

# A View From The Governor's Office

By Gov. Raymond P. Shafer

In the next few days, 1,158 youngsters — boys and girls of low-income families all across Pennsylvania—will be returning to their high-school classrooms with a whole new outlook on life.

These 16 and 17 year old Pennsylvanians will have had the opportunity to help their poverty-stricken families financially while finding out that someone really does care about their problems.

The young people are part of the 1968 summer Neighborhood

Youth Corps project. They have gone to work all summer in the State forests and parks and in State health institutions, doing interesting work. This has given them money in their pockets and self-respect in their hearts.

Four years ago, the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare looked over the assistance rolls to find 1,200 young people from the most poverty-stricken families in the Commonwealth. All boys for the first two years, they worked under the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and

Waters and the Historical and Museum Commission in the fields and forests, cleaning up the countryside for all Pennsylvanians.

Last year the program was divided among boys and girls, with the young ladies caring for patients in State institutions. This year both boys and girls, from Philadelphia and Pittsburgh worked in the health institutions. Boys within daily busing distance of wooded areas worked to improve picnic, hiking, and nature areas.

Each year, more than 90 percent of the youngsters return to school in the fall. We know this because we follow up each young person to see if our back-to-school encouragement has worked.

I think the program succeeds because we take the most needy youngsters. We help them get to work. We provide their meals and, sometimes their work clothes. And there are three people always available to step in to help each boy or girl if personal or family problems come up during the summer. The group leader who shepherds the youngsters, the work supervisor, and the social case worker back in the youth's home neighborhood, all are available to talk over difficulties. Every effort is made to keep the youngsters from becoming dropouts.

This Neighborhood Youth Corps summer plan is only part of the Commonwealth's effort to

encourage pride and self-respect among those Pennsylvanians who are temporarily down on their luck.

We have a year 'round program for the 18 to 21 age group. These youth work 36 hours a week in State institutions. Most come away from the program with a new self-respect and an interest in trying new ways to find work.

The State operates a 40 hour work week career training program for adults on the public assistance rolls. And we've just begun the Governor's Commonwealth Career Program. This lets us place in State institution jobs those who can't qualify under Federal grant-in-aid programs.

About 80 percent of the youth and adult programs are paid for with money returning to this State from Washington, except the Commonwealth Career Program which helps those unavailable for Federal help.

All of these programs have one common thread of purpose. They help us seek out the most needy Pennsylvanians. They let us help jobless people gain the dignity of a job.

Self-respect is built, and with it comes pride. And that is the most important thing for every human being to live a full and fruitful life.

### ● Deadline

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The county committee supervises the \$546,500 per year business of the county ASCS office and is responsible for administering the price-support, acreage diversion, agricultural conservation, and other programs in the county. The community committees assist the county committee and are particularly responsible for keeping their neighbors informed about the programs.

Chairman Seldomridge urges farmers to be sure to sign the statement on the back of the outside envelope containing the plain envelope with the ballot for the community committee election. This statement is a certification that the ballot was marked by the farmer personally without undue influence by any person. The ballot will not be counted unless the statement is signed.

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