
- Violence is a show of power or powerlessness.
- Violence can be a reaction to our own insecurities. These insecurities can turn to hate.
- Fights can be caused by a difference of opinion or by jealousy.

Teen Media Project Proceeds

The Teen Media Project, supported by Coalition interns Peg Paggiarulo and Andre Girard is off to a good start. The numbers of participants is growing; eleven students attended the second meeting. Dave Fabiano from Adelpia Cable was at the meeting and gave the teens suggestions on how to do a video project. The topic teens chose for their first show is teenage drug and alcohol use. Each school is making an individual video at their school about this topic. These videos will be edited and combined to form a T.V. show that will be aired on Adelpia Cable. Students from Mt. Greylock, Drury, Hoosac, and McCann High Schools are all participating in this project.

This project, done entirely by teens, gives them a chance to voice their opinions about topics that concern them. We look forward to a monthly TV show to be showed on Adelpia Cable to compete with an audience with the Coalition's other TV show, Northern Berkshire Tonight. Other media projects such as radio and newspaper articles may be done in the future.

Worksite Smoking Help

Last November, voters of Massachusetts instituted a twenty five cent tax on each pack of cigarettes purchased in Massachusetts. The money from the tobacco tax is now being used to improve health by funding a variety of projects through the Massachusetts Tobacco Control Program (MTCP).

The Tobacco-Free Worksite Project is one of the newly funded programs of MTCP. This is a state-wide project that provides employers with the information, materials, and support they need to either implement or strengthen tobacco control policies in the worksite.

Many employers are thinking about restricting or eliminating smoking in their companies because of the health risks associated with breathing environmental (second hand) tobacco smoke. Other benefits of going smoke-free for an employer may include reduced absenteeism, accidents, cleaning and maintenance costs, and fire insurance premiums.

For more info on this project, see the Coalition bulletin board.

Martin Luther King Day Activities Jan 17, 1994

Dreamer's Brunch St John's Church 10 AM

Learning to Play NB YMCA 1:30 - 3PM

Candlelight Walk..... Veterans Square NA 4PM

Interfaith Service 1st Baptist Church NA 4:15

I have a Dream Contest.. Due in Schools January 7

Next Planning Meeting ... Jan 6 @ 3PM at Baptist Church in North Adams

Info / To Help Natalie Cain 663-5832

Northern Berkshire Health Human Services Coalition Supporters

1993-1994 Year :

Organizations

Northern Berkshire Mental Health Association
Family Life Support Center
VNA of Northern Berkshire
Women's Services of Western Mass
DSS Region 1 Advisory Board
Northern Berkshire United Way
Williamstown Youth Center
North Adams State College
City of North Adams Community Development
Center for Ecological Technology
Specialty Minerals
HelpLine, Inc.
Child Maltreatment Project
Berkshire Center For Families and Children
Berkshire Council on Alcoholism and Addictions
North Adams Housing Authority
Adams Housing Authority
St John's Church
NB Habitat for Humanity
Elder Services of Berkshire County

Individuals

Dan Bosley
Bill and Joyce Donovan
Bob Romow
Al Bashevkin
Nancy Dunn
Roger Gallese
Lorraine Maloney
Susan Pecor
Al Nelson
Rev Robert Buckwalter
Shirley Davis
Nancy Rumbold-Trzcinski
Len Radin
Jan Keep
Warner Smith
Tony Sinicusa
Marcia August
Sue Kelly
Lisa Sturz
Janice O'Keefe
Steve Green
Sue Walker
Peter and Amy Hall
Bruce Smith
Michele Ethier
Tom Wolff
Maggie Bittman
Sue Geller
Lisa Jarsch
Sue Brissette
Ray Burke
Chris Meehan
Natalie Cain
Dick Laforest
Sandy Degraff
Marge Currier

Coalition Fundraising in Full Gear : Join our Efforts !

We need your help ! The Coalition is presently in the midst of its annual fundraising campaign. In order to meet its budget, the Coalition needs to raise \$8000. These monies are for the Coalition budget year which goes from July 1, 1993 - June 30, 1994. If your name or organization isn't listed above, then it's time to become a financially contributing member of the coalition. On the back of the newsletter is a form for you to return. Please, send your form in now!

In order to raise \$8000, we need to ask for greater contributions from more individuals, and we need area organiza-

tions to financially support the work that the Coalition has done. At present, we have raised nearly \$5000 from over fifty five individuals and organizations and a large donation from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation. We're getting there!

The Coalition's fiscal year is from July 1 - June 30, so organizations that contributed in June, have been included in last year's fundraising. This is a new year of fundraising. The steering committee would encourage individuals and organizations that are not included in the list above, to make plans to support the Coalition.

A fundraising committee of the Coalition steering committee consisting of Al Bashevkin, Natalie Cain, Al Nelson, Kate Hill, and Chris Meehan has been put together to look at how to raise the remaining moneys necessary to meet goal. Help us out !

**Keep the Coalition Alive
and Active
Be A Coalition Supporter
Form is on Back**

Coalition Bulletin Board

• **Women's Services of Western MA** has just named Linda Whitacre as the new program coordinator effective Jan 94. She was former shelter coordinator. They are looking to fill the position of Shelter Coordinator ASAP. If interested please send resume and cover letter to: Hiring Committee, WSWM, 146 First St, Pittsfield, MA 01201

• **Housse Valley High School** students are organizing a community service day. Any organization who can utilize student volunteers in any capacity are encouraged to participate. Call Nancy Dunn at HVHS, 743-5200.

• **Talking With T.J.** . . . Is new ! It's complete! It's Free! 4-H is looking for adult and teen volunteers who are interested in working to improve teamwork skills of second through fourth graders. The program uses a creative mix of videos, comics books, and hands on activities to teach important skills of planning, cooperating, and appreciating differences. Funding for Talking with T.J. comes from Hallmark. Interested adults and teens can contact Marcia August, 448-8285.

• **The VNA of Northern Berkshire Annual Health Fair** will be Saturday, March 5 at McCann School, Hodges Crossroads, North Adams. All providers are welcome.

• **Reminder: Bookmobile service** is now available to Berkshire County residents and groups through the Massachusetts Prevention Center in Northampton. Call Jennifer Swartz at 584-3880 for more information.

• **Drury students Joy Fairney and Stephanie Sands** along with Principal Roger Cirone and Al Bashevkin were on the WNAW Opinion show on Wed Nov 17. The students felt it was a huge success and wish to do it again. They also got a lot of support from the community with comments on the show.

• **Beginning January 5, the With Child Pregnant/Parenting Group** will be held from 12:30 to 1:30 at St Anthony's Parish Classroom III, followed by Parenting Art Group from 1:30 to 3:30 PM. This group meets weekly Wednesdays and is free and open to all families and individuals who are pregnant and parenting and their children.

• **Reminder: There is a support/education group** for families, friends, and caregivers of cancer patients. The group meets regularly on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month from 7-9 PM in St John's Church in North Adams. Contact Marcia Doran, LICSW, Hospice of Northern Berkshire, for further information, 664-6526.

• **Hospice of Northern Berkshire** has an informational program on grief / bereavement / loss which is offered free to all area schools and agencies. Contact Jane Wilson, Hospice of Northern Berkshire for further info, 664-6526.

• **Paula Stamps, professor at the UMASS School of Public Health**, will once again offer a course about **program evaluation** this spring for graduate students of public health. Last spring, four agencies of Northern Berkshire, the Family Life Support Center, the VNA of Northern Berkshire, PPASS, and Northern Berkshire Mental Health all had graduate students from Paula's class create program evaluation designs for their agencies. In this way, agencies had the opportunity to use these professionally designed evaluations for themselves. The VNA of Northern Berkshire and the Northern Berkshire Mental Health Association enlisted NASC interns Peg Pagliarulo and Andre Girard to collect the data according the evaluation designs. The designs were simple to follow, and Peg and Andre have been able to collect information through telephone surveys.

Paula is interested in other agencies or organizations that might be interested in having these program designs crafted for them. A team of students from her class would become the agency's "evaluation consultant" and would by the end of the semester have a design prepared for them. It is hoped that NASC students might be able to once again collect the data for the agencies during the fall semester of 1994. If you have interest in this project and would like to be a participating organization, contact **Paula Stamps** at the **UMASS School of Public Health**, 545-6880, or Al Bashevkin at NASC, 664-4511x 519.

• For folks who missed the funding for the Public Health Incentive Grants, and have a project that think is a great idea that needs resources, Don't fret! There will be other opportunities for small grants for great ideas. The **Berkshire Partnership for the Prevention of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs** has resources available for projects that will make the community a healthier and safer place to live. Grants of \$250 to \$1500 will be available with a total of \$8000 available this year. It's an easy application, due January 30. To get the application and brochure, call Wendy Krom at the Berkshire Partnership, 447-2407. Resources are available for all in Berkshire County.

• In order for a company to successfully change its tobacco policy, it's important for smokers and non-smokers to have a chance to voice their concerns. Also, smokers need time to adjust to the policy and access to smoking cessation programs for those who want to quit. **The Tobacco-Free Worksite Project** was developed by the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society and has consultants statewide. Locally, Lou Peugh is working in the Holyoke office of the American Cancer Society to assist local worksites. She is interested in meeting with employers, community members, and others who want to learn more about worksite tobacco policy. For more information, call Lou Peugh at 536-2255, American Cancer Society, 383 Dwight St, Holyoke, 01040.

Berkshire AHEC Lists Trainings

The following continuing education events are sponsored by the Berkshire Area Health Education Center. For more information call 447-2417.

JANUARY

RITUALIZED AND CULT ABUSE: EVALUATION AND TREATMENT STRATEGIES FOR YOUTH

Thursday, January 20 9:00 am - 4:30 pm Williams Inn, Williamstown

Fee: \$25, includes food and materials

Credit: 3.0 Clergy; 6.0 Cat I Physicians; 7.2 Nurses; Applied: 6.0 Cat I SW; 6.0 CAC; 6.0 Psych

TRAUMA AND DISSOCIATION IN CHILDHOOD

Friday, January 21 9:00 am - 4:30 pm Williams Inn, Williamstown

Fee: \$25, includes food and materials

Credit: 3.0 Clergy; 6.0 Cat I Physicians; 7.2 Nurses; Applied: 6.0 Cat I SW; 6.0 CAC; 6.0 Psych

Robert Kinscherff, PhD, JD is the presenter for both days, registrations will be accepted for one or both days. Co-sponsored by the Department of Social Services and Northern Berkshire Mental Health Association.

FEBRUARY

ETHICAL ISSUES IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE

Tuesday, February 15 9:00 am - 12:30 pm Location TBA

PPASS Program Loses Crucial DPH Funding : Center Based Services to Cut Back

The Pregnant and Parenting Adolescent Support System introduced into our community in 1981 to help teens receive services they may need from area agencies, has lost crucial Mass Department of Public Health funding. PPASS programs across the state are being phased out as the state launches the home visit model created in the state of Hawaii. The Hawaii concept replaces professional social workers with college degrees with paraprofessionals who visit the home during the pregnancy and the baby's first year. This model has been em-

Fee: \$20

Applied: 6.0 Cat I SW, 6.0 CAC, 6.0 Psych

MARCH

A GENERATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON WOMEN, BODY IMAGE AND SELF ESTEEM

Thursday, March 24 9:00 am - 12:30 pm Location TBA

APRIL

FROM THE GROUND UP: SUSTAINING THE EFFORT

Thursday & Friday, April 28 & 29 Ramada Hotel, W. Springfield 9:00 am - 4:30 pm each day

Fee: \$15, includes lunch.

MAY

JRD ANNUAL WOMEN AND AIDS CONFERENCE

Wednesday, May 11 9:00 am - 4:30 pm Mont Marie Conference Center, Holyoke

Fee: \$40 includes lunch

Children of the 90's 5TH ANNUAL BERKSHIRE CONFERENCE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Thursday & Friday, May 19 & 20 8:30 am - 4:30 pm Berkshire Hilton Inn, Pittsfield

Fee: \$30.00/day or \$55.00 both days, includes lunch

Sponsored by Citizens Against Child Abuse

braced by many prevention professionals for its effectiveness.

PPASS has two smaller programs that will continue; The Young Parent Program helps motivated women obtain day care to either finish their education or obtain employment. This funding from the State Department of Social Services limits the program to five women. Small Cities monies from North Adams and Adams pays for home visits to a limited number of young parents in need of intensive services.

The With Child Program, Early

Children's Rights Discussed

Approximately 45 people were in Sullivan Lounge at NASC Thursday the 9th for a community forum on the Rights of Children. The event was co-sponsored by the Northern Berkshire Health and Human Services Coalition and the Sociology club of North Adams State College. Following a video presentation of Judge Charles Gill, a co-founder of the Task Force for Children's Constitutional Rights, was a panel discussion. The panelists were: State Representative, Dan Bodey; Detective Bob Canale of the North Adams Police Department; Bob Hickey, are Program Manager for the Department of Social Services; and Diane O'Neal, a child advocate from Northern Berkshire.

Judge Gill described himself as, "an angry judge, an angry father, and an angry man". His anger is fueled by a legal system that overlooks the rights of children in its efforts to work for the interests of the family. In an effort to remedy the situation, Judge Gill is behind an attempt to create an Amendment to the Constitution to ensure the Rights of Children. He hopes that this Amendment would put an end to the practise of viewing children as the property or "luggage" of their biological parents.

A lively discussion between panel members and the audience followed the viewing of the video. Personal stories of individuals in the audience reminded everyone that these are significant and current issues.

Intervention, the Family Life Support Center, Parents Place, the COTY Project, CompCare and the VNA of Northern Berkshire have already begun to address the concerns of this service gap. Maggie is most concerned that pregnant and or parenting teens will not fall between the cracks and will with these agencies try to effect a system that will identify clients early in the pregnancy to assure that they will receive vital services in the community.

**MLK Day
Community Celebrations
Jan 17 Join Us!**

Northern Berkshire Neighbors

How Do Our Neighborhoods Grow?

It's almost the end of one year and not quite the beginning of another. It's a time to reflect and a time to dream. Last month my imagination led me to some roots under the cold ground where stories were shared and revered. They were autumn stories of memories and hopes. With winter comes the dream time. In January we will begin to gather the dreamers and invite individuals to share their dreams, great or small, for healthy, non-violent community life in our Northern Berkshire neighborhoods.

So many dreams have already sprung to life in these hills. Some at the moment seem dashed. Could this be an opportunity to dream again? Little did I suspect at this time last year that I'd find myself in the work of dream catching. How wonderful! Just as seeds hold the promise of new and enriching life, so does each person hold the capacity to

dream. I hope that you will come to our first Dreamers' Brunch on January 17 at St. John's Church. Come with a simple dream or a listening heart. See if your dream connects with someone else's. You may discover the neighbor who holds the missing piece to your unfinished dream. You may awaken in another person a dream long forgotten and restore hope. You may be the one who can take another's dream and make it a living reality. Come. But don't come alone. Bring a neighbor or a friend with you and expect to make at least one neighbor out of a stranger. That's my dream for each one of you. Looking forward to our dreamtime. I can hardly wait!

As the song goes:

*You've got to have a dream.
If you don't have a dream,
How are you going to
make a dream come true?*

Natalie C. Cain

4C'S Connections

The 4C's continue to meet new neighbors at its various functions and in the area surrounding the college.

The Holiday Open House held on December 14, 1993 brought old friends together as well as new ones. Mr. and Mrs. Don Dagnoli and Joan McGrory enjoyed their first event with the 4C's. We hope they will be part of our future programs.

New neighbors have moved in on Church Street and I was for-

tunate to meet Doug Hawley during the snowstorm on Saturday. Doug is 10 years old and took the initiative to shovel the walkways in front of our home without being asked. I introduced myself and paid him for his good work. What a nice young man! I invited him to make use of our Neighborhood library in the future.

It was wonderful to see this very young man caring about his neighbors.

Lorraine B. Maloney

UNO NEWS from Shirley's Kitchen Table

Here we are at the end of December and what a year we had! UNO celebrated their third birthday. We did all the things we usually do: the bake sales, the Spring Bonanza, clean up day, field day, covered dish picnic at our new playground, Halloween Block thing, and last, but not least, our trip to the North Adams Public Library for a Holiday celebration.

After a pizza party in my kitchen, Al, Wendy, Natalie and I along with some of our UNO parents, escorted the UNO kids to the library, singing Christmas carols as we walked along. Need we say we had the largest family at the celebration. A wonderful new trio, YOUR NEIGHBORS, furnished the music for the singing. I must say they were very good. We enjoyed story telling, a pinata and refreshments. The library will never be the same, but the UNO kids had a great time. Activities over, we walked back to my house where under the tree awaited gifts for everyone, complements of UNO. It was a nice end to a great year! We all look forward to next year in the hopes of continuing the caring and sharing in a happier and healthier UNO neighborhood.

**Happy
Holidays!**

Shirley Davis

Have you always wanted to improve your reading and math skills?

Do you want to earn your high school equivalency diploma
and maybe go on to college someday?

Do you find yourself talking to other parents
about problems related to your children?

Do you want your children to enjoy learning and succeed in school?

Are you looking for a place where parents and children
can learn and have fun together?



THE PARENT'S PLACE
107 1/2 Main St., North Adams
(Dowlin Block, rear entrance)
664-4597

Daily Schedule

- 9:00-11:00 Learning Together! Have you always wanted to study with a group of friends who help each other learn and succeed? You can improve your reading and math skills and earn your high school equivalency diploma. Achieve your personal goals including college or a job, reading to your children, balancing a checkbook and much, much more!
- 9:00-11:00 Growing Up Together! Your pre-school children will enjoy learning and get an early start toward success in school! You can help your young children develop their physical coordination and ability, their learning and self-help skills, and their personal and emotional resources in this early childhood group that combines play and learning.
- 11:00-12:00 Parents & Kids Together! This is a time for parents and children to play together, talk and listen to each other, for children to make choices about their play activities, for parents to observe their children in action, and most of all, for parents and children to have FUN!
- 12:00-1:00 Family Lunch. We invite the parents and children who attend each day for a nutritious meal with good friends!
- 1:00-2:30 Parenting Together! No one understands your concerns as a parent like another parent. Parents get together during the children's rest time to discuss parenting and family issues and concerns. Make new friends and share your thoughts and ideas about parenting!
- 2:30-4:00 Homework Help for Kids & Parents. You can help your children succeed in school by becoming involved with their homework, their teachers and their schools! And, if you're studying or going to school, we can help with your homework, too!

Plus. trips, outings, parties and activities for the whole family!

(Financial assistance available for full-day participants)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 3NB Tonite : Adelphia Cable Ch 15/22 7:30 PM
 Jan 4Open Mind : NBMHA TV show : Ch 15/22 7 PM
 Jan 5FACT Haskins Community Center Noon
 Jan 6Planning for MLK Birthday 1st Baptist Church NA 3 PM
 Jan 7NB Tonite : Adelphia Cable Ch 15/22 8 PM
 Jan 11Open Mind: NBMHA Call in TV show: Ch 15/22 7PM
 Jan 17All Coalition Meeting : *Dreamer's Brunch* St John's Church NA 10 - Noon
 Jan 17*Learning Cooperative Play* NB YMCA 1:30 - 3 PM
 Jan 17*Candlelight Walk and Interfaith Service* Monument Square NA 4 PM
 Jan 18Coalition Steering Committee NA City Hall 1:30 PM
 Jan 18Open Mind : NBMHA Call in TV show : Ch 15/22 7 PM
 Jan 25Open Mind : NBMHA Call in TV show : Ch 15/22 7 PM

Writing of the Coalition News is a community project. The News is published and edited by Al Beahavin, Coalition Coordinator. News about our neighborhoods, Northern Berkshire Neighbors, is written by Natalie Cain. The Coalition welcomes contributions to its newsletter. Articles written in WordPerfect for the IBM can be mailed or dropped off to Kate Hill, Berkshire AHEC 725 North St, Pittsfield 01201. In Amherst, articles can be brought to Christine Driscoll at the office of Community Partners (253-4283). Call Kate at 447-2427 if you have questions about how this process works. Articles typed or in Macintosh format can be mailed (NASC Box 9075) or delivered to the Coalition office at Murdock Hall, North Adams State College. For inclusion into the February Newsletter, articles are due by January 20.



Yes, I will help to support the
 Northern Berkshire Health and
 Human Services Coalition !

Name _____
 Organization _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____

Please check-off appropriate amount (these are guidelines for giving) :

- Organizational Budgets over \$500,000 ----- \$500
- Budgets \$100,000 - \$500,000 ----- (.1% of budget) \$100 - \$500
- Budgets Under \$100,000 ----- (.1% of budget) \$ 25 - \$100
- Individual Contributions can be from \$10-\$100.

Our commitment to the Coalition is : \$ _____
 Please make your check out to the NBHHSC / AHEC
 Please return by December 31, 1993

Mail to : NBHHSC c/o Berkshire AHEC 725 North St, Pittsfield, MA 01201

- Interested in the following Task Forces : Public Health
 Family and Children's
 Coalition Steering
 Other _____