

# Outreach means life itself to millions

By JOYCE BUPP

Staff Correspondent  
NEW WINDSOR, Md. —

"Programs of compassion" they call them. And to some of the millions of homeless, injured and needy around the world, the outreach that begins at a small campus here has literally meant life itself.

The Brethren Service Center at New Windsor sits atop a knoll at the edge of the quiet town, overlooking the rich soils and well-tended farms of Carroll County. Through the efforts of a dedicated staff of 125, and devoted volunteers who come to help for a day or a year, aid pours out from the interdenominational efforts of Church World Service (CWS).

Founded in 1848 as a Catholic College, the Center's history includes a period as a men's prep school, a Presbyterian co-ed college and later use as a Brethren liberal arts facility.

In 1944, a far-sighted layman envisioned the potential of the campus and the property was purchased for \$34,400. As the needs have grown, so have the compassionate programs of the Service Center, based on the philosophy of the major peace churches, the Brethrens, Mennonites and Quakers.

As a headquarters for Church World Service programs, the outreach deals with emergency disaster aid, health assistance and long-term self-improvement technology, much of it in the area of basic agriculture.

One major thrust is through the "heifer project," established as an alternative to sending powdered milk to hungry families. Recipients of a gift heifer must, in turn, pass on

the animal's first female offspring to another needy family.

"We've had 10,000 sea-going cowboys through this effort," proudly relates guide Blanche Geesaman, a current resident-volunteer whose home is in Lebanon County, Pa.

National headquarters for the heifer program was housed at New Windsor for a period of time. A regional branch of the present headquarters at Little Rock, Ark., will be established here soon to help coordinate this farmer-to-farmer sharing. In addition to the meat and milk heifers sent, shipments of other basic farm breeding stock include sheep, swine and rabbits.

CROP, (the Christian Rural Overseas Program), is another agriculture program. With funds and commodities raised by individuals and church groups in nationwide drives, CROP provides cash gifts for seeds, tools, tractors, wells and windmills to subsistence farmers.

Even ladybugs have been sent as a tool of self-help to some tropical countries. They're used in areas where aphids, a ladybug's favorite food, destroy the date palm trees, a major source of some food staples.

Through the phenomenal growth of medical assistance needs, a huge new packing warehouse has been built to house drug and food stocks. Established in 1961, the Inter-Church Medical Assistance (IMA) handles tons of drugs, health supplies, contraceptives, dental needs, physical therapy equipment and hospital beds, some donated by private manufacturers or government programs and others purchased at reduced cost.

Shipments depart



Mary Little, a secretary of CROP (Christian Rural Overseas Program) displays a "Remsen baby blanket" a pattern especially designed by a

volunteer for an easily-constructed infant wrap. Hundreds of these warm scrap-yarn creations have been sent to families worldwide.

frequently by tractor-trailer from the Center to deep-water harbors at Baltimore and New York, or to New Orleans for South American destinations. Workers at New Windsor pack the cargo

in large metal barrels, with the tops welded shut, both to deter theft of the contents of the vital shipments and so that female missionaries can roll the heavy containers into their jeeps.

A simple four dollar blanket, purchased with the funds of Church World Service, is representative of the massive disaster aid program.

When Guatemala was

struck by a severe earthquake, 26,000 of the dark gray, 80-per cent wool, 20-per cent synthetic blankets were among the disaster

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