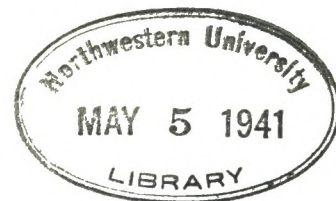


FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

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WIDESPREAD BENEFITS OF WPA COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORTED BY MRS. KERR

WPA community service projects are providing cultural, health and welfare services for thousands of underprivileged people in every state in the Union, it is shown by a summary of accomplishments released today by Mrs. Florence Kerr, Assistant WPA Commissioner in charge of the Community Service Program.

Highlights of the summary, which is composed chiefly of sample activity reports for various months during 1940, reveal that over 245,000 adults were enrolled in literacy and naturalization classes conducted by WPA during October; that over 2,500,000 persons attended the free concerts of WPA music projects during a like period, and that more than 70,000,000 free lunches were served undernourished school children during the three months ending December 31.

"These activities buttress some of the weakest spots in our civilian morale," Mrs. Kerr declared. "In spite of the industrial boom now being enjoyed in many parts of the country there are large groups and, indeed, entire communities, which this prosperity has never reached.

"WPA activities in the fields of health, education, recreation and public welfare provide for these people essential services which would not otherwise be available. At the same time, they furnish useful employment to thousands of others for whom there are no defense jobs."

Supervision of recreation represents an important phase of the WPA Community Service Program, Mrs. Kerr said, and during a single week in November the public devoted a total of 13,859,000 participant hours to recreational activities promoted by the WPA. These included playground games and exercises, group activities in community centers, handicrafts, community drama and music.

In addition to the nearly quarter of a million people enrolled in literacy and naturalization classes, the WPA Adult Education Program during October showed 182,768 persons enrolled in vocational classes; 170,836 in home making and parent education, and 18,095 in a variety of correspondence courses. WPA educational activities, Mrs. Kerr added, have been largely responsible for the great decrease in adult illiteracy throughout the country during the last five years and have also proved of major importance to thousands of aliens seeking citizenship.

Public health activities, as reflected by reports covering a typical two-week period during the winter, included 242,700 examinations and treatments, 82,500 tests and 17,200 immunizations. Much of this work, she said, is carried on in schools and small communities which have no regular public health facilities of their own.

(A table is attached showing principal aspects of the accomplishments of the WPA Community Service Program during 1940.)

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ACTIVITY REPORT
WPA COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM
For Various Periods in 1940

		Number
EDUCATION ACTIVITIES		
(During October 1940)		
Adult Education:		
Literacy and Naturalization	Enrollment	245,486
Vocational Training	Enrollment	182,768
Correspondence Work	Enrollment	18,095
Home Making and Parent Education	Enrollment	170,836
Other Adult Education	Enrollment	415,534
Lectures and Forums	Attendance	103,004
Nursery Schools	Schools	11,330
	Enrollment	37,667
Special Instruction:		
Institutionalized and Handicapped Persons	Enrollment	9,028
Isolated Persons	Enrollment	10,935
MUSIC ACTIVITIES		
(During October 1940)		
Instruction	Enrollment	224,107
Concerts	Performances	5,765
	Attendance	2,685,570
Radio Broadcasts	.....	319
ART ACTIVITIES		
Art Instruction		
During October 1940	Enrollment	51,393
Art Items Completed (Cumulative through December 31, 1940)		
Index of American Design Plates	.....	19,986
Easel Works	.....	79,406
Fine Print Designs	.....	11,208
Fine Print	.....	988,621
Murals	.....	2,179
Sculptures	.....	12,223
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOSPITAL ACTIVITIES		
Clinic and Other Health Services (During a Two Week Period in January 1940)		
Examinations and Treatments	.....	242,700
Tests	.....	82,500
Immunizations	.....	17,200

Number

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

(During Week Ending November 19, 1940)

Recreational Activities - Total	Participant Hours	13,859,000
	Spectator Hours	3,029,000
Sports and Athletics	Participant Hours	4,847,000
	Spectator Hours	1,371,000
Game Room Activities	Participant Hours	2,714,000
Playground Games	Participant Hours	1,587,000
Crafts and Visual Arts	Participant Hours	1,529,000
Dancing	Participant Hours	681,000
Children's Play Centers	Participant Hours	558,000
Music	Participant Hours	513,000
Drama	Participant Hours	337,000
Other Recreational Activities	Participant Hours	1,093,000

LIBRARY AND BOOK REPAIR ACTIVITY

(Cumulative through Dec. 31, 1940)

Book Catalog Cards Typed	.....	38,944,000
Books Repaired or Renovated	.....	79,546,000

HOUSEHOLD WORKERS TRAINING PROGRAM

(Cumulative through June 30, 1940)

Trainees Completing Course	.....	17,902
Trainees Completing Course and Initially Placed	.....	12,831

WELFARE ACTIVITIES

Sewing and Food Preserving (Cumulative Through December 31, 1940)

Garments Completed - Total	.....	312,045,000
Men's Garments	.....	61,194,000
Women's Garments	.....	70,396,000
Boy's Garments	.....	53,645,000
Girl's Garments	.....	63,280,000
Infants' Garments	.....	38,699,000
Diapers	.....	24,831,000
Articles Other Than Garments Completed	.....	85,269,000
Food Preserving		
Quarts Canned	.....	58,576,000
Pounds Dried	.....	6,152,000
Housekeeping Aide Services Visits Made (Cumulative through June 30, 1940)	.....	20,468,000
School Lunch Services		
Three Months Ending December 31, 1940	Schools Serviced	18,677
	Lunches Served	70,223,000
Cumulative through December 31, 1940	Lunches Served	574,852,000