

25 years of service to the people of the inner city and greater Seattle

THE
CENTRAL AREA
MOTIVATION
PROGRAM

**A Brief History
of a Community in Action**



by Ivan King, CAMP Historian

DEDICATION

This historical document is dedicated to the courageous families who live in poverty in Seattle's inner city communities.

They vow that enough is enough and continue the struggle daily to care for their families and community. They volunteer and they are our clients. They are the motivating force of CAMP!

CAMP's history is the untold story of the efforts of the common people to organize their priorities and strategies for eliminating poverty in their community.

It's a story of people who spoke out and gained the support of church leaders, government officials, local corporations, school principals, labor unions and many others to unite and fight the local war against poverty. The institution of CAMP, the one the people built, survives today—and serves our community.

On behalf of the Board and Staff of the Central Area Motivation Program (CAMP), I would like to express deep appreciation to Ivan King who spent hundreds of hours researching and compiling materials necessary to produce this historical document.

Larry Gossett
Executive Director, CAMP
February 17, 1990

A Brief History of a Community in Action

THE FOUNDATION AND WAR-ON-POVERTY YEARS: 1964-68

In the Spring of 1964, before Congress even passed the Economic Opportunity Act, a group of Central Area residents and friends began development of a comprehensive anti-poverty proposal. Many civil rights leaders were pessimistic about the government funding any serious social change, and many social service administrators were skeptical about grass roots involvement. But once War-On-Poverty legislation was actually passed, interest intensified in this action plan for what would soon be christened the "Central Area Motivation Program." A mass meeting called by the Seattle Urban League and the Central Area Community Council in the Autumn of 1964 resulted in the formation of the Central Area Citizens Committee (CACC). This Committee became the vehicle for steering the proposal through local and federal bureaucracies. The first three CAMP staff members were hired on credit 865, in anticipation of the arrival of the actual federal dollars.

Around the country, most Economic Opportunity grants went to expand established agencies. CAMP became the first totally new, community-inspired program in the country to receive funding. And now—a quarter century later—it holds the distinction of being the oldest surviving, independent agency launched in that era. The now popular myth that the War-On-Poverty was a failure is repudiated by the productive history of the vast majority of people who shared in the formative years of CAMP. Equally crucial has been the changed image of the Central Area—physically and as a community with political, social, creative and intellectual forces acknowledged throughout the greater Seattle area.

In those first prolific years CAMP became the service arm of the Seattle civil rights movement. It grew to over 300 employees in the Summer of 1967. It encompassed a huge corps of volunteers, had some 25 pioneering programs involving a great army of participants and beneficiaries, and developed a broad network of cooperative community groups. The major arenas of service and action were as follows:

- **INTELLECTUAL:** After-school and evening homework help and educational enrichment for some 10,000 "latch-key kids" and other

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youth in 11 Central Area Study Centers (1965-67). A Parent Outreach Program assisted mothers and fathers promote the motivation and academic progress of their children. A joint CAMP-Seattle Public School "Counselling Bank" helped alienated students and parents reconcile with the public schools.

- **COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION:** Community Organizers working door-to-door, helped establish some 22 neighborhood self-help councils—to work on such issues as a north-south bus on 23rd Avenue, getting street signs and lights at dangerous intersections, blocking the R. H. Thomson Expressway, and securing a fair share of government services. Community-wide special interest organizations were mobilized and assisted, such as the ADC Motivated Mothers, Tenants Association, and groups to deal with discrimination by police, business, and unions. Thousands of citizens were mobilized to participate in the array of CAMP programs, voter registration, voluntary school transfer program, SOIC and other training/employment opportunities, and the Poor Peoples March on Washington, D.C.
- **ACTION EDUCATION:** CAMP's most wide-reaching program was its innovative, challenging Afro-American Heritage project ("Soul Search"). In its first year, some 7,000 children, youth and adults participated in a series devoted to de-mythologizing, re-educating and motivating people to positive personal and community action. Thousands more attended single-session dialogues. The core presentations were held in 11 Central Area after-school "Action Education Centers," which also provided help with school homework. Others were conducted in a variety of public and private schools and colleges, community facilities, churches, and places of employment. (1967-68). The program evolved out of cooperative, experimental projects with the Urban League, Central Seattle Community Council, and Central Area Committee on Civil Rights: Freedom Schools during the 1966 school boycott, the monthly Grass Roots Forums, and intensive youth and adult seminar series on "The Role of Blacks in Shaping Society." One notable accomplishment was initiation of credit courses on Black History within the public schools, effectively taught by CAMP education aids.
- **EMPLOYMENT:** CAMP job counselling, referral and training projects assisted thousands of unemployed and under-employed heads-of-households, teen-agers, welfare mothers, school drop-outs, ex-convicts, new immigrants, victims of racism, and socially, mentally and physically handicapped persons. Beside Employment Counselling Department and Teen Job Line services, some 500 youth and

adults filled earn-while-you-learn positions in regular and special "crash" programs. Trainees and para-professionals constituted the majority of workers in the Beautification, Action Education, Community Organization, Day Care, Performing Arts, Study Center and Youth departments.

- **YOUTH INVOLVEMENT:** The Youth Department promoted leadership and social and career skill development through Senior High and Junior High Teen Councils. They operated a self-help Job Line, organized Summer Festivals and other recreational activities, fostered inter-school and inter-community conflict resolution sessions, and participated in extensive career counselling. The Detached Workers served as a prototype for a variety of City and school programs, such as CSO (Community Service Officers). They had Central Area and City-wide "beats," working to preclude or defuse youth conflict and alienation. They helped resolve inter-high school antagonisms, rode school buses to facilitate school integration, walked the streets talking to gang members, sponsored rock concerts, operated recreational facilities, and employed "at risk" youth in community service.
- **CREATIVE ARTS:** CAMP encouraged and facilitated a succession of inspiring, courageous, and enlivening Black and multi-racial presentations in the fields of dance, drama, music, visual arts, literature and multi-media presentations—primarily under the auspices of the Performing Arts Department (1966-69) and Black Arts/West (1968-79). Special projects such as the Performing Arts Festival, Kanchoo Art Classes, Watts Writers Workshop and Dumas Players were interwoven with the activities of the Youth Department, Study Centers, Action Education Centers and other CAMP departments.
- **FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES:** The Day Care Centers were established in four churches. They enabled some 150 limited income and single parents to leave their children in safe, intellectually stimulating and enjoyable settings while they worked or received training at CAMP, SOIC, the UW, New Careers, and in various private sector "bridge" positions. CAMP contracted for or made special arrangements for service delivery by Family Counselling, Planned Parenthood, Visiting Nurse Service, Legal Aid, Consumer Protection Office, etc. Rank-and-file staff of CAMP promoted the development of the Central Area Federal Credit Union to promote thrift, community economic development, and consumer education and protection.
- **COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION, HOUSING AND RECREATION:** The Beautification Program helped develop three major

parks and a variety of mini-parks. It set an inner-city precedent by planting thousands of trees in parking strips. CAMP employed a Housing Specialist, generated CANDO (Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization), and sponsored SCORE (Seattle Community Organization for Renewal Enterprises). They designed plans for community facilities and rejuvenation, surveyed housing conditions, secured seed money for limited-income housing development, and guided families through bureaucratic red-tape—and otherwise helped them secure loans to buy, build or rehabilitate homes. Tot Lots supervised by youth aides replaced eye-sore vacant lots in a dozen locations, providing safe, convenient play areas for toddlers and young children.

- **VOLUNTEERS AND OUTREACH:** Aided by a full-time, unpaid Volunteer Coordinator, Central Area Citizens Committee activists and CAMP staff members diligently recruited, oriented, trained and/or worked alongside dozens of VISTA Associates, cohorts of students on field placements, and thousands of community volunteers. They worked from a few hours to many years as Study Center tutors, neighborhood advocates, Black Arts/West performers, Day Care and Action Education Center training specialists, fund-raisers, resource providers, publicists, artists, etc. This was a truly reciprocal relationship—giving those who gave a chance to develop their talents and their capacity for sharing. They had a chance to help remedy the historic poverty and racism which afflicted both them and their society. An internal newsletter called the Insider helped CAMP staff stay in touch with one another. CAMP communicated to the broader community through the Trumpet newspaper—to which staff, participants, volunteers and beneficiaries contributed articles and graphics. Hundreds of presentations on CAMP programs and social issues were made via TV and other media, community meetings, educational institutes, government hearings, etc., CAMP also published a variety of self-help brochures, multi-ethnic bibliographies, etc., during this period.

THE MODEL CITY CONNECTION: 1969-1973

Even before CAMP reached its zenith in size in 1967, a variety of counterforces were at work, hacking away at genuine community action programs. The War in Viet Nam was commanding an ever greater share of federal dollars. Conservatives withdrew their tacit support for the War-On-Poverty or stepped up their attacks on it, precisely because it was having an impact—and because they were frightened by the growing fusion of the civil rights and peace movement. Across the nation, many federal and local officials also wanted to wrest back the

token power briefly yielded to the poor, by tightening financial controls. Mainstream society was becoming nervous about challenges to its comfortable ways of thinking, as it began to recognize what far-reaching institutional changes would be required to truly eliminate poverty and racism in America.

The Economic Opportunity Act pursestrings were cut back severely as early as the Spring of 1967. CAMP had to accelerate an imaginative utilization of an ever-changing menu of funding sources. This tactic has allowed it to survive successive cuts and fragmentation of federal resources ever since. Though wide-scale support for a comprehensive battle against the roots of racism and poverty passed out of vogue, CAMP did not surrender its heritage of service.

The federal government designated the Model City Program and Concentrated Employment Program (CEP) as the new, primary vehicles for combating inner-city turmoil and decay during this period. Locally, a fortuitous inter-weaving of CAMP and Model City personnel and sentiments enabled CAMP programs and participants to endure the first of several major financial “retrenchments” over the years. Crucial developments during the late 1960’s and early 1970’s were: (1) Some of the same people who initiated the CAMP proposal in 1964 urged City officials to start advance Seattle Model City Program (SMCP) planning in late 1966—which led Seattle to become the first city in the nation to get its program operational. (2) Many CAMP-connected people served on the Mayor’s proposal committees during 1967, and CAMP’s Executive Director was selected as the SMCP Director in December 1967. (3) SMCP contracted with CAMP to mobilize citizen participation in its nine Task Forces during 1968-69. (4) A large number of CAMP employees were recruited into or found their way into SMCP jobs as CAMP was losing some major Anti-Poverty and Department of Labor grants. (5) CAMP became the delegate agency for several SMCP projects, or received SMCP money to sustain on-going projects. (6) The CAMP Firehouse was just a step across the street from SMCP’s headquarters. There were some similar developments in relationship to CEP. Major programmatic elements of CAMP during 1969-1973 were:

- **EDUCATION:** The Education Talent Search began in 1969 and continued for a dozen years—annually providing outreach, advocacy, guidance and/or financial assistance to hundred of limited-income high school, vocational and college students needing to resume or begin higher education. A nucleus of Afro-American Heritage staff struggled on after the feds withdrew funding. They functioned for a year on a fee-for-service basis, and the unique concept approach and methods of “Soul Search” became widely utilized or emulated for a decade.

- **COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION:** Besides mobilizing thousands of Central Area residents to participate in the Model City Program, CAMP Community Organizers initially provided para-professional staffing for the Task Forces, and secured child care and transportation for people otherwise unable to participate. Among the CAMP-connected activists helping develop and then staff SMCP and CEP projects were the ADC Motivated Mothers. This group proposed a guaranteed annual income experiment which was eventually implemented in Seattle—but under the auspices of the Department of Public Assistance. For a couple years, the Trumpet continued, and assisted Community Organizers in their call for resident participation in election of neighborhood representative on the CACC Board and in the newly-formed Central Area School Council, blocking construction of the “big ditch” (the R. H. Thomson Expressway), securing an adequate food stamp program, etc. As funding for Community Organizers dwindled, their role shifted from that of being neighborhood facilitators to being program specialists—for employment, health and welfare, youth, family resources, environment and housing, family nutrition, or arts and culture.
- **EMPLOYMENT:** This was crisis time in the Central Area, with actual unemployment running around 25%—as Boeing reduced its payroll to about one-fourth of its peak period. Nationally, the Model City Program had become a “pork barrel,” with funds spread out among hundreds of cities and towns—not just a couple dozen metropolises. In this context, SMCP’s resources were modest indeed; Seattle’s grant for five years was what it originally expected to get each year. But beside the few dozen CAMP jobs financed by SMCP, the agency also had arrangements with the Concentrated Employment Program to provide transportation, day care, recruitment, and “coaching” services. A number of current, former, and future CAMP activists played key roles in the SMCP’s Contract Compliance and Unionization Projects. One outgrowth was massive demonstrations at public construction sites in the Central Area and broader community lead first by the Central Contractors Association (CCA) and then by the United Construction Workers (UCWA), and the eventual Judge Lindberg decision forcing open construction trades and subcontracting opportunities for minorities.
- **CONSUMER AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES:** By the early 1970’s, CAMP was operating one of the largest Head Start Programs in the State (second only to that of the Seattle Public Schools). Five strategically located centers directly provided educational enrichment to nearly 200 children. Their parents were also brought into the

- child development process, in addition to being freed to pursue jobs and training. The Central Area Federal Credit Union thrived for a while and provided consumer education directly and through its award-winning newsletter called Briefs.
- **HOUSING, COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND ENVIRONMENT:** A Model City grant enabled CAMP to extend the life of SCORE for several years—helping marginal income families and non-profit groups buy, build or re-hab homes. CAMP’s multi-service center had shifted into the very makeshift facilities at the old Firehouse in February 1968 after the previous CAMP headquarters on 17th and Union were torched one night. The Firehouse was substantially rehabilitated in the early 1970’s, and became an ever more popular location for artistic, social action and other community functions. One that has continued to this day is the annual Children’s Christmas Party. Even before environmental concerns came into wide fashion, CAMP began weatherization of homes via its SMCP-assisted Minor Home Repair Project. The Beautification Department, which evolved into Operation Improvement, and eventually spun-off from CAMP, continued to provide employment experience for the “hard-core”—planting trees, collecting trash from vacant lots, mini-park development, etc.
- **CREATIVE ARTS:** SMCP helped Black Arts/West continue its tradition of presenting some of the most original, thought-provoking and inventive music, dance and dramatic performances witnessed in Seattle. BAW staff was contracted to help operate the Fine Arts magnet program at Garfield High School. In the early 1970’s, the Black Academy Music joined CAMP’S creative roster—providing training, performance opportunities, career education, and appreciation for Black aesthetics. Financial assistance for these programs came from attendees, enrollees, SMCP, PONCHO, foundation and government sources.
- **EMERGENCY AND SPECIAL SERVICES:** Detached Workers continue to dialogue with troubled youth, pacify conflicts, and sponsor alternative activities. Eventually, their functions were subsumed by other agencies, most notably the SMCP-funded Community Service Officers Program, which served as a principal resource for recruiting minorities into the Police Department. All transportation for the Seattle Public Schools’ Head Start Program was contracted to CAMP’S Transportation Unit, which operated 32 minibuses at the time. The new health station opened in the Central Area was named after Odessa Brown, the late Assistant Director for CAMP’S Community Organizers.

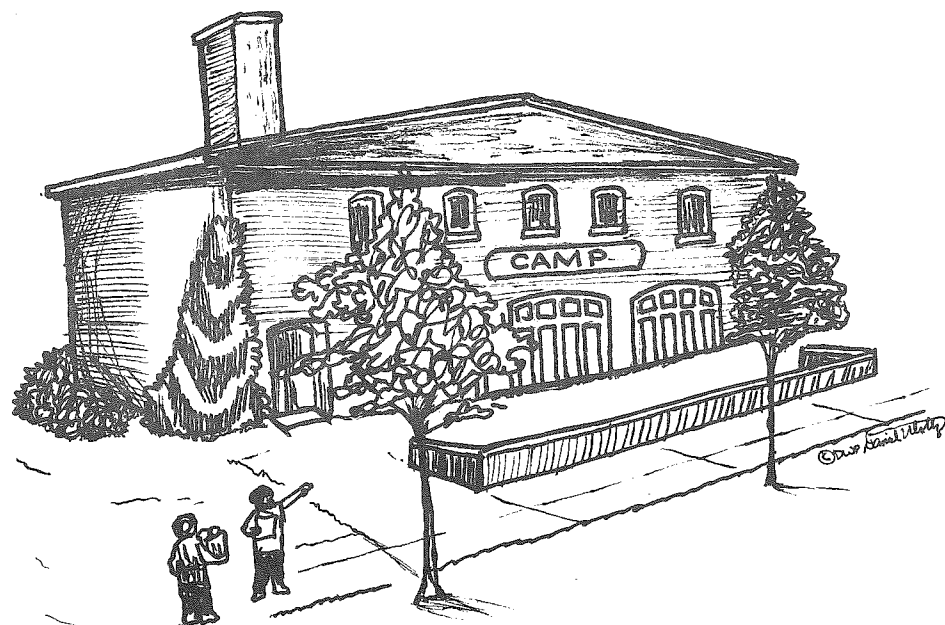
- **VOLUNTEERS AND OUTREACH:** During this period, a plethora of alternative programs opened in the Central Area and CAMP's resources contracted in size and became more institutionalized. Its capacity to recruit and productively employ volunteers was reduced. Nevertheless, scores of community residents, VISTA associates, and other friends devoted time to CAMP as members of the Central Area Citizens Committee, performers in Black Arts/West productions, funding advocates, etc. Women had always made up a majority of CAMP staff and the issue of women's rights constituted a significant ingredient of the Action Education Center curriculum. In 1970 the CACC sponsored a major symposium on "Black Women's Role in Today's World." CAMP associates and alumni lobbied the City Council to form a Women's Commission, and a number served on it and worked for the Office of Women's Rights after they were established. The CACC hired a woman to be Executive Director in 1971—a Seattle precedent in terms of the size and scope of the program and budget. A number of CAMP activists also were involved in the Seattle Human Rights Department and its Commission as these agencies rapidly expanded their scope to include contract compliance and affirmative action.

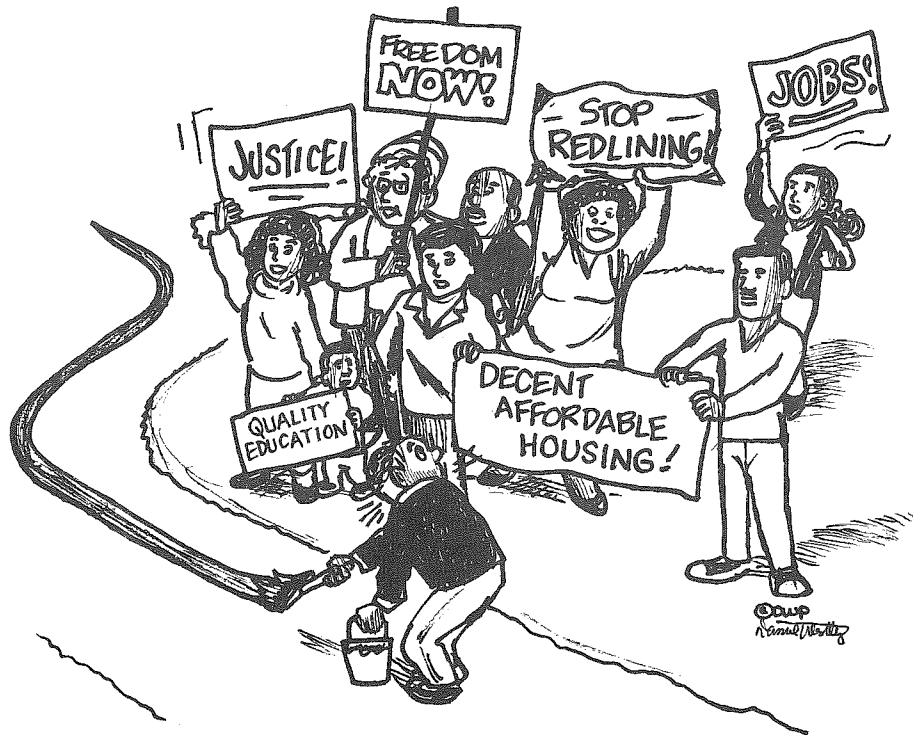
INSTITUTION OUTSIDE THE ESTABLISHMENT: 1974-1978

By 1974, CAMP was already one of the few surviving community organizations that got its start as a War-On-Poverty agency. Normally, any agency lasting a decade has become quite institutionalized, however innovative may have been its origins. But CAMP largely consisted of and served the poor and minorities—those outside the establishment. It could not maintain its credibility with its clientele without occasionally challenging the powers that be. It could not function exactly like a mainstream organization. Any failures or foibles attracted a great amount of criticism—compared, say, to any mis-steps by big military, big business or big government.

More than ever, however, CAMP's continued existence depended on direct contributions and creative access to an ever-changing mix of grants from government at all levels, church groups, foundations, corporate entities, and charitable sources. To maintain a coherent range of programs in a culture characterized by social issue fads and attuned to single issue approaches, CAMP had to start new searches for continuation or alternative funding almost from the moment it received grants from earlier quests.

In 1964, the Urban League staff had premised its community organization component for the CAMP proposal on the expectation that





massive public resources devoted to the elimination of poverty and discrimination would be curtailed long before the job was done. The hope was that the Central Area would be able to use the War-On-Poverty subsidy to become a powerful, self-supporting political force in the fight for a just, culturally plural society. If not, the residential ghettoization of poor Blacks would continue and rapidly expand southward through Rainier Valley—and fuse with high concentrations of Asians and other minority ethnic groups. In the 1974-78 era, CAMP responded to the predicted demographic changes by opening an annex and extending its services into Southeast Seattle. The expansion was effectively built upon a history of cooperative social action by Black and other minority activists during the early 1970's.

- **EDUCATION:** Current, former and future CAMP-connected people held many positions in the Central Area School Council, the Central Area School District Administration, and the City-wide Committee for Quality, Integrated Education. These activists monitoring curriculum, compensatory education, affirmative action, magnet programs, teacher training, grade re-alignments, and desegregation efforts as they impacted the poor and minority children of the Central Area—in opposition to very powerful, well-financed, anti-progressive groups formed elsewhere in the School District. CAMP continued its Education Talent Search Program, and was active in the Coalition Against the Bakke Decision—a decision pushing back the clock on affirmative action education, training and employment.
- **COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION:** One of the most ardent, well-publicized actions of this period was the battle against “red-lining” by the Central Area Housing Coalition, of which CAMP was a part. “Red-lining” referred to the practice of various businesses circling poor areas on a map with a red pen—and excluding them from service or imposing more stringent conditions for service. The primary concern of the CAHC was lending institutions which (1) denied housing loans in the Central and Southeast Seattle (2) demanded larger down-payments and higher interest rates, and/or (3) foreclosed more quickly in case of late payments. CAMP continued its decade-long struggle against the tremendously disruptive and expensive third Lake Washington bridge. It would make a big gash in the Central Area, generating massive dislocation in the lives of the Central Area residents, serve to further advantage the suburbs at the expense of the inner-city, and provide very little in the way of employment or economic development opportunity for minorities. Because the Black ghetto had for decades functioned as economic colony of the larger metropolis, CAMP's Executive Director spear-

headed a drive demanding that banks and other economic institutions re-invest profits to develop better lives and conditions in the Central Area.

- **YOUTH INVOLVEMENT:** CAMP was contracted to oversee the Seattle-King County Youth Action Council (1974-79). It operated through eight different centers—some of which focused on the special needs of Black, Asian, Hispanic, Native American, Polynesian and poor white youth. Programmatic concerns were development of leadership skills, combatting social isolation and delinquency, resolving conflict situations, developing job and community service opportunities, promoting multi-ethnic curriculum in the schools, and impacting public policy decisions affecting youth ages 12-18.
- **EMPLOYMENT:** Work experience and preparing for adult careers was a priority of the Youth Action Council, expressed in a variety of projects, such as RentKid. The “Left-Out Coalition,” of which CAMP was a part, lobbied for a greater allocation of CETA jobs (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) to community agencies vis-a-vis government bodies. CAMP’s Firehouse appropriately housed a major program to recruit minority and women fire-fighters. CAMP was delegate agency for the Pre-Trial Intervention Program funded by New Careers.
- **HOUSING:** Minor Home Repair and Weatherization became a core function of CAMP, beyond the demonstration period subsidized by the Seattle Model City Program. CAMP staff installed insulation and repaired or replaced non-structural features in some 350 low-income homes per year. Home-owners paid for materials based on ability to pay and/or availability of subsidies.
- **CREATIVE ARTS:** In the mid-1970’s, Black Arts/West and Black Academy of Music averaged hundreds of contacts per week—students taking lessons, instructors providing training, performers performing, and citizens attending productions and workshops. BAM had a community orchestra, provided a cultural enrichment program for inmates, and provided series of performances in the public schools.
- **EMERGENCY AND NUTRITION SERVICES:** Originally, the large-scale local food banks established in the early 1970’s in response to the huge Boeing lay-off were presumed to be short-term expedients. But the existence of a large and growing underclass led to food banks becoming a permanent part of the American and local scene because of: (1) The “cease-fire” in the War-On-Poverty and an

increasingly uncharitable governmental policy; and (2) Automation and the internationalization of American business—the massive extinction and exportation of unskilled and semi-skilled factory and farm jobs traditionally held by minorities. CAMP’s food banks became part of a long-term, institutionalized system—providing the most basic necessity of life. Related food and nutrition projects begun at CAMP during this period included a community farmers’ market, emergency food vouchers, outreach to and enrollment of families eligible for food stamps, and a variety of direct food services, such as free lunches for handicapped persons at the Carter Industrial Workshop.

- **CONSUMER AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES:** For several years, CAMP sponsored the Seattle Consumer Action Network (SCAN), which provided education and protective services related to landlord-tenant disputes, fraudulent trade practices, utility shut-offs, etc. SCAN published a monthly newsletter called Payback. CAMP acted as delegate agent for the Prisoner Coalition, and operated the Re-Entry Assistance Project for ex-convicts and persons at risk of criminal involvement. The Project provided job and educational guidance, social counselling, emergency assistance, and empathy. CAMP Head Start continued to serve a large number of children and their parents in four centers. CAMP sustained its connection to the Central Area Federal Credit Union, and assumed responsibilities for the Extended Services for the Elderly project.

PERSISTENCE AND STABILIZATION: 1979-1983

CAMP had been put on the defense by erratic financial resources, protracted external criticism, further conservatizing of public attitudes and government policy, and other factors. Central Area residents continued to support CAMP and identify with it as their program, but there was minimal general concern for poverty and racism—and hardly any notice of symptoms like the growing youth drug culture. Several major agencies under CAMP’s auspices were already destined to be de-funded or shifted elsewhere before this five-year span began. Staff size had already fallen from over 300 in 1967 to about 95 in 1979, and by 1980 it stood at around 40—where it has stabilized up to the present.

The loss of staff and funding support could not be offset by volunteer efforts alone. The new President completed the dismantling of the federal Community Services Administration and announced a policy of “volunteerism.” This was a hoax that could only work in an integrated society, if at all, where those experiencing crises were surrounded by neighbors with leisure and resources to help. Again, CAMP staff had to scramble for funds from new sources. City and State block

grants were received for basic, practical, definitely "no frills" projects like employment, emergency shelters, minor home repair and emergency services. United Way funds helped CAMP both endure and operate with some flexibility in response to changing needs and opportunities. The home energy assistance program was launched and new directions charted in the fields of self-help and economic development.

CAMP's low-income clientele was becoming more isolated, hopeless and full of despair than at any time in the agency's history. But staff rose to the occasion and instilled hope where there was none, motivated residents to action on basic domestic issues when few other groups were doing it, and stimulated community efforts to ameliorate the most devastating aspects of poverty as they affected the lives of poor people in central and southeast Seattle.

- **COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION AND OUTREACH:** A highlight of the period was the August 27 Coalition in 1983. It substantially operated out of CAMP and coordinated the efforts of some 100 organizations that came together in a massive march and rally for jobs, peace and justice. This demonstration was in concert with hundreds across the nation, commemorating the 20th anniversary of historic March on Washington—where Martin Luther King gave his landmark "I Have a Dream" speech. As another way of preserving the memory and hope of the great civil rights struggle of the 1960's, many current and former CAMP colleagues promoted annual marches on King's Birthday, sought to get his Birthday recognized as a legal holiday, and worked to get Empire Way renamed "Martin Luther King Way." The Trumpet newsletter was revived briefly as a quarterly. CAMP staff facilitated the work of the Affirmative Action Coalition seeking to minimize the effects of the Bakke decision, and, later, the Anti-Klan Network which fought against all forms of racial and ethnic harassment. The Firehouse became a popular place to rent by groups with an extraordinary range of concerns—from advancing the representation of Blacks in government and preserving ballot access for minor parties (here at home) to securing peace in Central America and fostering support for Solidarity in Poland.
- **EDUCATION AND YOUTH INVOLVEMENT:** The large Head Start Program, the Youth Action Council and the Education Talent Search had funding into 1979. CAMP also had administrative responsibility for staff at the Central Area Youth Association (CAYA) and Polynesian American Youth Association at this time. It continued to co-sponsor CAYA activities in subsequent years. CAMP activists were part of coalitions and other conscientious groups

struggling with the schools to produce effective education for minority children, provide equity in the sacrifices necessary for desegregation, develop a staff representative of the total community served, and give a rightful place to minorities and working class people in curriculum materials.

- **HEALTH, WELFARE AND FAMILY SERVICES:** CAMP housed the Displaced Homemakers Network in 1979—a fitting tribute to CAMP's former Volunteer Coordinator who had gone on to become a national leader fighting for the rights of the displaced homemakers. For several years, CAMP was the delegate agency for projects in the Samoan Community, at the Chinese Information Center and El Centro de la Raza. Staff at the latter conducted a county-wide assessment of service to racial minorities by health and welfare agencies. CAMP's information and referral staff maintained a file on 1,300 agencies and made over 10,000 referrals per year. CAMP produced workshops and brochures on every viable subject from effective food shopping to the hazards of nuclear war and ways Central Area citizens could work against nuclear proliferation.
- **EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Work began on re-generating an employment counselling, job development and placement service. CAMP joined in demonstrations by the Coalition for Full Employment and the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee to secure a greater share of City and County jobs for minorities. A significant venture into the realm of economic development was getting 10% of the shares of Sea-Com—which won the right to provide cable television services to the Central Area after nearly decade of delay.
- **EMERGENCY SERVICES:** As indicated above, CAMP devoted major attention to emergency services concerned with basic necessities of life because of severely reduced public employment and social service programs for the poor. The number of households and individuals relying on the food bank grew from about 60 to about 500 per week, and use of the clothing bank accelerated greatly. A number of businesses, churches and other community groups held benefits or provided resources for the food bank. Energy assistance was provided to some 2,400 people annually. The profile of CAMP's clients showed that about one-third were elderly people living on limited or fixed incomes.
- **CREATIVE ARTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS:** The Black Academy of Music and Black Arts/West were gone by 1980—due to a changed public mood about Black cultural programs, exhaustion of grants,

and the growth of alternatives—such as the UW Ethnic Culture Theatre with its strong institutional connection. However, CAMP became a regular co-sponsor of creative and cultural events such as the annual Black Community Festival. It helped put on a Third World Multi-Cultural Arts Festival for a week in December 1979, seeking to acquaint a larger audience with dance traditions, drama, symbolism, design art, and oral history of several cultures. CAMP hosted a display of “American Pictures,” a powerful visual portrait of poverty and racism in our nation. Their were five more annual installments of the famous CAMP Christmas Party for children, to which many community groups contributed.

- **HOUSING:** CAMP’s Minor Home Repair and Weatherization services continued through this era, and featured workshops teaching heads-of-household how to carry out simple procedures which could save them up to a third on their heating bills. CAMP also loaned tools and sponsored a labor exchange program that could include anything from baby-sitting to putting on a new roof. The “Rebound Program” recycled used and surplus building supplies to residents at minimal cost. The agency played a leadership role in the creation of the Central Area Public Development Authority, which formulated a comprehensive housing strategy for the area.

THE CURRENT ERA— THE MISSION CONTINUES: 1984-1989

The Central Area Motivation Program is distinguished by its emphasis on the critical link between service delivery and improved community response. CAMP’s current mission is to meet high priority, basic needs of the poor in a manner that will simultaneously stimulate increased social concern for social institutions that oppress the dispossessed. Those living hand-to-mouth must somehow find the hope and energy needed for self-improvement and community betterment. At the same time, CAMP seeks to motivate the comfortable in the public and private sector—so they can understand the ultimate aspirations of the poor to lead creative, productive, lives that can benefit all of society.

- **COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION AND OUTREACH:** Staff and volunteers have participated in a long list of community studies, educational efforts, cultural events, project co-sponsorships, coalitions, and direct actions. Some have been continuations of those from the early 1980’s. Previously unmentioned and newer ones include a Women’s Economic Rights Conference, a detailed study of adult unemployment, annual Kwanzaa celebration of Black culture, Central Area Human and Welfare Rights Organizing Committee,

Harambee Celebration, adult literacy tutoring, Inner-City Drug Abuse Task Force, Black Dollar Days, and various economic development feasibility studies. The CAMP Firehouse hosts a variety of meetings and events directly related to various arenas of service. As mentioned before, space is rented by a great range of community groups for forums, workshops, performances and social events.

- **EMPLOYMENT:** The motto of the current Employment Department is: “We value our standards, our integrity, our reputation—and yours!” CAMP’s free program prepares youth and adults for temporary jobs or permanent careers through counselling, intensive seven-day workshops concerning skills and attitudes required for success in today’s world of work, and referrals to educational and training opportunities. Clients are referred to jobs with motivation, and the assurance of post-employment counselling to aid good performance and successful pursuit of career goals. The service is funded by grants from the City, United Way and the Private Industry Council. Annual Job Fairs, student internships and other projects have been designed for workers needing job experience, discouraged by long-term unemployment, under-employed in relation to skills, or dislocated by the changed needs of industry and commerce.
- **HOUSING:** The Housing Assistance Program provides referral, emergency shelter and rent assistance. The Minor Home Repair Program provides weatherization and other minor home repairs for limited income households in Central and Southeast Seattle; homeowners supply materials. This program also serves as a work experience and training opportunity for unskilled, inner-city youth.
- **EMERGENCY AND ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:** Food, transportation, clothing, information and referral, and emergency funds are available through the Emergency Services Program—to alleviate long-range shortage of nutrition or help clients out of distress situations. CAMP’s Food Bank operates two days per week, and provides emergency bags of groceries daily. The Clothing Bank is open two days per week. The Energy Assistance Program operates during the cold months, helping low-income clients with oil, gas, electric and other heating costs. It also conducts workshops on conservation and utility bill management.
- **YOUTH SERVICES:** Besides consideration or incorporation of young people in all of the above projects, CAMP operates a Minority Outreach Program For At-Risk Youth. Counselling, advocacy and support services are provided to inner-city and suburban minority youth—directly and in liaison with their families, schools and

community agencies. CAMP is currently embarking on a new program called "Rites of Passage." Its aim is to instill a new sense of pride and wholesome purpose among youth 11-15 years of age who might otherwise be drawn into the gang and drug culture.

POSTSCRIPT: A PERSPECTIVE ON HISTORY

CAMP has initiated or aided in the development of an impressive array of institutions now serving the African American community and the larger metropolis. The number of people who have served and been served by CAMP is impressive—and mind-boggling. That is one reason why no names have been cited in this Silver Anniversary synopsis of CAMP history. Where would such a list begin and end? It could fill these pages and more.

The legacy of CAMP could be chronicled in the life stories of the thousands of individual employees, volunteers, participants and beneficiaries over the years. On the one hand, many CAMP alumni went on to brilliant careers as academicians, public officials and managers in private industry. Equally illuminating are the tales of those who struggled briefly, perhaps—had a few shining weeks, months or years—before sinking back under the weight of the long chains of alienation, pessimism, oppression and deprivation.

But the largest and most important core of CAMP history must be about the the collective accomplishments of collective action. About the vast majority of participants whose names will forever remain unknown to the general public. Their quiet or sometimes not so quiet persistence and devotion to daily service is what made the Central Area Motivation Program work. Without such followers, there would have been no acclaimed leaders. These are people who beat the odds against the twin perils of poverty and racism. Achieved a measure of stable self-sufficiency. Increased their awareness of social issues, and remained prepared for periodic involvement in community action. They have been an inspiration to their circle of family, friends and neighbors.

The stories are legion. Like the young man who came to Seattle from Harlem and became the first member of his clan able to go beyond high school—while a CAMP employee. He is now completing a decade service in the Sahel drought area of Africa, managing a large United Nations food relief program. Or the outwardly, stereotypical young mother on welfare—unmarried, insecure. But her flashes of literary brilliance as an education aide caught the attention of a UW Professor volunteering at CAMP, and earned her a four-year scholarship there. The school professionals among whom she now works are probably unaware of her humble background.

History is not just great names. The maxim of the old CAMP Action Education Centers was that we all could be myth-breakers and history-makers. We had it on no less authority than Martin Luther King, Jr. He is honored today while the names of many of equal courage and eloquence are forgotten, because he never ceased to remind his followers of how important they were in the struggle for justice and equality.

CENTRAL AREA MOTIVATION PROGRAM

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