

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMUNITY ACTION OF GREATER
INDIANAPOLIS, INC.

HON. ANDREW JACOBS, JR.

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 1996

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, we always hunger for good news. The following should be a very fine meal in this respect.

COMMUNITY ACTION OF GREATER
INDIANAPOLIS, INC.

To: Thomas L. Haskett, State Program Director

From: Nanci Morris, Foster Grandparent Program Coordinator, Community Action of Greater Indianapolis

Re: Impact, Meeting Community Needs

To address community needs, three priority areas have been targeted for Community Action's Foster Grandparent Program services: (1) special needs children in public schools, (2) children in homeless shelters, and (3) neglected and abused children in temporary homes and shelters.

1. SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dramatic increases have occurred in the number of mildly-to-severely disabled children enrolled in 19 elementary schools of the Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) that have been designated for mainstreaming these children. Budget cutbacks have not allowed for all classrooms with special needs children to have teacher's aides. Severely disabled children are assigned 8 to a classroom with 1 teacher and 1 aide, and moderately-to-mildly disabled are assigned 10-14 per classroom with 1 teacher and sometimes 1 aide. Thus, 8 schools with classrooms having no aides or not enough aides to adequately address the children's special needs have been selected as priorities for this Foster Grandparent Program's placements by the IPS Programs for Young Children, Special Education Department.

2. CHILDREN IN HOMELESS SHELTERS

The increase in children throughout the nation living without a permanent address has made serving homeless children a priority for all Foster Grandparent Programs as presented at the recent Foster Grandparent Conference in Washington, D.C. A survey conducted last fall indicated that there were at least 824 homeless children under age 15 in Indianapolis. Thus, serving homeless children has been identified as a community need for Community Action's Foster Grandparent Program. Program volunteers are placed at 6 of Indianapolis' seven homeless shelters serving families with children.

3. NEGLECTED AND ABUSED CHILDREN IN TEMPORARY HOMES AND SHELTERS

Reported child abuse in Indianapolis has risen 150 percent during the past 2 years. A decrease in the number of neglected, abused, sexually abused, abandoned, fetal alcohol syndrome, emotionally disturbed/disabled, and "crack" children is not anticipated for the foreseeable future. Funding for homes and shelters to serve these children have not increased accordingly. Thus, 7 shelters for abused children have been selected for Community Action Foster Grandparent services.

IMPACT ON COMMUNITY NEEDS

At the end of the 1994-95 school year, children assigned to Foster Grandparents were

tested and assigned to summer school for additional assistance as needed. To our knowledge, only three students assigned to Foster Grandparents were not promoted. The rest were able to keep up with their classmates after receiving the intervention of one-on-one Foster Grandparent instruction during the school year and summer school.

In addition to there being too few available, homeless shelters for families with children in Indianapolis are understaffed. There is a need for Foster Grandparent intervention during the parents' busiest hours (mornings) as they seek jobs and attend to other business. The one-on-one attention provided by the Grandparents eases the trauma and provides a sense of stability through loving and meaningful interaction for these children. Foster Grandparents help fit the children in suitable clothing in addition to helping provide for other physical needs. The parents enjoy guidance and support from the volunteers as well. Additionally, the shelter employees benefit in the traditional ways from the Grandparents' assistance. Consequently, the whole atmosphere of a shelter improves when a Foster Grandparent is around.

The staffs of homes and shelters for neglected and abused children alone can not adequately provide the level of attention needed there, particularly by the babies and small children. The maturity, stability, and love Foster Grandparents provide help the children respond in ways that would likely not be possible otherwise.

IMPACT ON THE VOLUNTEER

Many Community Action Foster Grandparent volunteers have worked with special needs children in the IPS system for years and continue to maintain regular contact with many of their former students. Having witnessed the progress these children have made, the Grandparents benefit from the abounding satisfaction they feel from having been a part of each child's paths to success. The Grandparents are encouraged and allowed by IPS to be creative, and the teachers gladly seek advice and new ideas from the Grandparents. A good example of this creativity at work was when children living in a homeless shelter were often teased by their school classmates. "Grandma" started a grooming session whereby the special needs children met her before school. She would check them over for tidiness, give them a pep talk, and then give them a liberal spray of after shave lotion or perfume as a reminder that she was with them all day. This soon caught on, and other children who weren't homeless sought out Grandma for some reassurance and a sweet smell. Thus, the Grandparents are rewarded in the best possible way for being creative. Additionally, each of the Grandparents is taught how to operate school office equipment such as the duplicator, copiers, and calculators. The children often assist the Grandparent in copying and preparing papers for the next day's work, honing skills and providing satisfaction for both. One school even offers computer literacy classes to the Grandparents.

Many of the Grandparents live near the shelters they serve. They know first-hand about the situations faced by the families as they starting over. Being able to offer the single parent support, guidance, and encouragement to "hold your head up" in the face

of diversity and loneliness, inspires the Grandparent and develops a sense of independence and self-worth for both parties.

Of course ultimate personal satisfaction comes when the family is ready to leave the shelter and thanks the Grandparent wholeheartedly for the time, advice, and loving attention given to the children at their time of need.

Reward likewise abounds for the Foster Grandparents who serve neglected and abused children. The sense of self-worth derived from these programs is priceless for the Grandparents.

IMPACT ON THIS AGENCY:

Foster Grandparents are highly valued by the school system, and thus a positive image of Community Action is presented to the agencies served as well as to the community at large. The Foster Grandparent Program enables Community Action to have significant contact with youth before they become teens and reject adult guidance. Grandparents are also able to refer children and their parents and alert agency personnel to the array of other Community Action programs available to meet diverse needs.

One example is Community Action's certified housing counseling program that includes a strong homeless assistance component. Foster Grandparents remind shelter workers to call upon this Community Action program for additional, on-going assistance to families as needed.

Community Action, the volunteer stations, and most importantly the people they serve benefit from cooperative relationships built through the Foster Grandparent Program.

REMARKS HONORING HUGH MILLER

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 1996

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the members of the Young Leadership Committee of the New York chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, as they hold their seventh annual masked ball honoring Hugh Miller. Known as an astute businessman in the world of finance, Mr. Miller is president and CEO the Delta Funding Corp., a company dealing primarily with the origination, purchase, and servicing of nonconforming residential mortgage loans. Indeed, the industry has looked to Mr. Miller for leadership, and he has served in that capacity as a representative of the National Home Equity Mortgage Association, National Mortgage Brokers Association, Executive Enterprises, American Community Bankers, Information Management Network, and Mortgage Bankers Association of America.

Yet despite the ongoing demands on his time and talents, Hugh Miller has vigorously and effectively undertaken a myriad of social responsibilities. Many diverse organizations including the National Kidney Foundation, Police Conference of New York and Nassau County, DARE, the American Cancer Society, the Leukemia Society of America, Hofstra University

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Scholarship Funds, and the Huntington's Disease Society of America have greatly benefited from his service. His experience in this regard has emerged as a yardstick by which all such future dedication is measured. Furthermore, in conjunction with the Interfaith Nutritional Network, Delta Funding has created the Delta Funding Inn, which caters to the needs of disadvantaged youths.

Mr. Speaker, in a time when we search for heroes and leaders, it is most reassuring to know that people such as Hugh Miller are tirelessly striving for the betterment of society. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Hugh Miller for his constant dedication in the regard.

METHAMPHETAMINE CONTROL ACT OF 1996

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 1996

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which will be a powerful tool in the fight against methamphetamine production and usage in our country.

The production and usage of methamphetamine, also known as meth, speed, crank, or ice, in the United States has grown alarmingly over the last several years. Meth has accounted for a dramatic escalation in the number of overdoses, emergency hospital admissions, drug shootings, and related violence in America's largest western cities and rural areas. Meth has unfortunately become the crack of the 1990's.

Meth causes psychotic and violent reactions in its users because it interferes with the brain's production of the natural chemical dopamine which plays an important role in governing movement, thought, and emotion. Users can go on binges which last as long as 24 hours and result in permanent psychological and physical injury. While most users are young males, meth has inevitably affected the very young. In fact, a generation of meth-addicted crank babies requiring constant care is rapidly filling our Nation's hospitals. These babies appear comatose, often sleeping 24 hours a day. Caretakers are forced to wake them in order to feed them, forcing their mouths open to accept nourishment.

Meth-related deaths increased nationally by 145 percent between 1992 and 1994. In California, which has been identified by the Drug Enforcement Administration as a source country of methamphetamine, more than 400 deaths and suicides have been blamed on meth use. Other States have reported similar record numbers.

Meth production also poses severe environmental problems. It literally poisons the communities where it is produced. For every pound of meth that is produced, seven gallons of waste are also produced. A record 465 meth labs were seized in California in 1995, each a toxic waste site requiring immediate and expensive cleanup by hazardous materials teams. In rural areas, this waste is dumped into waterways and on to fertile farming soil. In 5 to 10 years, this poisonous sludge is found in the ground water of nearby communities. In urban areas, abandoned meth labs in apartment buildings make these units and buildings virtually uninhabitable.

This bill is a straightforward solution to the problems created by meth production and usage. First, the bill establishes new controls over the key chemicals necessary to manufacture meth by forcing chemical supply houses to control more strictly the sale of the legal substances which are the precursor chemicals of methamphetamine. Second, the bill increases the criminal sentences for possession and distribution of these chemicals or of the specialized equipment used to make meth. Civil penalties collected will be used by the Environmental Protection Agency to clean up clandestine meth labs seized by law enforcement.

The problems posed by meth are real. This highly addictive drug is cheap, readily available, and easy to manufacture. By more closely regulating the raw materials used to manufacture methamphetamine and by strengthening the criminal penalties for possession of key chemicals and meth paraphernalia, this bill will be an excellent tool in the war against the crack cartels.

TRIBUTE TO GEOFF PIETSCH AND CARLOS BARQUIN

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 1996

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to give my congratulations to two remarkable individuals, Geoff Pietsch and Carlos Barquin, who have used their great skills and exceptional dedication in order to bring their respective cross-country teams, Ransom Everglades School and Belen Jesuit Preparatory School, to State victories in Class 4A and Class 3A.

Coach Carlos Barquin, who has been coaching Belen's boy's cross-country for the last 26 seasons, was finally able to feel the joy of victory when his Wolverines took home the school's first State title in any sport, winning the Class 4A race at the State championships with 75 points.

Coach Geoff Pietsch also has had much to cheer about with his boys cross-country team at Ransom Everglades as he watched them capture first place with 71 points and as they went on to win their fourth State title.

Both Belen Jesuit Preparatory and Ransom Everglades are Dade County Schools whose coaches and students exhibited the importance of good coaching, excellent team effort, the skills to go ahead and the drive to be No. 1. Coaches Pietsch and Barquin are exceptional individuals who have dedicated their lives to not only teaching their students how to win, but have also shown that team effort and individual dedication are the key to ultimate success. They were both recognized as Florida Coach of the Year for their respective divisions.

I congratulate both coaches on their great work and dedication and I hope that they will continue to keep up the exceptional work in the future as they have done in the past. They are both truly a fine example to all of us.

COMMENDING THE BROOKLYN IRISH-AMERICAN PARADE COM- MITTEE ON ITS 21ST ANNUAL PARADE

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 1996

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Brooklyn Irish Parade Committee by including a draft resolution into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

DRAFT OF PROCLAMATION/LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

COMMENDING THE BROOKLYN IRISH-AMERICAN PARADE COMMITTEE ON ITS 21ST ANNUAL PARADE

Whereas, The Brooklyn Irish-American Parade reflects and records the ongoing history of the United States and Ireland, our people, their heritage and the many contributions and accomplishments of the Irish to their Community, Borough, City, State and Nation; and

Whereas, This parade encourages an appreciation of an ancient Irish heritage; and

Whereas, This event is a celebration of Brooklyn's cultural diversity and richness; and

Whereas, This Parade takes place on the historic site of the Battle of Brooklyn, August 27, 1776 in which Irish Freedom Fighters and Americans of other ethnic cultures gave their lives to secure Independence for our America; and

Whereas, The Spirit of '76 was, and still is, the ideal of the Brooklyn Irish-American Parade, this year the Parade Committee and its officers take particular note and recall the bicentennial of the United Irishman leader, Wolf Tone's invasion of Bantry Bay in West Cork and the prospects for peace in a United Ireland; and

Whereas, The people of Ireland and America have always shared a common heritage in the struggle of free men and women to govern their own affairs and determine their own destiny; and

Whereas, Despite religious persecution, famine, colonial occupation and political oppression, the sons and daughters of Ireland, scattered throughout the world, never forget their ancestral home; and

Whereas, This parade is dedicated to the memory of Eddie Farrell of Farrell's Bar, well-known Brooklyn Irish-American Businessman, benefactor of numerous charitable causes and long time supporter of the Brooklyn Irish-American Parade; and

Whereas, This year's Grand Marshal is Patrick D. Brennan, Deputy Chief, New York City Police Department, a life long resident of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Bay Ridge, Brooklyn and a native of County Mayo, Ireland, his wife Monica and their six children: Maureen, Tara, Martin, Dermott, John and Patrick, now therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Legislative Body/Office pause in its deliberations to commend the Brooklyn Irish-American Parade Committee on its 21st Anniversary Parade to be held on Sunday, March seventeenth, nineteen hundred ninety six; its Grand Marshal, Patrick D. Brennan, Deputy Chief, New York City Police Department and his Aides, Sister Kathleen Sullivan, (Education) Principal of St. Francis Xavier School; Christopher Byrne (Irish Culture) of "Black 47" Band; Seamus Lang (Business) of Bear Stearns; Catherine Mitchell-Miceli (United Irish Counties); Sean Egan (Gaelic Sports) of Brooklyn Shamrocks Football Club; Kay O'Keefe (Ladies A.O.H. Kings County