

Hope inspires.



Wandering Mentally Ill on Increase

By JEAN TYSON
There is evidence that the wandering mentally ill are on the increase in this country. Travelers Aid, an agency with a mandate to help transients and newcomers to a community, is seeing an increase of persons who are mentally or emotionally disturbed in its case load.

Last year we served 8,100 persons through 4,600 cases," said Eleanor M. Hynes (Ph.D.), executive director of Travelers Aid of Metropolitan Atlanta. "In the past between 15 and 17 per cent of our clients were mentally or emotionally disturbed to some degree. Last year it was at least 50 per cent and we expect there are more than the figure indicates."

"In 1976, we had 773 cases in which one or more persons had marked emotional disturbances. This doesn't include the moderately and slightly emotionally disturbed."

Travelers Aid is often the first contact an individual or family has when coming into a new community. The agency is in a position to know what people's problems are long before other agencies can put out statistics.

"We knew unemployment was going on long before the labor department got out its statistics," Dr. Hynes said. "We saw it in our case load. In the 60s we had the drug and runaway problems. We still have some of this, but not as much as before."

"We had the economically disabled in 1973. People were laid off from the carpet mills and other textile industries around the Southeast. They came to Atlanta looking for help and jobs."

"We are the barometer of the community. We have to change our focus as the needs of people change. Now we are seeing an increase in the wandering mentally ill."

It is suspected that some wandering mentally ill travel from large city to large city seeking help at Travelers Aid. Last year the New Orleans



Dr. Hynes: This Is a Growing Problem

the client agrees, we still follow the case. This couple is receiving help now, but no one knows when they may decide to go wandering again.

"We are finding more and more of our clients are in situations where the families are burned out."

Travelers aid is a United States-wide organization.

"We still have some simple cases to handle, but we are having more and more that are complicated."

"We are finding with the wandering mentally ill, we are having to spend increas-



'No luck at all' Troubles trail couple down the road to Atlanta

By Jim Aschmeyer
The agency arranged to send them to the apartment. However, that is just through Monday.

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Imperial Hotel

Travelers Aid Volunteer Named To Board



MRS. PAT TYSON (R), TRAVELERS AID VOLUNTEER Shows With Maria Robertson, Helen Steele

When airline passengers arrive at the Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport they leave the PeopleMover, ride the escalator to the main floor and some may stop to ask directions. Most frequently their inquiries are directed to one of the ladies behind the desk which is marked "Travelers Aid."

Each Thursday Mrs. Pat Tyson can be found behind the desk during the morning and early afternoon assisting passengers.

Mrs. Tyson says she looks forward to serving on the Board of Directors, but still wants to continue her volunteer work at the airport.

She has done volunteer work for Travelers Aid since February 1979 and said she "loves it." She and other volunteers get nothing for their long hours of work except appreciation and the enjoyment of helping others.

1980



HAVEN FOR HUNGRY: St. Luke's Episcopal Church, other kitchens feed 800 to 900 people daily.

Homeless served hope at community kitchens

By Greg Wichter © Staff Writer

It was a cold day in the city of Atlanta, Ga., where the homeless are often seen on the streets. At St. Luke's Episcopal Church, however, people are fed and served with hope.

More than 150 people are served at the church's kitchen. The food is prepared by volunteers and served to the homeless. The kitchen is open every day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, other kitchens feed 800 to 900 people daily.

Margaret Moody At Traveller's Aid

My name is Margaret Moody and I am a freshman at Montreat-Anderson College in North Carolina. I am pursuing a major in Social Welfare and was fortunate enough to be offered an internship at Traveler's Aid related to that field.

Traveler's Aid of Metropolitan Atlanta began with the efforts of the Atlanta Women's Missionary Association in 1900. This organization was composed of divoinded women representatives of many religious denominations, and they installed the first Traveler's Aid worker in the Union Depot, then at Five Points, on October 1, 1901. The main objective of the Traveler's Aid Society of Atlanta (it was then called) was to assist persons - regardless of age, race, or creed and including families - who were having problems which caused them to move, that happened while moving, or that resulted from moving. This remains the objective of the present day Traveler's Aid, though now our clientele is worldwide.



Margaret Moody

As people lost their homes due to the economy, the Reagan administration intentionally and effectively changed the perception of homelessness, convincing the public that homelessness was the product of untreated mental illness, drug addiction, and alcoholism to make the public see homelessness as a result - not of the White House's policies but as the fault of personal pathologies.

"Housing First" movement originates in the early 1990s

The "Housing First" movement originated in the early 1990s, with the Pathways to Housing program in New York City considered the birthplace of the formal model that would reframe how Hope Atlanta approached its mission and daily work. Housing First is a policy that offers unconditional, permanent housing as quickly as possible to homeless people, and other supportive services afterward. There is a substantial base of evidence showing that Housing First is both an effective solution to homelessness and a form of cost savings, as it also reduces the use of public services like hospitals, jails, and emergency shelters.



American nonprofits manage many of the functions performed by governments elsewhere in the world in providing a safety net for vulnerable people. Ed Powers became the Executive Director of Hope Atlanta in January 1994. Under Ed's leadership, the organization transformed itself by adopting the Housing First model and adjusted programs and staff accordingly adding resource development managers, site coordinators, translators, emergency services coordinators, and transitional housing coordinators.



1999 Supreme Court Decision

Georgia woman and Atlanta Legal Aid Society are lauded as equal to the "Brown v. Board of Education" decision for disabled people.

Olmstead v. L.C. (Lois Curtis) is a landmark case that originated in Georgia and has been lauded as the Brown v. Board of Education for the law of disability discrimination. The majority opinion in Olmstead v. L.C. issued on June 22, 1999, called into question the "unfit to live" ruling. "Unnecessary segregation of persons with mental disabilities perpetuates unwarranted assumptions that such persons are unfit [emphasis added] for or unworthy of participating in community life," Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote for the majority. "Unjustified institutionalization of persons with mental disabilities...is discrimination," the Court wrote. Lois Curtis (L.C.) and Olmstead, the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Human Resources, (Olmstead v. L.C.) was a 32-year-old African American, developmentally disabled woman with a mental health disability who spent 20 years in Georgia jails and mental institutions from age 11 to 31. A regional system of six additional mental hospitals was established, with Milledgeville State Hospital being renamed Central State Hospital in 1967. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution in 2007 called "A Hidden Shame" prompted another public outcry and a threatened lawsuit against the state by the U.S. Department of Justice.



Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg announced the decision of the Court on June 22, 1999

Lois Curtis even though her life today is beyond what she ever could have imagined, when she made the first of many brave phone calls to my office at the Atlanta Legal Aid Society saying, "I want to get out!" The journey (and struggle) from that day includes an historic Supreme Court decision, a home of her own and a successful career as an artist. And now, a meeting with President Barack Obama in the Oval Office as we observe the 12th anniversary of the Olmstead Decision.



Amid the HIV/AIDS crisis that began in the 1980s and widened in the 1990s, Hope Atlanta assisted those affected to secure housing through the City of Atlanta's Housing for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA).

