

NEW OFFICE OPENS "AID FOR SENIORS"

Office opens on "E" Street

The plight of the economically deprived West Las Vegas area is being recognized by Nevada Catholic Welfare Bureau in the form of a recently formed Senior Employment Service, funded through the City of Las Vegas, Senior Employment Block Grant.

In an effort to enable citizens of this area to be responsible for their own refurbishing, remodeling and re-beautification of their homes and properties, the Senior Employment Block Grant is seeking to find employment for these home and property owners so

that they will become financially stable and therefore eligible for federally-funded home and property improvement loan programs.

West Las Vegas was and still is a proud community. The majority of citizens who helped build that community are now seniors and, unfortunately, economically deprived.

While the rest of Las Vegas grew and prospered, West Las Vegas became the step-child of adversity. Passed over time and again for needed funding for property maintenance and home improvement projects, the community deteriorated. Ravaged by flood waters and buffeted by desert winds, the area is now becoming an "eye sore" and an embarrassment to the city. It is more of an embarrassment to the residents of West Las Vegas, but without funding, these residents, until now, have been powerless to do anything to improve conditions.

Despite their problems, the community maintains a proud and indomitable spirit. The seniors and builders of this community still provide a proud, strong religious and social backbone to the area.

These same seniors ask for no "hand-outs" or welfare grants. They are willing and eager to return to work so that they can rebuild the community they helped create many years ago. All they ask is the chance to work. Will the rest of the Las Vegas communities help them to help themselves?

Nevada Catholic Welfare Bureau, through the Senior Employment Block Grant, is presenting the aegis by which the community as a whole can benefit. The new office is located at 1400 1/2 North "E" Street. Call 647-2883 or 385-5941 if your firm has positions to offer or work to be done. We will try to fill your needs with a competent, reliable, senior member of the West Las Vegas community who will bring years of experience and dependability to the position.

We can all help! Senior Employment Block Grant shows us how.



**"CRISIS INTERVENER"
NOW ON RSVP STAFF**

A senior who is over 70 is sitting in her living room when she is accosted by a woman wielding a knife. The knife is placed at the senior's throat and she is told to give up all the money she has. The intruder is told that all the cash is in the older woman's bag in the bedroom. The intruder goes into the bedroom, takes the money (\$20 in bills) out of the bag and rushes off.

An elderly gentleman leaves his apartment in a city housing complex for about four hours one evening. On returning he finds that his locks have been cut out of the door and that some \$700 in property is missing from his apartment (television sets, tape recorders, radio, coin collections, etc.).

Two senior ladies have just cashed their social security checks at the bank and are on their way home when three youths stop them, grab their bags, remove all the cash (about \$400) and run off.

These are some of the problems our seniors are encountering every day in our community, the Crime Prevention for the Elderly workers of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program have discovered.

And that is why the RSVP has placed in its employ, as a part of the Crime Prevention program, a crisis intervener. His name is Bill Mailer and he has been with the RSVP for a year as a social worker for aiding seniors with food stamps, Medicare or other social services.

As a Crisis intervener, Bill will:

1. Aid victims in replacing lost or stolen papers, I.D., food stamps, social security checks, etc.
2. Provide transportation to the doctor's office, police department or other service agency.
3. Dispense crime prevention information.
4. Counsel victims, depending on specific individual needs.
5. Act as advocate for the victim.
6. Help provide emergency food, housing and/or medical assistance to victims.
7. Aid victims by having broken windows and/or locks replaced.
8. Mark valuables and register them with the police department for identification.

As crisis intervener, Bill will work with the Crime Prevention for the Elderly of RSVP which is funded by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) in Washington and the funds are dispensed locally by Economic Opportunity Board (EOB) for the various components of the Community Anti-Crime Program.

Many of our seniors do not report crimes, and many are not aware of the services available to them should a crime be committed against them.

Bill may be contacted at 385-1328 at RSVP headquarters, 919 West Bonanza Road, between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 pm, Monday thru Friday.

Prior to coming to Las Vegas, Bill Mailer worked 17 years as Program Administrator for the State of Alaska Social Services Department.

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