

Experiencing Pasadena

THE NEEDS
PROMISES
AND
TASKS
OF
AN AMERICAN CITY

by Denise H. Wood

ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA: 1984

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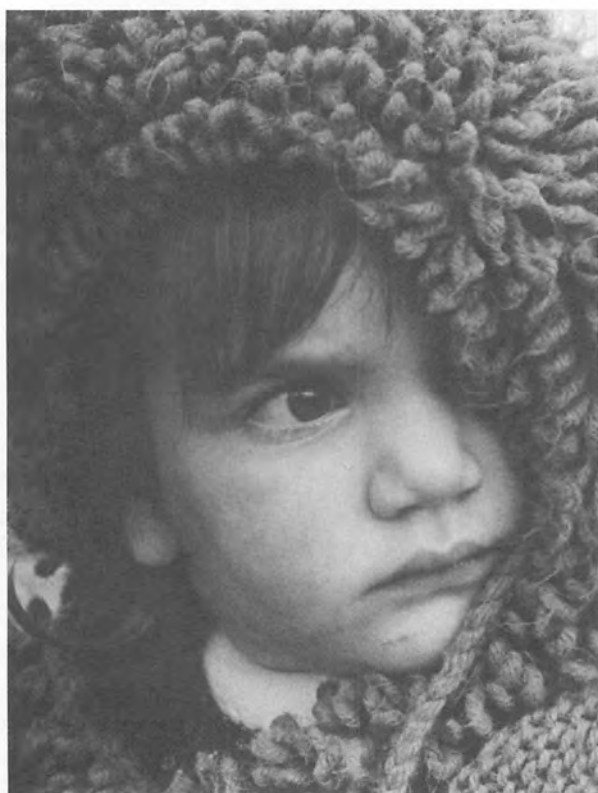
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The most important finding and an issue for Pasadena's future is that the economically strong areas are becoming increasingly strong, and the economically weak areas increasingly weak. Thus, the city is in danger of being polarized into two cities, one affluent and the other poor.

City of Pasadena
Area Analysis Study
McCool and Ackbarali
October 1983, vi

Family life is disintegrating. We do not attend to our children. . . . We say kids are important in our society, but the way budgetary decisions are made belies that. We will do crisis spending on kids—dollars for crime, punishment, prisons, but not for prevention. In the last two years the incidence of reported child abuse has gone up 500 percent. . . . If you are serious about doing something about crime, do something about child abuse. If you improve the quality of life for our young people, inevitably you improve the life of the community too. But don't start anything unless you are prepared to do it for five years.

Frank L. Jameson, Jr.
Youth Services Coordinator
Pasadena Police Department
—speaking with Denise H. Wood,
October 1983



"We do not attend to our children."

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Introduction

ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH celebrated its centennial in 1983. In gratitude for all its years in Pasadena, the parish wished to make a survey of the quality of life of the city as a gift to our fellow citizens. I was given the task of creating it.

I am an ordinary citizen, an educator, not a sociologist. I have used two sources: a large number of face-to-face interviews and several reports prepared by others.

By June 1984, I had spent time with, listened to and discussed concerns with more than a hundred people and had consulted some of them more than once. These conversations deepened my comprehension of the statistics and reports I was given. The insight contributed by other people is reflected in every section of this report. Often the experience or the story told in the first person brought the data into clearer focus.

The first section of this report is called "A Community in Pain." It is about what people have taught me.

The next section is called "Green Shoots of Hope." As I moved about the city and saw people engaged in a wide variety of activities, certain ones riveted my attention by what they were accomplishing. Their results were born from the qualities of the people involved far more than from the amount of money being spent. Individuals and their care and courage and leadership were what made the crucial difference. Their work represents growing points in the life of the city, places where despair is reversed and hope is rekindled. The reader will think of other examples to add to my list.

Section Three, "Strengths and Structures," gives a closer look at some of the significant resources the city can enlist for tackling community problems in a coordinated way.

Section Four, "This We Must Do," gives two basic premises—lenses if you will—with which to examine certain concrete actions.

Section Five, "Creative Connections," describes the ongoing Gift to the City which All Saints has now initiated.

I am grateful to the Rev. Dr. George F. Regas, Rector of All Saints Church, for entrusting this survey to me.

Although the report will appear under my name, it has been immeasurably strengthened by the creative listening and work of four good

friends at All Saints: Louis B. Fleming, an editorial writer for the *Los Angeles Times*, who chaired the advisory council for this report; Donald E. Miller, Associate Professor in the School of Religion, U. S. C.; the Rev. Denis O'Pray, Associate for Mission at All Saints; my husband, John C. Wood, chair of the Joint Policy Review Committee for the Community Skills Center, and also Planned Giving Director at the Braille Institute of Los Angeles.

DENISE H. WOOD

June 1984



"The individuals described may be our neighbors or ourselves."

Section One: A Community in Pain

POVERTY

Many people perceive Pasadena as the City of Roses, not a place where poverty is a daily fact of life. Poverty afflicts a wide segment of our community, victimizing individuals and families. Poverty means hunger, homelessness, substandard housing, unemployment, being on welfare. The daily struggle for survival is the central reality for many people; there is little time for anything else.

From the outside, the building on the corner of Washington and Los Robles which houses Friends In Deed reminds one of a shingled, two-story home in New England. Inside, Patti Hamic's work for the poor shares the space with the Ecumenical Council. Her three rooms and two offices contain donated clothes, new and used shoes, blankets, toys and household appliances. She sits at a cluttered desk; the phone rings with insistent frequency. It may be a wife who has had to flee her home to escape being beaten. It may be a mother who with her children has been evicted from her home for non-payment of rent. Both are looking for a place to go.

In a low-toned, reserved manner, Ms. Hamic describes the daily realities she contends with. "At Friends In Deed, we used to give people emergency food on a one-time basis. Now we have to be willing to give the same person food twice a month. In two months, June to August, 1983, we helped 4000 people with food and clothing. If you get sick, you're in big trouble, because so many clinics charge now." In 1981 Friends In Deed helped 7,591 people; in 1982, the number of people helped reached 13,546; 1983's yearly rate was approximately 16,000 people. During the period of January through June 1984, 10,826 people were assisted . . . all of this done out of five rooms by one person with two part-time assistants.

Hunger

One of the faces of poverty is hunger. In parts of Pasadena it is fair to say that hunger is barely held at bay. It is an issue, a reality for senior citizens, for children, for the homeless, including some people who are mentally ill.

As of January 1, 1984, the monthly schedule for payments of Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) and of Food Stamps was as follows:

<i>Family Size</i>	<i>Maximum Payments</i>	<i>Food Stamps</i>
1	\$248	\$26-60
2	\$408	\$42-76
3	\$506	\$72-107
4	\$601	\$98-132

In 1983, 21.1 percent of the elementary school children (K-6) in the Pasadena public schools were from families receiving AFDC. Fifty-four percent of the children qualified for the free and reduced payment lunch program. AFDC grants have always been below the government's established poverty level. Even with Food Stamps, benefits are still five percent below the poverty level: Food Stamp benefits average only 46 cents a meal. When the All Saints task force from WH/EAT (World Hunger/Effective Action Together) interviewed Pasadena recipients of Food Stamps, the committee said the recipients were consistently running out of stamps by the middle of the month.

The SNAP (Senior Nutrition and Activities Program) program in Pasadena delivers 70 or more meals each day to senior citizens who are homebound and serves another 360 plus meals to seniors at eight different sites. The director, Teri Moore, says they are operating on a "bare bones" budget. For those of any age who cannot cook or shop for themselves, Meals on Wheels provides one hot and one cold meal for \$3.00 a day, Monday through Friday, a service it has been offering for twenty years.

At Union Station, the hospitality drop-in center originally created by All Saints Church, Bill Doulos estimates that the demand for services has doubled over the last two years. At noon one day in February 1984, 100 people were using a facility more properly meant for 40. For Union Station clients, a hot breakfast and a hot mid-day meal are served. Parishioners from four area churches take turns providing a mid-day meal on Sundays.

Food for hungry people in Pasadena also comes from St. Andrew's Catholic Church, from the Salvation Army, and from Fair Oaks Family Shelter. Lake Avenue Congregational Church provides food baskets and food vouchers for needy individuals. The First Methodist Church

also makes food available. Certain churches are part of a voucher system which is a source of free food after hours and on weekends.

Homelessness

Many of us have experienced hunger pangs at some time in our lives, even if only when dieting or fasting. But for most of us it is rare indeed to be so impoverished that we do not know where we and our family can sleep at night.

I heard Robert Thompson of Clergy and Laity Concerned speak about the homeless at a November 1983 hearing before the Pasadena Human Relations Commission. He said, "There are people living in cars, in trash bins, on the streets. The estimated number of homeless in Los Angeles County: 30,000 or more."

Hill House, run by Lutheran Social Services, has changed its emphasis from drug rehabilitation to giving shelter to the homeless, providing a one-time assistance of shelter for up to 14 consecutive nights. Jean Buler of Hill House told me that in the last eight months of 1983, 3100 people were taken in. Many were from out-of-state and without local resources.

The 1983-84 Health Care Survey undertaken for the Pasadena Dispensary by the Junior League discovered that shelter was an even more urgent need than health care.

Substandard Housing

Substandard housing is often a partner to poverty. Translated into life's realities, it may mean 20 people using one toilet, no hot water, intermittent heating, a mother cooking for her family on a hot-plate, 12 people in a room, "hot-bedding" (three people using the same bed in consecutive shifts over 24 hours). It is a Catch-22 situation for many: 1) if you are undocumented you dare not draw attention to yourself by reporting deficiencies; 2) if protests are lodged with the Health Department or at City Hall, your building may be condemned and torn down, leaving you homeless. In the Villa Parke area immediately north of All Saints Church, across the 210 freeway, the population since 1977 has increased by 45.4 percent, the housing supply by only 7.1 percent.

Dr. Jeff Prater is an able, energetic young man, director of the Church-Based Human Services Network connected with Fuller Seminary. Two years ago, the School of Psychology at Fuller undertook

a study of all the churches of the area. Funded by government money, the survey group contacted every institution which considered itself a church. Some church leaders were interviewed and some filled out a questionnaire. One part of the questionnaire asked each pastor to rank according to urgency the five areas of greatest concern to his congregation and surrounding community. Only one item appeared on the urgent list of every returned questionnaire: housing.

Unemployment

Joblessness may be caused by a nationwide recession, by the vagaries of a global economy, or because someone has invented a better mousetrap. To be out of work is one of the most shattering experiences that can happen to people who have to support themselves and a family. The rate of unemployment in Pasadena in 1980 was 4.9 percent; by February 1983 it had climbed to 9.3 percent, receding to 5.7 percent by December 1983. In April 1984 it rose to 6.5 percent, where it is expected to remain. Los Angeles County was at 7.9 percent in April 1984. To the person who is without work, statistics are almost meaningless. That person simply knows he or she is hurting.

In a report prepared in January 1983 by the Pasadena Planning Commission there are sobering facts:

As measured by the unemployment rate, the local labor force has been relatively well employed compared to the County, State and nation. . . . However, unemployment is not evenly distributed within the City. Severe unemployment, defined as 50% or more above the average City rate, has been historically concentrated in the northwest portion of the City and has had its greatest impact on minority workers and residents. . . . Minority unemployment is generally 50-100% greater than the total unemployment rate. For some segments of this labor force, such as Black teenagers, unemployment rates can range up to five times the total unemployment rate.

The Economic Development and
Employment Element of the General Plan

Inequality between Blacks and Whites exists both in unemployment and employment. Figures for 1981 of the National Commission for Employment Policy showed that Black males earned 76 percent of what White males earned. Black women earned 95 percent of the income earned by White females. Considering the recent national recession, it is unlikely that those conditions have changed.

Welfare

Welfare figures for Pasadena for October of 1982 and 1983 are listed below. It is difficult to determine exactly how many recipients there are, for a person may receive aid from more than one source. I would just want to add that in my conversations with people in Pasadena, the fact often came up that in the last two years, many more "middle-class" people found themselves on welfare. "I never thought this would happen to me!" was the cry.

City of Pasadena

	*October 1982	*October 1983
Parents Absent/Deceased/Incapacitated: AFDC-FG	8,862	9,610
Parent(s) Unemployed: AFDC-F	1,011	1,340
Children Placed in Foster Care: AFDC-FC	142	150
General Relief: GR	859	700
Food Stamps Only: FSO	4,593	4,510
Medi-Cal Only: MAO	4,674	2,830**
Homemaker Chore: IHSS	606	630
	20,747	19,770

*1982 and 1983 figures are from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services.

**In January, 1984, the medically indigent were dropped from Medi-Cal.

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR KIDS

Well-to-do and poor alike suffer the same anguish over the experiences their children are having as they grow up. The large or small bank account, the neighborhood, the togetherness of the family affect only partially what truly goes on in the innermost life of a child. Modern social mores penetrate every home.

Drugs and Alcohol

Without question, the most serious issue facing young people and their parents is possible involvement in drugs or excessive drinking.

Jim Stillwell, the executive director of Impact Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center, said to me, "I've never seen it so bad; I don't see how it could get that much worse. We used to have a waiting list of

one or two days for our 60-bed facility; now the waiting list is for two months from now."

In the Northwest area, the Rev. John Perkins spoke again and again of the terrible damage that drugs are doing to Black youth. The pushers stay away from the streets, for there the police can pick them up; instead, they use 13- and 14-year-old girls as couriers between the clients and the pushers hidden in the bushes. Perkins knows at first-hand about drug-related killings. A 14-year-old boy was shot and left lying in the street, just outside Perkins' home. It was two-and-a-half hours before someone came to claim the boy's body; his pockets were stuffed with dope. He had been selling in the "wrong" territory.

The director of the Positive Intervention drug treatment center, the Rev. William Robinson, told me, "Every child in the school system has ready access to drugs. There are two worlds: those who use dope and those who don't. The users are also those who sell, swap and deal. It's as easy for a child to get dope as it is for you to get a cigarette." He remarked that use of drugs and alcohol in most cases starts very early—10, 11, 12 years old. "You see 10-year-olds getting drunk daily. It's the acting out of those kids as a result of the dysfunction of their family life. The family is not really together. . . . It is not committed to or concerned about the well-being of the child. Therefore, he starts to act out his pain. . . . It shows up in self-destructive areas like drugs and drink and even suicide." Other youngsters whose families are functioning are nonetheless in the severely challenging position of needing to say "no" at an age when everything in them wants to be like their peers.

We need to remind ourselves that Pasadena is part of Los Angeles County. In June of 1983 the County Department of Health Services published a report, "Current Trends and Epidemiology of Drug Abuse," covering the years 1979-1982. The following trends stood out very starkly in its summary:

Heroin:

- heroin abuse has risen consistently over four years
- during that period, heroin-involved deaths increased 412.51 per cent
- the trend of using heroin in combination with other drugs has increased
- twenty-five percent of the group coming for rehabilitation for heroin has been comprised of people 17 and younger (age at first use)

PCP:

- the abuse of PCP has become endemic to the County
- the number of deaths caused by it has risen 125.9 percent from 1979-1982
- one out of four abusers was 17 years old or below at time of first use

Cocaine:

- cocaine abuse has increased dramatically
- emergency rooms' mention of cocaine, 1979-1982, has gone up 452.9 percent
- number of deaths has increased 131.6 percent
- twenty-five percent of users started at the age of 18 or under

Marijuana:

- emergency-room episodes have risen by 147.1 percent over the period of 1979-1982
- twenty-five percent of abusers used marijuana for the first time at age 13 or younger
- five percent of all marijuana abusers admitted for treatment reported having started use of marijuana at the age of 10 or under.

School Dropout and Attrition

School is a vital experience in the life of a young person growing up. Success at school has a lot to do with how one feels about oneself.

The Pasadena Unified School District's careful analysis of dropouts states that in 1982-1983, 5.7 percent of the students fit the District's dropout criterion of a young person "totally ceasing" to go on with his education. The District also keeps a close scrutiny on the attrition rate. The class of '83 retained 61.7 percent of its 10th grade students to graduation, losing 38.3 percent to attrition. Families moved, students changed schools, some other event interrupted those students' experience of schooling and so made it harder for them to gain a solid education.

Family Violence and Child Abuse

I have thought many times of the hour-long talk I had with Frank Jameson, Coordinator of Youth Services for the Pasadena Police Department. "Family life is disintegrating. We do not attend to our children. When I speak at service clubs and I ask how many can remember the last time they told a child, directly, genuinely, 'I love

you'—only a few hands go up. Then I ask, 'How many of you can remember the last time you changed the oil in your car?' and nearly every hand goes up. We say children are important in our society, but the way budgetary decisions are made belies that. We will do crisis spending on kids—dollars for crime, punishment, prisons, but not for prevention. In the last two years the incidence of reported child abuse has gone up 500 percent. The abuse has always been out there but now people are getting more responsible about reporting it."

Child abuse and family violence are often intensified by economic stress. Patti Hamic of Friends In Deed said to me, "Middle-class women are now experiencing domestic violence. It is definitely on the rise." Many, many children are affected. Barbara Smart, of Child Advocates, gave me some figures. In Los Angeles County at any one time there are 20,000 children under court jurisdiction, with nine to ten thousand new cases a year. The evidence of sexual abuse is increasing, as articles in the daily press attest.

CRIME

No urban city can treat its crime lightly. It is a powerful element causing pain in our community.

Chief of Police Robert McGowan gave me helpful insights into the vast subject of crime. "It is almost impossible to pinpoint one main cause for juvenile delinquency—it can result from broken homes, from falling into bad company at school or in the neighborhood, from poverty. Kids are forced to grow up so fast! And there is the terrible peer pressure which says, 'You're chicken if you won't do this.' The gangs use the same techniques, just when kids are so hungry for an identity."

McGowan said that at age 25 there is a noticeable dividing line which shows up in the statistics. At that point there can be three scenarios: One is when a person takes a hard look at his life and says to himself, "What have I been doing with my life?" and starts to turn around. Another scenario finds the 25-year-old already in jail. And in the last case life is over by 25, the person is dead. "Narcotics are the common denominator for most crimes. There is a hideous, unbelievable, tremendous amount of tax-free money tied up in dope. Huge amounts of cash which must be handled, laundered, every day . . . as much as \$25,000 a day for a pusher. Those who sell dope for profit

are a cruel bunch; they don't care a damn what it does to the kids. In 1983, of the 23 murders in Pasadena, 14 to 15 were drug-related." The Chief acknowledged that prison "family" members are operating in our area.

In April 1984 the Citizens Task Force on Crime Control presented its report to the Board of Directors. It is very sobering to discover that the crime rate in Pasadena is substantially higher than for cities of comparable size and than the United States average. The Pasadena arrest rate is approximately twice the national rate and is significantly higher than for cities of comparable size. Certain trends appeared in the answers to the questionnaire circulated by the Task Force. When asked to rate the seriousness of crime in Pasadena on a 5-point scale (with 1 equaling "not at all serious" and 5 equaling "very serious,") 4.0 was the average response by Pasadena adults surveyed. The report showed that residents are ready to spend more money for more police services. The Directors clearly felt a sense of urgency to respond to the presentation made by C. Morris Fisher, who with David Yamada is co-chairman of the Task Force on Crime Control.

HEALTH CARE

The Junior League of Pasadena was asked by the Pasadena Dispensary to conduct a health-care needs assessment with the goals of 1) identifying health care needs and available services in Pasadena, 2) analyzing services offered by the Dispensary, and 3) developing a tool to guide the Dispensary in setting future goals and planning new services.

A volunteer committee of the League worked on the project from September 1983 until May 1984. Forty-two agency, 170 consumer, and 16 Dispensary interviews were tabulated for the report. Health-care accessibility was of the greatest concern among the agencies, with low-cost care (66%) and information on available services (37%) the concerns cited most often. Consumers also named cost as the most significant factor in choosing health care. Transportation to the health facility was a significant issue for 24 percent of the respondents, an especially important one for seniors.

QUALITY OF LIFE OF SENIOR CITIZENS

Pat Rostker, head of Placement Services for Older Workers, and Nora Mitsumori, who has served for many years on the Pasadena Commis-

sion on the Status of Women, were extremely helpful for my understanding of the needs and quality of life of our older citizens. Both of them put affordable housing as a high priority. The director of a senior citizen center said she knew of none of her clients who were renting for less than \$300 a month. With so many older people living on a fixed income, an increase in rents can be disastrous.

If eligibility for Medicare is changed from age 65 to age 67, it will cause problems for many people. "Most people from 60 years onwards start worrying about the dangers of falling ill," Ms. Mitsumori explained to me. "They are too old to start a new insurance program to protect them until they are 67, for it would be too costly. Sixty-seven seems a long way away, when illness may be just around the corner." Hospital costs have gone up alarmingly as well.

Pat Rostker said the availability of transportation is a great need for older people, and more should be provided. Transportation affects the access to health care for senior citizens.

Ms. Mitsumori would like to see a center for women. On an average, women live eight years longer than men, yet they are not necessarily healthy all that time. They need advice as well. It can be a frightening experience to live alone when all your adult life you have been the care-giver for others. Many women at 50 are widowed or divorced. If divorced, a woman often loses access to her former husband's pension plan and health insurance. In our youth culture, outward appearances which reveal a person's age can affect that person's getting a job or not.

For many older people, to go into a nursing home when they no longer can care for themselves seems like the end of the road. Some of these homes are quite undesirable, as recent press articles have brought to light. Pat Rostker urged there be ombudsmen who could be alert to malpractice, as well as doing simple family things for older people who have no family nearby.

The subjects and the statistics in this first section are related to human pain, to human suffering. The individuals described may be our neighbors or ourselves. None of these needs are going to be met speedily. . . . We shall have to try to carry the burden of them together, to let them into our hearts, for truly, unmet needs are a part of today's Pasadena.

Section Two: Green Shoots of Hope

We live in a time of tremendous transition and tumult. Family life is a shambles. It is hard to keep one's hope alive. I look for the green shoots . . . where the spirit of God is at work, and I try to help there.

Bishop Daniel Corrigan speaking
at All Saints Church Forum

The words "green shoots" have stayed in my mind ever since Bishop Corrigan used them. They have come to mean to me hope rekindled, people-ingenuity and people-care for others—working models that can help us find a better future.

The Mother's Club is one such activity, founded by Mara Mosher and a group of Quaker women and kept going on the slimmest of budgets for 25 years. I spent the morning there after getting to know Eleanor Freeman, one of the founders. In buildings on the grounds of the Quaker Meeting House on Orange Grove Avenue, mothers of every race and economic level are welcome. The program was extended from three mornings a week to five in January 1984, thanks to new financial support from United Way. There Pasadena City College conducts Parent Education classes in English and in Spanish. The mothers develop equally with the children. Genuine friendships refresh the tired or discouraged parent (one or two fathers come, too). Personhood is discovered at every level; some mothers, their leadership qualities having emerged, find themselves being asked to join the paid staff. Nothing about the place is lavish; the surroundings are simple; a coat of paint here or there would help. Different cultures enrich each other, and everyone benefits. The visitor comes away refreshed by the atmosphere of mutual respect and of genuine expectation of growth for all.

Pasadena's Certified Farmers Market, which meets at Villa Parke every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and at Victory Park every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., is a very straightforward operation. It needed the impetus of the Interfaith Hunger Coalition and of two women to bring it into being a year and a half ago. Betty Hamilton and her colleague Gretchen Stirling, wearing their yellow baseball hats



Farmers Market: "Each fall, the money from stall fees is used to buy shoes for the children of the neighborhood."



Melva Newman: "She is enormously skilled at helping people to come face-to-face with the traumas, broken relationships, fears and hatred in their lives."

for identification, are the responsible administrators. The rules for the sellers are simple: sell only what you have raised; be honor bound to give 3 percent of the day's intake each time as a stall fee. The result is fresh produce, at reasonable prices, and contented clients all year round. Each autumn, the money from stall fees is used to buy shoes for children of the neighborhood before school starts.

One more thing cannot go unnoticed: the neighborliness that is alive in the market. Twice, on market day, I joined the Rev. Wilbur Johnson, until recently head of the Ministerial Alliance, an association of Black churches in Pasadena. We sat at the back of his blue van on folding chairs while he exhibited his wares for that day. A steady stream of people, young and old, black and white, stopped to talk with him. He told me, "I don't wear my collar any more . . . don't believe in symbols. The only thing to do is to give yourself to people." Much humor but also much helpful counsel were exchanged naturally and winningly. A young white woman stands out in my memory. "Where were you last week? I didn't see you here," she asked, starting the conversation. Several others had previously stopped at his table to ask the same question. Soon I heard her saying to Mr. Johnson, "I am having a hard time holding myself together . . . I've kicked the drug habit and the drink, but I'm not sure I can keep up with my studies." "Let's talk," he answered. "I can help you deal with the stress . . ." and went on with questions about her family, her hopes and goals. In 15 minutes, she knew she was cared for, that there were ways of health and stability open to her. The experience of years as a minister gave Wilbur Johnson resources for whoever stopped to talk, help offered with simplicity, humor and friendship. I could hardly tear myself away: it was an amazing experience—human communication of the richest kind, in that bumpy, bare field, while people and their shopping baskets passed to and fro.

Melva Newman is responsible for the Positive Parenting Workshop at the Jackie Robinson Center, one of her several activities. She and I had gotten to know each other over lunch in her home, and she invited me to see her work. With her deep voice, quiet assurance and penetrating questions, she is enormously skilled at helping people to come face-to-face with the traumas, broken relationships, fears and hatred in their lives. Children taken from their parents by the courts are often returned only on condition that their parents attend Melva's class.

I saw her bring people into a "clearing" (as she calls it) who before were deeply bound by past experiences. Poverty, unemployment, disasters have made the needs of those who attend her class all the more severe; but Melva's gifts accomplish what money alone could not do. One could not spend two hours at her workshop and not be deeply stirred to a greater honesty about oneself and to a new compassion for others.

Union Station is a drop-in hospitality center originally created in 1973 by All Saints Church. It offers free food, counseling and friendship to some of Pasadena's neediest citizens and to transients. About 150 people visit regularly, several times a week on an average. A few children come and a few octogenarians. All the people are poor, with incomes ranging from nothing to \$500 a month. The majority have some physical or mental disability. I wanted to see for myself what went on inside the four walls of Union Station, and asked to take part in a three hour luncheon shift. In the setting of Union Station, people are individuals, not figures in some sociological report. Giving and receiving food creates a special kind of human communication; we tend to look into each other's eyes. I realized that a mother and her eight- or nine-year-old daughter could eat this meal, at a table. I noticed a younger man who, after eating, could sit quietly and read the paper. A game of cards going on showed that companionship is as much a need as food. Several of the clients came to ask for mail; this facility was their only address. Those working behind the counter made as



"A steady stream of people, young and old, black and white and brown, stopped to talk with him." (Wilbur Johnson, formerly head of the Ministerial Alliance.)

great an impression on me as those coming to the counter: the earlier shift included a slight, gray-haired woman; the shift I was working on was made up entirely of people under thirty. Care, humor, time for talk—these were as much part of the meal as the food itself. I understood better why Union Station is called a hospitality center.

The Depot. Seven Pasadena churches combined resources to start a shelter for homeless men and women, housing them overnight in the First Congregational Church at the corner of Los Robles and Walnut Streets. Thanks to this joint commitment, hot showers and shelter for 20 individuals at a time became available by March 1, 1984. The sponsoring churches are the First Congregational Church, the First Baptist Church, Pasadena Presbyterian Church, Friendship Baptist Church, the First United Methodist Church, All Saints Episcopal Church and St. Andrew's Catholic Church. The Depot is managed by the Ecumenical Advisory Board and is supported by volunteers and donations from all areas of the city. Both Union Station and the Ecumenical Council have been central to The Depot's formation.

Women In Action and the **Junior League of Pasadena** sponsored a half-day conference in January 1984 on how parents can make a difference in their children's education. The two organizations, working together for the first time, found they were more parallel than different. W.I.A. has a wider range in the age of its members (21 to 71 years of age) than does the League (21 to 45 years of age), but both organizations are deeply concerned about young people. Both struggle with community issues of training volunteers, of assessing community needs and of setting priorities. Both organizations look forward to more joint projects.

Women in Action, organized in 1971 to address a lack of minority representation on the Pasadena Board of City Directors, represents a move by black working women into more direct involvement in the community. Problems of minorities remain central, but the members have included in their concern some areas affecting everyone—education, health care services, child care and neighborhood revitalization.

The Junior League was founded in 1926 and can be proud of pilot projects it started over the years which are now a part of our life: the El Monte Food Bank, KIDSPACE, Child Care Information Service, to mention just a few. Each year, after a rigorous selection process, projects are undertaken which address a perceived need in

the community. Suggestions for the projects to be considered may come from city agencies or from the League members.

Community Dispute Resolution Center. The Center, which was a year old in June 1984, was funded originally by the Ambassador Foundation. It is a public service organization formed to help settle disputes among parties who, because of ongoing relationships, have an interest in reasonable, fair resolution. The Center provides an alternative to using courts of law, and charges only a one-time filing fee of \$5.00 paid by the person initially seeking help. It uses a three-step process: fact-finding, mediation, and (with consent of both parties) arbitration.

Pasadena Reads is a newly-organized literacy program, carried out in all parts of the city and administered from the Central Library on Walnut Street. It assists adults and young people to learn to read, using volunteers trained in the Laubach method. Local community agencies have helped develop materials with vocabulary related to living in Pasadena. Teaching is done either one-on-one or in groups of five students to one tutor.

Contact Crisis Counseling Hotline. The telephone hotline, an idea originated in Australia, has operated in Pasadena for ten years. It has 100 workers and provides a round-the-clock counseling service seven days a week—all by telephone. Hotline gets all sorts of calls: battered wives, lonely people wanting to talk, Vietnam veterans, people in therapy whose doctors are away for the weekend, homeless people, hungry people. . . . Volunteers receive 50 hours of training and are thoroughly supplied with referral information in order to link those who call with existing human services agencies whenever possible. The Hotline is able to link people up with emergency free food as well. Because a belief in the worth of the individual based on faith in God underlies the philosophy of the Hotline, workers draw on inner strength to carry out their difficult mission. Such belief helps prevent early burn-out on the job. Young people from Caltech and Pasadena City College work on the Hotline alongside career people and retired men and women.

Positive Intervention Program. This recently-started program deals entirely with the parents of youngsters with drug addiction problems. Its goal is to enable the parents to handle the rehabilitation of their own children, at the cost of acquiring new skills and inner motivation themselves.

Two Percent Club. This is an idea being brought to realization by some of the top corporations and businesses of our city. It seeks to have companies commit two percent of their profits before taxes to be used for the needs of the city. Most of the aid would take the form of goods and services contributed. The Two Percent idea represents a bold leadership and an immensely helpful initiative being offered by the city's business managers. Target areas have been selected in Pasadena, and all businesses within those areas may apply for services and skills from the Pasadena corporations and businesses that are members of the Two Percent Club. A similar concept has been used in Minneapolis where it has become part of the image of that city. The same could happen here.

Neighborhood Watch is a simple, down-to-earth idea which is spreading into every area. People help themselves and their neighbors by reporting anything out of the ordinary in their neighborhoods. The Police Department has been more than willing to train residents in the best techniques for protecting their property; a noticeable reduction in crime has resulted from this simple, practical concept. The Citizens Task Force on Crime Control gave the program high marks.

Armenian Oral History Project. This unique project, the brainchild of an Armenian-born resident and her husband, a U.S.C. professor, has been going on for nearly three years. Among the enriching cultures in our city are the 10,000 Armenians who live in the Pasadena area. The older members of this community are well into their eighties, and they are the survivors of one of history's awful genocides, when approximately one-third of the Armenians living in Turkey perished. The traumas and memories of these terrible events remain buried in the hearts and subconscious of many survivors. When Lorna Miller interviews them, she is a gentle person, speaking Armenian, who helps them to tell what they remember of the events of their childhood. Three to four hours of recorded interviews usually result. Sometimes two or more visits by Lorna Miller are made before events, heartbreaks which sometimes have never been told even to their own children, finally come out. The oral history archive thus collected is beyond price. The human release and healing from talking to someone who listens and cares is beyond price also.

The Mexican-American Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to students who want to carry their education forward. The money helps

them finish high school and go on to college. It says to young men and women, "There is money available; do you want to stretch for an education?"

Fourteen "green shoots" have been mentioned in this section. The reader will undoubtedly think of a great many more deserving to be included. There are individuals and organizations who have served the community long and well. Their leadership skills and willingness to take risks have provided a structure without which the ongoing life of our city would be sorely impoverished.



"We need to sensitize the public . . . people are human beings not burdens. . . ."
Armando Gonzales, United Way Priorities Committee.

Section Three: Strengths and Structures

The previous section, "Green Shoots of Hope," gives just part of the picture. There are other structures which have existed for a long time in Pasadena that pool individual efforts and offer ways to help many more citizens. In recent months, too, there have been some encouraging developments, including coalitions aiming at cooperative wide-based programs for tackling large fundamental needs. A description of some of these structures will help us assess what strengths are available, and what are some of the groups deserving attention and support.

COMMUNITY SKILLS CENTER

Today Pasadena has in place a structure unmatched by any other city in California and duplicated by only a few cities in America. It is a truly community-based skills center, training young people and adults in job entry skills linked to the Pasadena area job market. The unique strength of the Center is that it is based on a tripartite partnership of the Pasadena Unified School District, Pasadena City College and the City of Pasadena.

The catalyst for the creation of the Center was the Social Concerns Committee of Pasadena's All Saints Church. John Wood and Robert Denham of that committee sought out leaders of the Black, Hispanic, business and educational communities, bringing them together and building on their convictions. Soon afterward Ramon Cortines, then Superintendent of Schools, named a number of these people to a task force headed by Wood and Denham to design the Center.

After four months and 32 meetings, the task force presented unanimous recommendations for the tripartite undertaking: the Board of Education to turn over its most valuable unused property, McKinley Junior High, as the site for the center; Pasadena City College to provide the administration and faculty; and the City to serve as a channel for Federal funding and for job placement.

Within four weeks the boards of the three entities had approved the plan, and six months later, in September 1980, the Center opened. Now in its fourth year, the Center serves 3,500 students annually, including high school juniors and seniors and adults of all ages. There is tuition-free training in word processing, drafting technology, elec-



Skills Center student using the computer funded by the Parsons Foundation.

tronics assembly, merchandise checking and many other subjects. For the thousand or more students who come from Asia and Latin America, English as a Second Language is offered. For the hundreds of high school dropouts and for new arrivals, a high school completion program is offered. For those with small children, a child care center looks after the children while the parents study.

Counseling and job placement are important functions of the Center. Some 60 percent of the job skills trainees find jobs immediately, even in the recent difficult economic times. The *esprit de corps* of the staff and student body is remarkable. Funding is primarily provided by the State of California through Pasadena City College. A federal grant of \$460,000 was received for remodeling the plant. Parsons Foundation gave a grant of \$175,000 for electronic and drafting equipment.

Marjorie Wyatt, member of the Board of Education, says, "The Skills Center is not just a place of training. It is a symbol of community cooperation and caring."

BUSINESS ALLIANCE WITH YOUTH

The BAY Project, springing from a "mentor" concept put forward by City Director John Crowley during the earlier deliberations of the Skills Center Task Force, was launched one year ago to assist high school dropouts and potential dropouts. Business and professional volunteers are matched on a one-to-one basis with the young partici-



Catherine Kissee Sandoval, Rhodes Scholar, and George A. Padilla, president of the Pasadena Scholarship Committee for Americans of Mexican Descent, at awards luncheon July 1984.

pants to counsel and guide them into further academic schooling or into job-skills training and into a job.

The Federal Health and Human Services Department selected Pasadena as one of 10 cities approved for funding for this program out of more than 600 applications submitted. It gave the City of Pasadena a grant of \$74,500 to initiate the project and an additional \$25,000 to document the program for application in other cities. The Community Skills Center was one of the factors in the choice of Pasadena.

In its first year, 80 young participants have been in the BAY Project. Of these, 35 percent have entered jobs or returned to schooling and 49 percent are enrolled at the Skills Center or in some work experience.

EL CENTRO DE ACCION SOCIAL, INC.

I learned a lot about El Centro's activities in Pasadena from hour-long conferences with Antonia Darder, the executive director, and Nicholas Rodriguez, the staff counsel. It is an organization which for more than 15 years has worked tirelessly to enable Latino and Hispanic people to gain individual and collective power over the issues that affect their lives. It provides support services such as technical assistance, information and referral, translations. It undertakes an advocacy role in

housing, schools, health, employment, redevelopment, mental health. It works for parent development, runs a summer school and a youth training program, has programs for literacy and English as a Second Language. Its support for pride in one's culture, for a sense of tradition, for the affirming of women's roles adds a great deal to the strengths of Pasadena.

BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Seventy-five percent of Pasadena's businesses are small, employing 10 to 20 persons. Many urban planners see small business as a primary source for providing new jobs. At the same time, the names of high tech industries and well-known engineering firms appear on the membership roster of the Chamber of Commerce. Our skyline shows new office buildings, attesting to the confidence that developers have in the financial and commercial potential of Pasadena. A new bill, AB40, authored by Assemblyman Pat Nolan (R-Glendale), creates Enterprise Zones for the rebuilding of California's inner cities; parts of Pasadena could apply to be designated as one of the 10 zones which will start the program in California. All this entrepreneurial skill and energy is a crucial resource for our city. The greater the communication between every business sector of Pasadena, the firmer will be the financial base under us all.

CHURCHES AND SYNAGOGUES

I chose to include churches and synagogues in Section Three, for they have been guardians of our strength for a very long time and will continue to be so.

I very much appreciated being asked to speak to the Ministerial Alliance. They are a group of men and women who have an understanding of and influence on what happens in the lives of people in the Northwest. Another group, the Ecumenical Council, is a key way of linking Protestant and Catholic congregations; it has worked hard and long to support Friends In Deed and the new shelter, The Depot. The Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center, under Rabbi Maurice Galpert's leadership, for over 32 years has reached out to many groups—civic, educational and interfaith.

Contributing to Pasadena's religious diversity are Armenian churches and Asian congregations with a strong membership.

THE JOHN M. PERKINS FOUNDATION FOR RECONCILIATION AND DEVELOPMENT

In 1982 John and Vera Mae Perkins moved here from Mississippi. Many years earlier the Rev. John Perkins had founded the Voice of Calvary in Jackson, Mississippi. Over 23 years, this couple had achieved practical results of reconciliation, better housing, better health care, a deeper spiritual life for the people they were helping and for their white neighbors as well. Perkins is a man of enormous energy and charisma. Well on into his fifties, he and his wife could have settled for a life of comparative ease, filled for him with lecturing, writing, and being asked to serve on prestigious committees. Instead, this couple has chosen to buy a home in the Northwest, at one of the crossroads most threatened by drug traffic, and to start the painstaking work of building motivation, self-esteem, faith, and better conditions in a community where many have been weighed down by despair and fear of crime.

The Foundation aims to promote Christian community development in American cities and to work for a form of racial reconciliation which affirms the dignity of all. It works to develop indigenous leaders. It provides churches with continuing education material which will help them in their work for community development. It offers practical help in organizing, incorporating, board training, legal problems, accounting. It provides financial assistance, capital management training and fund-raising techniques to target communities.

I believe Pasadena is fortunate to have such a quality of human commitment in its midst. The work of the Rev. and Mrs. Perkins is something to take note of and to help.

CITIZENS CONCERNED FOR THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN NORTHWEST PASADENA

This Christian humanitarian group tries to enable Northwest Pasadena residents who show promise of self-help to identify their own potential and to work toward improving the quality of life spiritually, economically and socially in their own neighborhoods. It concerns itself with housing, jobs, evangelism and the creation of small businesses. A coordinator has been hired to do a needs assessment of the area, coupled with a survey of the services which already exist. What is new and

remarkable is the combining of talents of several separate groups: World Vision, representatives of Fuller Seminary, the John M. Perkins Foundation and the Chamber of Commerce.

PASADENA CHAMBER/WORLD VISION JOB PLACEMENT PROGRAM

This is an initial project to demonstrate a commitment to the Northwest area of the city and to interest people in what can be done. It is a model in preparation for a larger effort later on. The success of the program will be assessed in December 1984. Meanwhile, World Vision is making a monetary commitment, pastors in the Northwest are helping to find candidates who show active motivation, and the Chamber will serve in an advisory role and provide access to its members. This project coincides with the concerns expressed in the Chamber's Position Paper of January 1984, in which it was stated that "upgrading the economic climate in the Northwest is now emerging as a top priority."

At present, the program has a class which teaches clients to make job applications and to handle interviews. Plans are in process to set up a residence in the Northwest, easily reached by the clients who are seeking jobs. A staff member of World Vision spends much of each day investigating employment opportunities in different companies in the city. Experience shows that a job development program needs two to three years to reach maturity: solid contact with employers must be established, and both applicants and employers need to get to know and trust the quality of work done by the middleman who is making the program go.

CHAMBER'S INITIATIVE FOR JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Another initiative of the Chamber of Commerce was described in the press on January 22, 1984. A position paper was published calling for a joint undertaking on the part of the Chamber, the Northwest community and the City of Pasadena for the economic development of the Northwest. A comprehensive plan and strategy are to be drawn up for affordable housing, business expansion, and commercial and industrial development. The Chamber has committed itself to adding 5,000 jobs in the next five years and to promoting the development of light industrial uses in Pasadena to provide entry-level jobs.

CITY GOVERNMENT

Discussion about the form and some of the processes of Pasadena's city government surfaces in the press from time to time. Differences as to the relative importance of the role of the Mayor and the City Manager are expressed.

The hours I have spent observing meetings of the Board of Directors have taught me a lot about the detail, the complexity and the slow movement of different issues through the legislative process. Those taking part need to have ability, patience, tenacity and a sense of perspective. In recent years the Board has committed itself to long-range planning (five year increments each year) and to the use of citizens' committees to investigate fundamental problems. The Blue Ribbon Committee on Government Efficiency led by Victor Ell, the Task Force on Public Facilities chaired by George Mannschreck, and the Task Force on Crime Control under the leadership of David F. Yamada and C. Morris Fisher have contributed hard facts and concrete suggestions for the Directors' use.

A city of such diversity is far from easy to make work. Each group reaching out to think about the well-being of the whole city can make a huge difference.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The Pasadena League of Women Voters is the second largest league in California; only the Los Angeles City League is larger. This non-partisan organization provides factual information on political candidates and issues and on the structure and function of government. This coming year the Pasadena League will do a survey of local education. At the state level, the League will research the financing of education in grades K-12.

In any great city, the pains and the needs felt by different groups are often in contention with each other. The people and organizations which rise up to do something about those needs and pains are bound to have their differences, to approach issues very differently. Sharp disagreement and controversy must be expected. Yet the urgency of our needs and the pride we have in our city may ultimately be what brings us together.

Section Four: This We Must Do

It has been my privilege to “experience” many sides of the life of Pasadena. I have talked with, listened to, consulted with, more than 100 people since this exploratory mission began in August of 1983. Almost always the interviews were one-on-one. Perhaps that helped people say things they would not have expressed in a group. Sometimes the most powerful insights came in the last five to ten minutes of the hour spent together; surface matters had been explored and then deeper wants and hopes came out.

Now the time has come in this report to confront some tough conclusions; otherwise all this work will have been a fascinating and deeply moving exercise but no more.

Slowly, two imperatives have formed in my mind:

- (1) Pasadena must not be allowed to be a polarized city, one part poor and one part affluent.
- (2) The quality of life of *all* Pasadena’s young people must command our highest concern.

Let us take a hard look at the reality behind these two imperatives.

Our City Must Not Be Allowed to Be a Polarized City

The most important finding and an issue for Pasadena’s future is that the economically strong areas are becoming increasingly strong and the economically weak areas increasingly weak. Thus, the city is in danger of being polarized into two cities, one affluent and the other poor.

City of Pasadena Area Analysis Study
McCool and Ackbarali,
October 1983, vi

Although polarization in Pasadena may not be rigid, certainly it is obvious that Pasadena is a divided city, not merely a city of richly diverse population or economic heterogeneity. *Divided* means more

than saying that Anglos live in some neighborhoods, Blacks in others and Hispanics in others. To say that Pasadena is divided implies that forces operate in this community to separate people of different colors, to reduce economic mobility, and to segregate neighborhoods of low-cost housing from areas of expensive housing. Some of the divisions are visible and can be mapped statistically by census tract. Other divisions are felt in moments of awkward contact between transient street people and people who have a place to go; they can be seen in the homogeneity of our religious congregations; they are experienced in the ethnic imbalance of our public schools and in the statistics of socio-economic indicators.

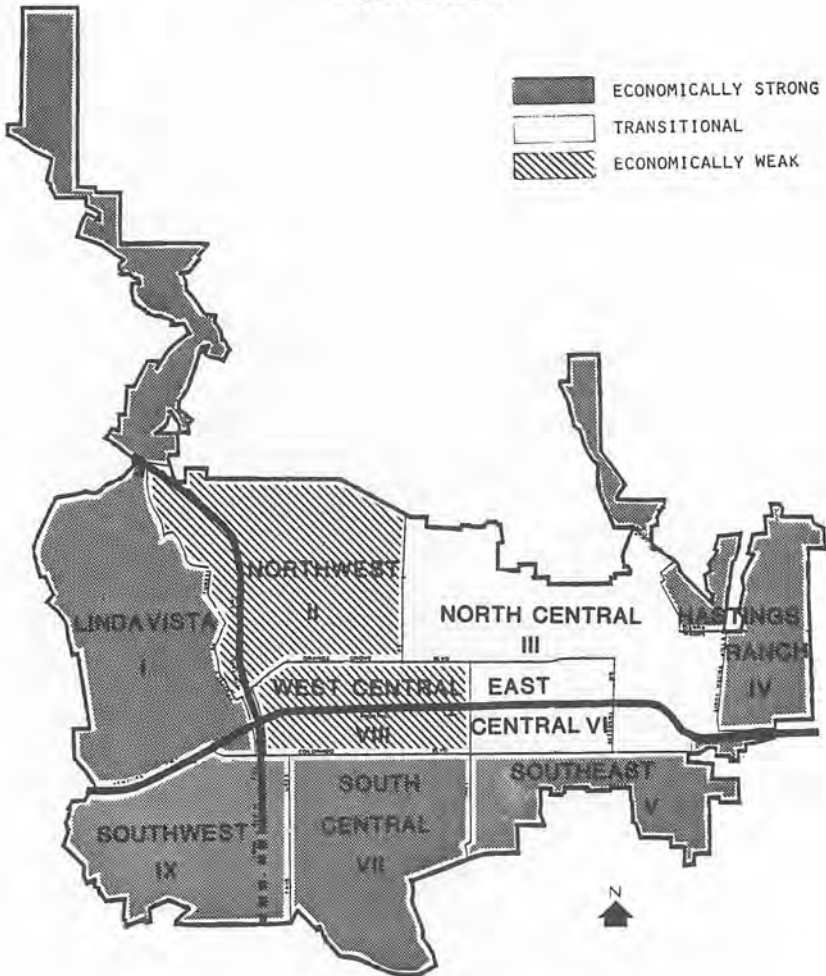
Pasadena's divisions are not simply along racial lines. They do not result only from the decrease in white population from 80 percent in 1960 to 55 percent in 1980. A complex confluence of racial, economic, educational and social factors affects our city. The Area Analysis quoted above identified "nine areas in the city formed from adjoining census tracts having similar median family income, housing types, values and tenure and racial population" (Ibid., vi). Two of the nine areas, what we call Northwest Pasadena, are economically weak according to these indicators; five are strong; and two are in transition. Roughly 40 percent of Pasadena's total population lives in economically strong areas, another 40 percent in weak areas, and the remaining 20 percent in areas of transition. (See map following.) The Area Study goes on to say about those areas in transition: "The transitional areas could be pulled in either direction, depending on socio-economic changes, and/or future City plans and policies to reverse negative trends" (Ibid., vi).

In profile, economically strong areas are characterized thus:

- low unemployment and high percentage of total population in labor force
- low percentage of youth
- high percentage of mature adults and elderly
- high percentage of Whites
- low percentage of Blacks and Hispanics
- low percentage of family and female-headed households with children
- high percentage of one-person households
- low percentage of overcrowded units

(Ibid., 46)

AREA GROUPINGS BY INDICES
City of Pasadena



Housing and Community Development Agency
Planning Department October 1983

Economically weak areas have these characteristics:

- low median family income, housing unit values and contract rent
- high unemployment rates and lowest percentage of population in labor force
- high percentage of youth and young adults
- low percentage of mature adults and elderly
- low percentage of Whites and Others
- high percentage of Blacks and Hispanics
- high percentage of female-headed households with children
- high percentage of renter-occupied units
- low percentage of owner-occupied units
- high percentage of overcrowded units

(Ibid., 51)

The startling conclusion of the Area Analysis is that over the period surveyed, 1960-1980, the economically strong areas have grown stronger, the weak areas weaker, and the gap between them wider (Ibid., 42). Consider the indicators of division in the chart that follows. The figures are taken from the Area Study prepared by Jack McCool and Nancy Ackbarali of the City's Planning Department.



"Peer pressures . . . put most children up against tough choices at an earlier and earlier age."

DIVISION IN PASADENA

Some indicators which follow the area analysis map
of Economically Strong and Weak Areas

(1980 figures)

<p>Housing is older in weak areas (% of units 30+ years in age).</p> <p>55.7%</p> <p><i>City Average 51.3%</i></p> <p>38.7% in strong areas</p>	<p>Unemployment is higher in weak areas.</p> <p>7.9%</p> <p><i>City Average 4.7%</i></p> <p>2.7% in strong areas</p>
<p>Median family income is lower in weak areas.</p> <p>\$13,157</p> <p><i>City Average \$20,848</i></p> <p>\$31,459 in strong areas</p>	<p>Median housing unit value is lower in weak areas.</p> <p>\$60,471</p> <p><i>City Average \$92,100</i></p> <p>\$142,056 in strong areas</p>
<p>Ethnic population (including His- panic) is higher in weak areas.</p> <p>77.8%</p> <p><i>City Average 53.7%</i></p> <p>22.2% in strong areas</p>	<p>There are more female-headed households with children in weak areas.</p> <p>15.2%</p> <p><i>City Average 7.9%</i></p> <p>3.3% in strong areas</p>
<p>A higher percentage of popula- tion speaks little or no English in weak areas.*</p> <p>11.5%</p> <p><i>City Average 7.2%</i></p> <p>3.2% in strong areas</p>	<p>Housing units are overcrowded in weak areas (% of units with more than one person per room).</p> <p>14.2%</p> <p><i>City Average 7.4%</i></p> <p>2.5% in strong areas</p>

*The percentage figures reflect only part of the actual situation.

Another way to visualize what has been happening in Pasadena in the last two decades is shown in the following tables:

Table I
Changes in Pasadena's Population

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>% of Change</u>
White	98,440	85,681	(13.0)
Black	14,587	24,537	68.2
Hispanic Origin	5,188	21,772	319.7
Other	3,380	8,322	146.5

Table II
Housing Characteristics of Pasadena

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>% of Change</u>
Median Unit Value	\$17,500	\$92,100	426.3
Median Contract Rent	\$ 71	\$ 238	235.2
Median Family Income	\$ 6,922	\$20,848	201.2

Table III
Changes in Make-Up of Pasadena Labor Force
(figures show % of labor force)

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>
White Collar	58.7%	61.6%	65.2%
Blue Collar	26.0%	24.3%	21.7%
Service Workers	15.4%	14.1%	12.8%

Note: the total population of Pasadena changed only 1.8% during this time.

Sources: Table I and II—Area Analysis Study of Pasadena, 1960-1980.

Table III—U.S. Bureau of Census; City of Pasadena Planning Dept.

This report draws no conclusions about the causes of division in Pasadena, but suggests some ways to begin to reverse the trends producing separation in our city. I am describing certain tasks which could make a significant contribution toward lessening the division.

TASK: To support in every way possible the new alliances for economic, social and human development of the Northwest and the Villa Parke areas. These have been described in Section Three.

TASK: To increase and strategically locate classes in English as a Second Language. Every effort to lower the language barrier can enrich us all and give easier access to jobs and opportunities for those for whom English is not their first language.

TASK: To multiply the number of affordable child care centers, especially for single-parent families. The last time I asked Kathy Malaske, director of Child Care Information Service, how long a waiting list there was for affordable child care, she told me that more than 300 families were waiting. A mother who must work or who wants to gain an education either has access to affordable child care or she has to turn down advancement opportunities or go on welfare.

TASK: To learn as much as possible about affordable housing and mixed housing from the most varied sources possible. The input from such research can have a bearing on what are seen as next steps in the problem of housing, the issue that is high on so many priority lists.

TASK: To facilitate the learning of Spanish by Anglo families. We are living in a larger world, and we must live beyond ourselves and our own culture.

The report concludes with suggestions in Section Five which can help deal with the problems which concern us.

The Quality of Life of Our Young People

Our culture worships Youth, but I think it shortchanges the young. It is hard for teenagers to gain experience, to learn useful skills, to be given genuine responsibility. Our society makes it difficult for young people to assume adult responsibilities.

Family life is under assault. In homes where the mother works, pre-teenagers may be coming to an empty house after school. The high incidence of divorce makes a child's life very insecure. Peer pressures urging drug and alcohol use put most children up against tough choices at an earlier and earlier age. The facts set down in Section One of this report, under the heading "What Is Happening To Our Kids" strike a blow at the heart.

Ramon Cortines, then superintendent of Pasadena's school system, told me, "An entire educational ingredient which used to be there no longer is: the family, parents, used to be integral to the educational process. Now the schools have to operate almost without that ingredient, and nothing can truly take its place."

Frank Jameson of the Police Department's Youth Services expressed his conviction to me thus: "If you are serious about doing something about crime, do something about child abuse. If you improve the quality of life for our young people, inevitably you improve the life of the community too. But don't start anything unless you are prepared to do it for five years."

Shirley Mauller, former president of the Pasadena League of Women Voters and now state representative for the League, said to me last August in one of my very first interviews, "What can we do for our young people? They feel there is no place for them. They are not given responsibilities."

What can we do when the major trends of our society knock the underpinnings out from under young people? Worth is equated with money. Immediate gratification is the message of most advertising, and violence and war are standard fare on the evening TV screen.

I believe there are two levels of response. First, there are immediate practical tasks which, if many of us would undertake them, would make a noticeable difference to our young people. These would help them to get the most out of the short years they are in school and prevent their being shortchanged on gaining an education or skills.

TASK: To find ways to support the school system in every possible manner, realizing it is the focus of social and economic forces well out of its control. The PTA and SERVE volunteers are a part of the schools' lifeblood; every hour working for the well-being and quality of the schools is priceless.

TASK: To create tutoring programs in any needed subjects, with a strong emphasis on math and English as a supplement and support to the classroom teaching in the schools. The program *Pasadena Reads* merits the fullest possible involvement.

TASK: To find ways to offer weekend athletics to all young people on a wider scale.

TASK: To support the Adopt-a-School program between businesses and schools so that all unadopted schools find partners, and youngsters gain role models.

TASK: To help in the creation and support of Parent Alert groups through the whole community to help reverse the drug and drinking tide.

TASK: To multiply the places and opportunities for parents who wish to learn English. This can help them participate more readily in their children's school experiences.

The second level of response is harder to define and will take longer to implement. The Rev. Bill Robinson's words keep coming back to me: some young people feel their families are not truly committed to them or deeply concerned about them, and the pain of that results in acting out self-destructive behavior with drugs and alcohol. Taken seriously, this claim means that parents, aunts and uncles, adults who have the chance to influence young people need to take a closer look at their way of life. "Role models" may be an all-too-familiar phrase, yet young people are quick to detect commitment, self-discipline, self-denial when it is present and when it is rooted in love. These qualities can act as a tremendous resource to them as they grow up.

We are fortunate to have Pacific Oaks College and Fuller Seminary in Pasadena. They could help us learn a lot more about human and family development. They are resources which, combined with the inborn wisdom of the young with whom we would also want to consult, could help us chart some new ways of thinking and living for this modern age. This is an ongoing hope I have.

I am aware that no prescribed set of tasks can possibly deal with the immensity of our community's problems. But these proposed tasks are places to begin.

I have spoken of the two imperatives which have slowly formed in my mind: 1) Pasadena must not be allowed to be a polarized city; 2) the quality of life of all Pasadena's young people must be our highest concern. These are immensely difficult and challenging concepts to take into one's life. But I do believe that if we accept these as imperatives, our resolve can move us a long way in overcoming our prejudices and rethinking our priorities. We will talk with each other much sooner and much more willingly (perhaps even in our own families) if we have allowed these two powerful concepts to take up residence, even in a quiet, modest way, inside ourselves.

Section Five: Creative Connections

This is clearly a city of enormous vitality, with its proud old traditions, its Rose Parade, its high tech industries, its many cultures, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Caltech. But it seems disconnected as well as divided. New structures are coming, but we all tend to live too much in our own separate worlds. For many of us the all-absorbing struggle for survival is never far from the center of our attention. Yet most of us have lived through a national emergency or a catastrophe of nature and have experienced how our priorities shifted. Then we found ourselves more readily thinking of the concerns and needs of others.

In the months of crisscrossing this city, meeting and talking with people of many different backgrounds, I have found myself almost inadvertently taking part in a process which might be called "creative connections." People put me in touch with other people, greatly enriching my work. (In fact, that was how the long list of interviewees came to be: one person sent me on to the next one.) Those I talked with seemed genuinely interested in learning about the experience and thinking of others. I was perceived as being non-threatening and non-judgmental. Our talking together was open and helpful.

This is a further discovery from all these months: there is a tremendous desire in Pasadena to make our community healthy. Most Pasadenans are proud of their city. I found almost no cynics. The people I talked with want to improve the quality of life of Pasadena. But a feeling of not knowing how to begin, a feeling that one person cannot make a difference, often prevents action. It seems to me this concern and desire to help are an enormous resource. It is a flame which must be fanned. To seek out this resource and to try to put it to work seems to me to be of the greatest value.

To formalize this task, I am proposing as my final recommendation the establishment of an Office for Creative Connections.

The Office would aim . . .

To Listen

- by continuing the one-on-one listening to individuals in every part of the city so as to "hear" what people are experiencing;
- by creating opportunities for people to listen to one another, connecting persons who need to know about each other's concerns and aspirations;

To Connect

- by arranging for gifted individuals to meet each other, thus enriching resources already available;
- by bringing together citizens of the city whose abilities and knowledge can cross-fertilize practical ways to tackle needs;

To Speak

- by finding ways to keep before the wider public the two imperatives mentioned in the report so that the community acknowledges them more and more;
- by eventually taking stands on crucial issues, having earned the right to do so through sincere and conscientious listening and interaction with the persons concerned;

To Act

- by initiating from time to time new programs to improve the quality of life in Pasadena and to strengthen community response to the two imperatives—preventing polarization and sustaining youth.

The Office for Creative Connections would symbolize a long-term commitment to this city, to the lives and well-being of all its citizens. It would operate in conjunction with many, many individuals and institutions who already have shown their concern for Pasadena.

I am recommending that All Saints Church bring the Office for Creative Connections into existence as an ongoing Gift to the City. I am recommending as well that it have a permanent advisory committee to work with the Office, a committee composed one-half of members of the All Saints parish, one-half of persons outside the parish, but within the community.

NOTE: The Vestry of All Saints Church voted unanimously to initiate the Office for Creative Connections as of July 1, 1984, as its permanent Gift to the City.

I would like to digress for a moment . . .

One of my heroes is Jean Monnet, the Frenchman who did so much for the rebuilding of post-war Europe after World War II. My French grandmother in her lifetime lived through three wars between France and Germany: 1870 - 1914 - 1939. She lost her only son, 19 years old, at Verdun in 1914, the battlefield where France and Germany *each* suffered a million casualties before that war was over. Monnet's insight was that Allied vindictiveness in the Treaty of Versailles lost the subsequent peace.

France's defeat by Germany in World War II was a bitter experience for Monnet and his friends. The day the U.S.A. joined the Allied cause against Hitler, Monnet knew that the eventual military victory would surely come, and he turned all his energies to winning the peace. In his mind, it was crucial to find a task too big for France or Germany to do alone. There had to be something they could only accomplish together. Monnet hit on the idea of interlocking the steel of Germany with the coal of France. That resource would be used to rebuild Europe out of its ruins, but by being tied together, France and Germany could not again go to war against each other.

To work for the plan's acceptance by French leaders early on, and others later, Monnet would host small intimate lunches of 10 to 12 people. His ideas would be discussed, revised. Guests came away from the lunch having contributed their best and gained part ownership in what had been discussed. The final plan came to be known as the Schuman Plan; Monnet gladly let go of any credit.

Now to come back to Pasadena! We can learn something from Monnet. To begin to write the next page in our city's history, we need to take on things too big for any one group to do alone. None of us, alone, can assure that our city will not become permanently divided, polarized; working together, over the long haul, we can. None of us, alone, can protect our own and others' children from some of the ravages of the modern age. Together, with the help of the young people, we can find creative ways to move into a new social climate.

Having once accepted that "Monnet premise," new solutions will be born out of the steady hard work of individuals who listen to each other and share joint ownership in the practical programs put forward.

We have so much going for us. Yet we are faced with some of the toughest problems which plague cities all over America. Our city is large enough that what we do here is significant for other cities. It is small enough that we need not be overwhelmed, although we must recognize that we have an enormous task before us. Above all it will require persistence, patience, and the encouragement of each other to use our own strengths to see that needs are met, wounds are healed, divisions are bridged, and young people feel needed.

Let us do it, and let us do it together.



"If you improve the quality of life for our young people, inevitably you improve the life of the community too."

Summary

In celebration of its centennial, All Saints Episcopal Church of Pasadena decided to make a gift to the city of a survey of the quality of life of Pasadena. Denise H. Wood was given the task of creating the survey.

As an educator, not a sociologist, Wood chose the method of one-on-one interviews as her chief source of information, as well as reports prepared by different groups in the city. Over a nine month period, Wood interviewed 104 individuals of varied backgrounds, races and points of view. The report "Experiencing Pasadena" reflects the insights, concerns and experiences of those individuals as they talked with Wood.

Pasadena is revealed to be "a community in pain," (Section One), as well as being the City of Roses. Poverty, hunger, homelessness, family violence, unemployment, sub-standard housing are powerful realities which Wood met as she moved around Pasadena. She found as well a variety of "green shoots of hope" (Section Two), activities where the quality of care, leadership and commitment, much more than the dollars spent, made a crucial difference in bringing hope into people's lives. The "green shoots" mentioned are only a partial list of the many more which exist.

In the report, Section Three, "Strengths and Structures," highlights some of the resources which are assets of the Pasadena community. Some groups have been at work over many years, while some are new alliances brought together by a sense of urgency. Wood describes a wide range of such resources, among them the Community Skills Center, the initiative of the Chamber of Commerce in the Northwest area of Pasadena, El Centro de Accion Social, the League of Women Voters, and the business community.

Section Four, "This We Must Do," focuses on two imperatives which Wood believes are crucial for Pasadena: 1) Pasadena must not be allowed to be a polarized city, one part poor and one part affluent; 2) the quality of life of all of Pasadena's young people must command the highest concern. Pasadena's tensions are evident not simply along geographical lines but also in the make-up of the student bodies of the schools, in the health care services available, in the changes that have come about in the labor force between white collar and blue collar or service workers. In Section Four a number of tasks are suggested

which can help alleviate the polarization of the city and improve the quality of life for young people. These tasks range from increasing the teaching of English as a Second Language, to increasing affordable child care, to studying ways to give rewarding activities on weekends and summer employment to more young people.

The Vestry of All Saints Church has approved Wood's final recommendation—that the church establish an Office for Creative Connections as its centennial Gift to the City, a symbol of All Saints' long-term commitment to Pasadena. An advisory board will be formed, half its members drawn from the parish of All Saints Church and half from the community at large. The Office for Creative Connections begins operation in July 1984. The office will have four major functions: 1) *to listen* one-on-one, in order to keep aware of people's current concerns and perceptions; 2) *to connect* individuals and groups who, by better understanding each other's ideas and aspirations, can make a vital difference in the resolution of the city's problems; 3) *to speak* out on current issues related to the two imperatives outlined in the report; 4) *to act* by bringing into being, from time to time, programs or enterprises to improve the quality of life of the city. The Office for Creative Connections will operate in conjunction with many, many individuals and institutions who already are active and showing their concern for the quality of life of Pasadena.

Appendix A – Interviews

August 1, 1983 – June 28, 1984

- Robert J. Adanto
*Community Skills Center Director,
ESL program*
- Priscilla Allen
*Director of Admissions,
Westridge School*
- Rolfe G. Arnhym
*Executive vice-president, Pasadena
Chamber of Commerce*
- Claire Bogaard
Director, Pasadena Heritage
- William J. Bogaard
Mayor, City Board of Directors
- Glenn Brooks
*Community Services Director,
City of Pasadena*
- Jean Buler
Hill House, Lutheran Social Services
- JoAnne Burr
SERVE / Adopt-a-School program
- Sandy Burud
*Co-Author of report, Employer
Supported Child Care, Auburn
House Publishing Company,
Boston, Massachusetts, 1984.*
- Jacquelynne F. Cannon-Jones
*Principal administrative analyst,
City of Pasadena*
- Maureen Carlson
Attorney
- Robert Carlson
Attorney
- Glandion Carney
*Director, Urban Ministry, U.S.
Ministry Division, World Vision*
- John W. Casey
*Superintendent / President,
Pasadena City College*
- Dan Castro
*Head of the Mexican-American
Scholarship Foundation,
Building contractor*
- Cecil Cerillo
*Formerly, Assistant to City
Manager, Pasadena; now, partner
Historical Restoration Associates,
Los Angeles*
- Rick Cole
City Director, District No. 2
- Howard Collins
*Formerly, Editorial Director,
Pasadena Star News; now, assistant
director of communications,
Occidental Petroleum Corporation*
- Ramon Cortines
*Formerly, Superintendent of Pasa-
dena Unified School District; now,
Superintendent of San Jose School
District*
- Pauline Crabb
*Supervisor, Parent Education and
Child Care Center, Pasadena City
College*
- James Crayton
Director, Community Skills Center
- John Crowley
*City Director, District No. 1 and
vice-Mayor*
- Antonia Darder
*Executive Director, El Centro de
Accion Social, Inc.*
- Linda F. Davis
*Associate Superintendent for
Instruction, Pasadena Unified
School District*
- Patric Dawe
Architect and city planner
- Gloria Gutierrez Delaney
*Director of Bilingual Education,
Pasadena Unified School District*
- Dorn Dicker
*Vice-president of Corporate Rela-
tions, The Parsons Corporation;
President, Community Dispute
Resolution Center*
- William Doulos
Director, Union Station
- Betty Duncan
*Laubach Method for Literacy and
Language, Arcadia office*
- Henry P. Erwin, Jr.
Businessman
- Nancy Esbenshade
*Field representative for William
Bogaard*
- John Fauvre
Attorney

- Robert H. Finch
Immediate past president, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce and Civic Association
- Louis B. Fleming
Editorial writer, Los Angeles Times
- Thomas M. Fowler
Rector, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Altadena
- Eleanor Freeman
Board of Directors, Mothers Club
- Cathy Gamboz
Government / Public Relations Coordinator, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce and Civic Association
- Lawrence C. Gamell
President, The Black Business Association of Pasadena-Altadena, Inc.
- Brooke Garlock
Director, Oral History, Central Public Library, Pasadena
- George Gay
Counselor for Hispanic students, Fuller Seminary
- Richard Gillette
Episcopal clergyman
- Loretta Thompson-Glickman
Mayor of Pasadena until May 1984; now, City Director, District No. 3
- Armando L. Gonzales
Architect, A.I.A.
- James Gruettner
Refining & Planning Division, Arco Co.
- Peter F. Hagen
Director, Planning, Research and Evaluation, Pasadena Unified School District
- James E. Halferty
President, Pasadena NOW
- Patti Hamic
Director, Friends In Deed
- Betty Hamilton
Administrator, Farmers Market, Villa Parke
- Pini Harmen
Demographer, United Way
- Nan Hatch
Chairman of the Board, Child Care Information Service
- Jo Heckman
City Director, District No. 4
- Dolores Hickambottom
Field representative for Loretta T. Glickman
- Jess H. Hughston
City Director, District No. 5
- Frank L. Jameson, Jr.
Youth Services Coordinator, Pasadena Police Department
- Harold O. Johnson
President, Bushnell Optical Co.
- Wilbur Johnson
Former head of Ministerial Alliance
- Peggy Kidwell
Coordinator, Child Care and Development Program, Mexican American Opportunity Foundation
- Patricia Knudsen
Community vice-president, Pasadena Junior League
- J. Paul Landrey
U.S. Missions and Creative Ministry, World Vision
- Victor Jaruccia
City Telecommunications Director
- John Lejoy
Formerly, Placement Officer, Community Skills Center
- Linda Lewis
Executive Director, Info Line for Los Angeles County
- Paul Lippold
Chairman, Goals Congress
- Mariann Loniello
Associate Dean for Continuing Education and Community Services, Pasadena City College
- Rudy Lopez
President, R. & S. Travel Agency
- Buff McGraw
Project Director, Junior League of Pasadena
- Robert McGowan
Chief of Police, Pasadena
- Donald F. McIntyre
City Manager, Pasadena
- Kathleen Malaske-Samu
Director, Child Care Information Service, Pasadena
- Shirley Mauler
Former president, Pasadena League of Women Voters; State representative, League of Women Voters
- Donald E. Miller
Associate Professor, School of Religion, University of Southern California
- Nora Mitsumori
Commission on Status of Women, Pasadena

- Clarence C. Moore
Director, Youth Services, Salvation Army
- Kathryn Nack
President, Board of Education, Pasadena Unified School District
- Melva Newman
Family therapist, Family Life Education and Parent Education Consultant; Director of Positive Parenting Workshop, Jackie Robinson Center
- Donald H. Nollar
Director, Housing & Community Development Agency, City of Pasadena
- Taka Nomura
Formerly, Pacific Oaks Faculty and director of teaching at Mothers Club; now retired
- Christina Ortiz
United Way Planning Associate Coordinator, United Way Hispanic Leadership
- Mrs. Ray Osaki
Leader in Japanese community
- Ivor A. Ottlay
Vicar, St. Barnabas Church, Pasadena
- Diana Palmer
Executive Director, Development & Environmental Council, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce
- Mary Ellen Perez
Graduate student at Fuller Seminary
- John M. Perkins
Founder of John M. Perkins Foundation for Reconciliation and Development
- Thomas A. Polenzani
Capehart and Associates, Insurance
- Jeffrey S. Prater
Director, Church-Based Human Services Network, The Psychological Center of Fuller Seminary
- Diane Reichwein
Commissioner, Los Angeles Commission for Community Development
- William Robinson
Director, Positive Intervention Drug treatment program for parents of drug-abusing children
- Nicholas G. Rodriguez
Attorney, El Centro de Accion Social
- Pat Rostker
Director, Placement Services for Older Workers
- Cecilia Sandoval
Executive Director, Hispanic Women's Council
- Bessie Shenk
Chairman of Board of Advisors, Mentor Program sponsored by BAY
- Joel V. Sheldon III
President, A. C. Vroman, Inc.
- Barbara Smart
Child Advocates
- Toni Stuart
Formerly Director, Clergy and Laity Concerned
- James Stillwell
Executive Director, Impact Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center
- Edward Szynaka
Head Librarian of the City of Pasadena
- Don Thomas
Doctor in charge, Emergency Room, Huntington Memorial Hospital
- William E. Thomson, Jr.
City Director, District No. 7
- Nancy Train
Director, SERVE Program, Pasadena Unified School District
- Bobbi Villalobos
Formerly, Business/Civic Affairs Coordinator, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce and Civic Affairs
- Judy Weiss
Assistant to the City Manager
- Judy White
Leader of the Junior League Health Services Survey
- Stella Williams
Head of Human Relations Commission until May 1984, City of Pasadena
- Gloria Dular-Wilson
Education Liaison, The Sycamores Juvenile Home
- A. Reginald Woolvolk
Cleghorn-Dixon Associates; Coordinator, Pasadena Chamber/World Vision Job Placement Program
- Marjorie K. Wyatt
Member, Pasadena Board of Education

Appendix B – Reports Consulted

- "Area Analysis Study, 1960-1980"
City of Pasadena Planning Department, Principal Authors: Jack McCool and Nancy Ackbarali, AICP, October 1983
- "Attitude and Awareness Regarding Pasadena"
Conducted among Pasadena businesses by Facts Consolidated, June 1983
- "Current Trends & Epidemiology of Drug Abuse"
Los Angeles County, 1979-1982, Balkar Singh Husson, M.S., Ph.D., Published by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, June 1983
- "Essential to an informed citizenry . . ."
The Pasadena Community and Its Information Needs: A Program for Pasadena Library Services, Pasadena Public Library, Pasadena, California, April 1983
- "Goals, Objectives and Workplan, Fiscal Year 1984"
City of Pasadena, California; Prepared by Donald F. McIntyre, City Manager
- "Hunger in Pasadena"
Hunger Watch Report: Bread for the World; Donald E. Miller, Associate Professor, School of Religion, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, June 1983
- Mexican-American Community Study
Southern California Gas Company, March 1980
- "Neighborhood Statistics Program for Pasadena"
Census of Population and Housing, Part 6 California, U.S. Department of Commerce
- "Poverty in the City of the Roses: A Statistical Analysis"
Prepared by Pasadena Community Services Commission, Inc., October 1973
- "Projections of Hispanic Population for California 1985-2000"
Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy, Palo Alto, California, 1983
- Report of Citizens Task Force on Crime Control
Co-chaired by David Yamada and C. Morris Fisher, April 1984
- Report of the 1982 Priorities Committee. Report of the 1983 Priorities Committee
United Way, Inc. Region II, November 1982 and 1983
- "Revised Housing Element of Comprehensive General Plan"
City of Pasadena, May 1980
- "Taking the Community's Pulse . . . A Rx for the Pasadena Dispensary"
Junior League Health Services Survey prepared for the Pasadena Dispensary, Judy White, chairperson May 1984
- "The Economic Development and Employment Element of the General Plan"
Planning Department Draft, January 31, 1983
- "Villa Parke Five Year Housing Strategy, 1982-1983"
Villa Parke Redevelopment Project, Pasadena Community Development Commission, June 1983
- "What Hath Development Wrought?"
The Pasadena Story, Christopher Frost, Thesis in Public Policy, Pomona College, May 1983



DENISE HYDE WOOD was born in Boston, Massachusetts. Educated in Paris, France, as well as in Boston, she graduated from Vassar College in 1939. For the next 25 years, she was involved in educational and international work in many parts of the world: France, Great Britain, Italy, Switzerland, Zaire, Scandinavia, the United States, Canada, India and Japan.

During the years 1965-1967, Mrs. Wood was Dean of Women at Mackinac College, Mackinac Island, Michigan. From 1970-1972, she took an active part in the School Volunteer program of New York City, chairing its reading program at Haaren High, a school enrolling 2,500 boys, located in the Hell's Kitchen district of the city.

In 1972, with her husband, John C. Wood, Mrs. Wood moved to Pasadena where they now live. From 1972-1982, Mrs. Wood served on the administrative staff of the Marlborough School, Los Angeles, retiring from the post of Dean of Students in 1982.

Both the Woods have been members of All Saints Episcopal Church, Pasadena, since 1973. Mrs. Wood is the director of the Office for Creative Connections.

Copies of this report may be obtained from:

All Saints Episcopal Church, 132 North Euclid Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101; phone (818) 796-1172. Cost is \$3.00 each; postage is 50¢. Payable to All Saints Church/Office for Creative Connections.