

CARING MINISTRIES

Seki City, a mushrooming public housing development, near Salisbury, Zimbabwe, is experiencing, as are many African cities, a phenomenal population growth. The thousands upon thousands of people flocking to Seki City were refugees fleeing a 7-year war that devastated their rural communities. They came seeking jobs and a

One priest and two Anglican nuns serve the pastoral needs of the growing St. Monica's congregation.



Seki City, Zimbabwe, is now the home of almost a million people, who came to the city for security, jobs, and the opportunity to educate their children.



secure place to live; what they found were few jobs for which they are qualified, cramped housing, and food and transportation costs that reflect the spiraling inflation rate.

Seki City was designed in the mid-1970's to house about 80,000 people; it now has a population of close to one million. The overflow is housed in shanties and squatter shacks in and around the government-built housing.

There are enormous pastoral needs when people are attempting, with meager resources, to help new arrivals—especially when they themselves are still trying to come to grips with all the strange problems of urban living. The church can and does provide the one stable element in their lives. A Salisbury congregation has built a roof on strong supports to provide the new St. Monica's congregation with a worship shelter. A 1979 two-year UTO grant of \$9,000 provided for the support of a priest and three nuns to lead the pastoral ministry at Seki City. The mission congregation will, as they can raise funds, complete their church, closing in the walls between the concrete supports; and beginning in 1982 they will assume partial responsibility for the support of their priest.

The 1979 UTO grant to the Diocese of Newark, for the **North Porch** helped support a caring ministry with women of the inner city, giving them exposure to women from similar backgrounds who had successfully broken the bonds of poverty and despair.

Produced by Seabury Professional Services 1P/0781/200M

United Thank Offering Grants in Support of

URBAN MISSION



HEALING MINISTRIES



Nurse practitioner, Betsy Finlay, examines a patient at the Washington Free Clinic.

recruiting of more professional health volunteers and lay people who, after completing a 10-week training course and six-month internship, can serve as para-professional medical screeners.

A 1980 UTO grant of \$15,000 assisted this healing ministry to become established in a new inner city location, just as an earlier grant of \$40,000 had helped re-establish a multifaceted alcoholism treatment facility in busy downtown San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Under the direction of a licensed health professional, a specially trained volunteer medical screener interviews a clinic patient.



The **Washington Free Clinic**, located at St. Stephen's Church in the center of the nation's capital, offers a variety of health services in a neighborhood where unemployment is the highest in the city. The District Health Service, which had served the neighborhood, was forced to close—due to budget cuts. Now the **Free Clinic**, with a paid staff of two people, and the services of volunteer doctors, nurses, physicians' assistants, lab technicians, pharmacy staff, and about thirty specially trained lay-medical screeners, is the only health resource for those in the neighborhood who cannot afford health insurance yet do not qualify for Medicaid or Medicare.

The clinic provides low cost/free patient-entered care, while encouraging clients to participate in the decisions regarding their own health care. In addition to general health care, birth control and pregnancy counseling, routine gynecological care, and screening for sexually related diseases, are available.

Goals for the future include offering a health education program in nearby junior high schools, focus on adolescent health issues, and extending the hours the clinic is open beyond the current three evenings a week. Key to this will be the



The Rev. Richard Koch, director, and Leah Mae Carlisle, chief tutor, compose the staff of Operation Breakthrough.

Participants are encouraged in independent study, with assistance readily available.

TEACHING MINISTRIES

Operation Breakthrough, a program of the Watertown (New York) Urban Mission, uses volunteers to help tutor young ex-offenders lacking in the education and training to gain entrance to the job market. A companion program, **Jobs Unlimited**, places them in work situations where they can gain practical experience.

Jeff, on long term probation for his only very serious crime, was personable and eager when he arrived in early 1980. He liked and did well at work, but had real difficulty keeping his tutoring appointments. Patient encouragement from his tutor helped him understand the nature of the contract they had made with each other, and his studies slowly improved. The high school equivalency diploma, which he received a year later, was a source of pride and gave him a sense of real accomplishment.

Rose and Bill, a young married couple—both with public records—joined the program to prepare to take their equivalency exams. Bill passed the exam, but Rose failed by one point. Their marriage had not been ideal; it was further threatened when Rose reacted to her disappointment over failing the exam with overt physical violence. Strongly encouraged to continue to work together at their studies, Rose in her second attempt successfully completed the exam. Their employability improved, and their marriage is still intact. They have taken a first positive step together toward their future.

Concerned volunteer tutors are the key to this program, according to its director, the Rev. Richard Koch. "Mature men and women reach the

students more easily than younger volunteers. There is no sense of competition, and the students react with more courtesy and cooperation—which helps the learning environment." The 1979 matching grant of \$20,000 to the Diocese of Central New York helped to establish **Operation Breakthrough**.

Archbishop Gregory Hla lays the cornerstone for the new parish hall at Holy Trinity Church in Rangoon, Burma.



Education is the primary activity in the new parish hall of Holy Trinity Church in Rangoon, Burma. Bible classes, as well as skills training, are offered for the Anglican Youth Association, the Mother's Union, and other community groups—now that a year-round meeting space is available. The 1980 UTO grant of \$31,000 supplemented local fund raising to complete the building.

LISTENING MINISTRIES

St. John's Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma provides the site for **Resonance**, a ministry of listening for women who need understanding and support during a time of transition or special difficulty. One-to-one confidential listening services are available, free of charge, to any woman in this

A Resonance workshop helps women learn skills that will help them to handle change as an opportunity for growth.



midwest metropolitan center. Initial support for this preventative mental health program came from two United Thank Offering grants totaling \$17,500. The program is now completely supported by individual and corporate contributions.

Resonance listeners do not give advice and are trained to listen empathetically and to be non-judgmental. A woman is encouraged to sort out her feelings; she learns to discover alternatives in

The Rev. Eleanor Hill, director of the Resonance ministry of listening.



her situation; she is helped to do her own problem solving and decision making. Through workshops she can gain specific career and work skills, as she learns to clarify her values and grow in self-understanding.

During 1980, 330 women used the listening services and about 400 women participated in 27 workshops—which taught skills in: communications, decision-making, assertiveness, career goal development, management, and public speaking. The Rev. Eleanor Hill, director, says: "We operate on the premise that there is a 'rightness' and a potential for harmonious personal growth in all change." **Resonance** is a ministry of women reaching out to other women with empathy and support.

Listening to young people in crisis is the ministry of the **Hot Line Service** in Panama City, a teeming international crossroads. Jointly sponsored by the University of Panama and the Episcopal Diocese, the Hot Line received initial support from a 1977 UTO grant of \$15,000.

HOUSING MINISTRIES

Church-sponsored housing for young people, who flock to the cities of East Asia in search of education and jobs, provides them with safe shelter and offers the church opportunities for evangelistic outreach as well. Providing healthy and constructive recreational alternatives to the sometimes attractive but often dangerous activities available on city streets is a very real part of the ministry of youth hostels. UTO grants have built two such hostels in recent years—in 1978 in Tai Nan City, Taiwan, and in 1979 in Busan, Korea.

Living on the streets is often the only alternative for the people who find temporary shelter at the **Samaritan House** in White Plains, New York.

Located on the top floor of the Grace Church Parish House, **Samaritan House** provides dorm-like accommodations for as many as twelve men and women for periods of up to three weeks. "Nobody comes to us who hasn't run out of family and friends," says Pat Hatheway, the volunteer director. "Most are in the lowest income level and could use very cheap housing; but the places where they would have stayed in the past, such as rooming houses, are all being torn down in urban renewal."

What people find here is help with their problems and a sense of community, a place where those without hope can give hope to each other. Supported now by local churches and the diocesan Episcopal Churchwomen, with some state support, it was the UTO grant of \$10,000 in 1978 which met and solved one of the two major start-up problems. The second, community resistance,

was tackled by the Grace Church rector, the Rev. Herbert Draesel, and the willing and committed volunteers from the parish.

Meals are a time of fellowship and sharing at Samaritan House in downtown White Plains, New York.



LISTENING . . . in Tulsa & Panama City
PREACHING . . . in Lisbon & San Diego
HEALING . . . in Washington D.C. & San Juan
CARING . . . in Salisbury & Newark
FEEDING . . . in St. Louis & Miami
HOUSING . . . in White Plains & Tai Nan City
PLANTING . . . in Chicago & Cordoba
TEACHING . . . in Watertown & Rangoon
NURTURING . . . in San Francisco & Guatemala City
TRAINING . . . in Boston & Blantyre

This list includes just a few of the 120 plus urban ministries listed on the United Thank Offering grant lists during the past five years. The ten grant stories are representative of the growing concern of parishes and dioceses, both in the United States and overseas, to reach out in mission and ministry to the billions of people who struggle to exist in the busy urban centers around the globe.

Behind each brief grant description there is often a core of Christian lay people who, with a growing understanding of their call to ministry, are trained to give themselves in service to meet both the spiritual and physical needs of others.