

Testimonial Dinner Dance To Honor Bill Gary

Friends of Bill Gary and the Neighborhood House Outreach Program will be honoring Bill at a testimonial Dinner Dance, Friday, June 26, 1981 at

Seven O'clock in the evening at L'Affaires', Route 22, East, Mountainside, New Jersey. In 1969, William Gary, a Social Worker with Plainfield Public School Systems Child Study Team began Neighborhood House's highly successful College Outreach Program.

In 1969, William Gary was instrumental in bringing in fruition an idealistic philosophy in the form of what has become the highly successful College Outreach Program. Since the program's 11 year old inception, more than 500 area students completed their degrees in colleges vocational and business schools. Since its inception in 1969, William Gary has developed his initial idea from a program helping 25 students in his first year to a program which is today working with 150 junior and senior students from high schools in Plainfield and the surrounding area.

William Gary, a native of Plainfield and graduate of Plainfield High School,

received his BA in Education for Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio in 1966. He went on to receive his Masters in Education from Trenton State College in 1975. Mr. Gary is married and has two children. Mr. Gary considers that his commitment to work with young people, together with the commitment of the fine volunteer staff who work with him to be the most important aspect of the College Outreach Program. "The quality of the contact we have with these young people enables us to impart knowledge to these young people in a sincere, honest and trustworthy manner. Our goal is to help these young people overcome and self doubts they may experience. Minority students are often exposed to the idea they will be non-productive members of society, and it is our goal to dispel such feelings and enhance their feelings of self-worth. The goal of the Outreach Program is for us as adults

to show our young people that they can achieve anything they wish.

To this end, the College Outreach Program helps the students mature and form a point of reference so that he or she is ready for the problems and situations they might be encountered when embarking on a College Career. Young people are made familiar with survival skills and techniques which will assist them tutoring help for S.A.T.'s and College Admission and Placement Tests and assistance in a particular academic area if needed.

The students are exposed to speakers who discuss colleges and careers. College recruiters representing New Jersey Colleges and Universities also speak to participants in the College Outreach Program about their institutions.

In addition to speakers coming to discuss colleges, the participants in the College Outreach Program

are given the opportunity to visit colleges so that their knowledge of the college experience is some what more complete in order for them to have realistic expectation of what college can offer an when the times comes, it is with a more realistic view that the student applications to his or her personal choices of colleges.

Bill works with students so that they become familiar with college admission applications, financial aid availability and applications to determine eligibility for grants and loans. Students work in groups and have

experience with values clarifications. They learn how to budget their money, the kinds of problems they can expect to encounter when they find themselves in a college environment, and they discuss methods and solutions appropriate to solving these problems.

"Bill has touched so many lives through his endeavors. It is easy to relate to him because of his honest approach to situations. This honor on June 26th is way overdue", according to Mrs. Freida Black, a parent of three Outreach Students, as well as one of the initial organizers of this affair.