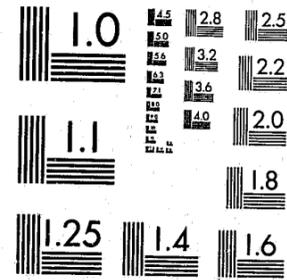


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 <b>U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE</b> LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION		<b>CATEGORICAL GRANT          PROGRESS REPORT</b>	
GRANTEE Rock Island Community Caring Conference	LEAA GRANT NO. 78-CA-AX-0068	DATE OF REPORT 11/18/81	REPORT NO. #13
IMPLEMENTING SUBGRANTEE	TYPE OF REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL REQUEST <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FINAL REPORT		
SHORT TITLE OF PROJECT Anti-Crime Block Club Organizing	GRANT AMOUNT                      \$156,428.00		
REPORT IS SUBMITTED FOR THE PERIOD    October 1, 1978    THROUGH    August 31, 1981			
SIGNATURE OF PROJECT DIRECTOR <i>Catherine A. Bolckom</i>	TYPED NAME & TITLE OF PROJECT DIRECTOR Catherine A. Bolckom, Executive Director		
COMMENCE REPORT HERE (Add continuation pages as required.)  <p>The Final Program Report is attached.</p>			
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<p>NCJRS</p> <p>DEC 18 1981</p> <p>ACQUISITIONS</p>			
NOTE: No further monies or other benefits may be paid out under this program unless this report is completed and filed as required by existing law and regulations (FMC 74-7; Omnibus Crime Control Act of 1976).			
RECEIVED BY GRANTEE STATE PLANNING AGENCY (Official)		DATE	

**FINAL PROGRAM NARRATIVE REPORT**  
 Rock Island Anti-Crime Block Club Organizing  
 LEAA Grant #78-CA-AX-0068  
 Grantee: Community Caring Conference

PROBLEMS ADDRESSED

1. A summary of the major crime problems of the CCC target area which were to be addressed by this project include:
- one of the highest crime rates in the SMSA
  - Mutual distrust between a significant number of area residents and the police department
  - disproportionate number of isolated elderly residents
  - lack of effective cooperation between neighbors
  - disproportionate number of bars and night clubs
  - lack of supervised youth recreation, especially for low-income black teen ages
  - physical atmosphere that lends itself to crime including numerous vacant and abandoned houses, empty overgrown, and junk filled lots, garbage ridden unpaved alleys, dilapidated rental properties, inadequate street and alley lighting, broken sidewalks and curbs.
- (a) The CCC had one of the higher crime rates in the SMSA with the highest rates for residential burglaries, street crime including muggings and vandalism, and rape.
- (b) The distrustful attitudes between the target community and the police was tied to the long time attitude that these neighborhoods are ghettos with high minority populations, bad housing, and a lot of poor, problem-causing people. The neighbors resent this attitude (though often sharing it themselves) and feel that their area does not receive the same treatment as other parts of the city. The police resent the hostility and lack of cooperation they encounter in the neighborhoods and the two negative attitudes feed on one another.
- (c) We have many elderly residents who have special crime problems. Many of them live alone. Most are on a fixed low income. They lack the money to adequately maintain and secure their homes. They are very often dependent on public transportation and therefore lack mobility. Often they are longtime residents in blocks that have turned over in recent years. They are isolated from their new neighbors and live in fear.
- (d) The target neighborhoods lacked effective cooperation between residents that could reduce their crime problems. Factors involved in this problem include racial prejudice, tensions between renters and homeowners, and an absence of an understanding of the benefits to this cooperation.
- (e) The CCC neighborhoods have one of the highest concentrations of bars and night-clubs in the SMSA. In addition to obvious nuisances caused by these businesses such as chronic littering, noise, and litter, we also suspect that some of these places serve as centers for prostitution, drug traffic, fencing of stolen goods, and thus contribute to the crime committed in adjacent blocks.

(f) There is a serious lack of supervised recreation for our area young people, especially for low income black teenagers. On the weekends they either roam the streets or try to sneak into the neighborhood bars and nightclubs.

(g) The physical atmosphere in our blocks lends itself to crime problems. We have vacant and abandoned houses that attract vagrants and arsonists, empty and junk filled lots, garbage ridden and unpaved alleys, dilapidated rental properties, inadequate street and alley lighting, and broken sidewalks and curbs. These problems are caused by a lack of neighborhood pride, by inadequate city services, especially effective code enforcement, and an absence of significant investment of either private or public monies for development and improvement. Related needs are effective citizen participation in the Community Block Grant Allocation process and increased citizen understanding of redlining and disinvestment.

#### Crime

In 1975, when being compared with the Metropolitan Common Characteristic Group of 219,951, Rock Island had the highest volume of burglaries and thefts, and the highest rates for homicides, rape and robbery.

Figures compiled from January 1, 1978 through August 18, 1978, (approximately one and one-half months prior to the beginning of our LEAA grant) showed increases in aggravated batteries, assaults, forcible burglaries, thefts and thefts from motor vehicles. At that time, the Police Department stressed the citizen participation and the concern of residents are the biggest factors which could slow the climbing burglary rate.

#### Major Accomplishments of the Project

- The Block Club organizing was very successful. 62 Block Clubs are in operation at the end of the grant period, covering 175 city blocks in the older neighborhoods of Rock Island. The individual Block Clubs have identified, developed strategies for and resolved a wide variety of neighborhood concerns, including housing problems, traffic problems, unsafe and unsanitary conditions, etc.

- The Neighborhood Watch program was very well accepted by the Block Clubs. Almost 1000 families are active participants in the program.

- Over 500 families have used the engraver in connection with Operation Identification.

- Operation WhistleStop has been introduced to the most well-organized block clubs and the elderly high rises. More than 700 households are participating.

- Almost 600 households have attended a neighborhood crime prevention meeting presented by the Rock Island Police Department in cooperation with CCC.

- Additional security street lights were installed in ten neighborhoods as the result of Block Club action.

- Over 3000 youth attended activities sponsored by CCC with the help of over 100 adult volunteers.

- CCC has developed a coalition of Block Clubs which cover the neighborhoods "below the hill" in the city of Rock Island which now includes the residents of our four public housing projects and lower-income renters. We are now much better able to identify and address city-wide crime problems and patterns of deterioration which have an impact on our neighborhoods.

#### GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

##### Program: Anti-Crime Block Club Organizing

A. Goal: TO INSTILL IN PEOPLE THE SENSE OF BEING PART OF A COMMUNITY, TO BREAK DOWN THEIR ISOLATION AND TO EASE RACIAL TENSIONS. TO BRING NEIGHBORS TOGETHER TO DISCUSS COMMON PROBLEMS AND WORK COLLECTIVELY TO IMPROVE THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS.

Objective: Organize 135 blocks into block clubs.

Achievements: We have organized sixty-two block clubs, covering over 175 square blocks - 129% of our goal - in the neighborhoods in which CCC works. During the life of the grant, there were 334 block club meetings involving 3527 neighbors.

Objective: Increase the depth of leadership in the existing block clubs by encouraging the block clubs to rotate leadership responsibilities regularly, and by involving block club members other than block club captains on CCC committees.

Achievements: During the life of the project, the following committees have been organized to address area-wide concerns: Crime Prevention, Community Development, Clean-up, Education, Housing, Renter's Steering, Tenant Union Council and Fundraising. Involvement by residents in these committees has been critical to CCC's success in solving neighborhood problems.

In addition, each block club elects leaders each year in accordance with organization policy, to ensure the involvement of new leaders.

B. Goal: TO BUILD GRASS-ROOTS INVOLVEMENT IN NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION BY INVOLVING NEIGHBORS IN TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR WATCHING FOR AND REPORTING CRIMES IN THEIR OWN NEIGHBORHOODS, AND TAKING STEPS TO BETTER SECURE THEIR HOMES AGAINST BURGLARY.

Objective: Enlist 700 families in the Neighborhood Watch program by obtaining an agreement to participate from each household, and by providing each participant with a Neighborhood Directory and window decal.

Achievements: At the end of the project, we have 995 families participating in the Neighborhood Watch program (142% of our goal). Staff and block club captains canvass door-to-door to solicit participation and to obtain the information necessary to put together the Neighborhood Directories. Once the directory is finished for a particular block club, a meeting is held to distribute the directories and decals and re-emphasize the importance of the program.

Objective: Circulate the engravers for Operation Identification through the block clubs to 500 households.

Achievements: Despite a good level of participation in Operation Identification prior to the start of our project, we anticipate that we will reach our goal of 500 households by the end of the project. The use of the engravers has been ex-

plained at block club meetings, and the engravers have been circulated to all interested block club members. The Police Department no longer provides this service, so we get many calls from residents throughout the City to use our engravers.

Objective: We believe that WhistleStop is only effective in the block club setting where the block club is very well organized, where there is a high level of participation in the block club, and where the block club has been trained in the use of the program. We also made the decision during the project year to make whistles available to the elderly residents of highrise apartment buildings and to other elderly residents who request them. The program has been well publicized in the press resulting in many requests from individual elderly persons and from groups serving the elderly. At the end of the project, we have distributed 700 whistles: 100 to block club members and 600 to other elderly individuals.

Objective: To involve 650 residents in an educational presentation by the Rock Island Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit, and to aid the officers in scheduling 500 home security checks.

Achievements: Early on in the project we discovered that the neighborhood residents did not appear to be interested in having the police officers come into their homes to do security checks. We speculate that this may be the result of lingering distrust of the police on the part of the residents of these neighborhoods.

Every block club organized to this date has held a crime prevention meeting which was devoted entirely to a presentation by the police which includes an educational film on home security and a lock demonstration. 596 households participated in these meetings.

Objective: To help each block club evaluate street lighting in their neighborhood, and if necessary to organize neighbors to approach the city for additional street lighting or to share the cost of installation of alley security lights.

Achievements: Each block club has been provided with information to determine how to go about getting additional lighting if the block club feels it is needed. 10 block clubs have successfully petitioned the city for additional lighting and many block clubs have had the utility company install security lights in their neighborhoods.

C. Goal: TO INVOLVE YOUTH AND PARENTS IN PLANNING AND STRATEGIZING AROUND ISSUES AFFECTING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS, AND TO PROVIDE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH.

Objective: Organize an area-wide youth committee - composed of adults and young residents, whose primary focus would be the upgrading of the image of neighborhood parks.

Achievements: CCC established a Youth Committee of the CCC Council of Block Club Captains. A survey of needs in the public housing projects demonstrated that lack of activities for young people was one of the major concerns of parents. The Youth Committee, composed of adult volunteers, has planned activities for our neighborhood youth, including Saturday morning movies and wee-end dances. During the summer of 1979, staff organized a committee of eleven young men from one of the public housing projects to publicize, organize and actually run weekly dances during the school year.

In total, the youth activities, put on with the help of over 100 adult volunteers, were attended by over 3000 youth.

Staff also organized two Halloween parties for the young residents of one of the city's housing projects, with the volunteer help of local churches and parents from the housing projects.

The youth activities were discontinued in late 1980 due to lack of adequate staffing and adult volunteers.

D. Goal: TO REACH AND INVOLVE ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT LIKELY TO COME TO BLOCK CLUB MEETINGS, BUT WHO ARE OFTEN THE MOST VULNERABLE AND FEARFUL OF VICTIMIZATION, IN OUR CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS.

Objective: Through special outreach by block club leaders, staff and other volunteers to canvas door-to-door to identify elderly and make them aware of available programs.

Achievements: Elderly people are being identified through the canvassing being done for the Neighborhood Watch directories. Block club captains are encouraged to make personal visits to elderly residents of their area to invite them to block club meetings. Staff and volunteers have also spoken to over 700 elderly persons through organized presentations at the elderly high-rises and meal sites. As mentioned earlier, the elderly have been targeted for the WhistleStop program. Whistles have been provided to 600 elderly persons.

Objective: To recruit and train neighborhood volunteers to do home security checks for isolated elderly identified through the Neighborhood Watch.

Achievements: In the fall of 1980, the Crime Prevention Committee developed a checklist to be used for these home security checks. The Committee then organized a training session for the CCC Council so that the Captains could learn how to effectively conduct a home security check. A police officer conducted the training session of 35 block captains in February, 1981. We do not know how many security checks have been completed.

Objective: We will also work through the Crime Prevention Committee to develop a fund for the purchase of dead-bolt locks for low-income families who cannot afford to purchase them.

Achievements: Due to the Police Department's inability to staff a program to issue and install the dead-bolt locks, we were unable to put together a successful funding proposal.

Objective: To increase communication between neighbors and the police department through the Ride-A-Long program and through regular meetings with the police chief and his staff.

Achievements: The Ride-A-Long program was cancelled by the Police Department due to funding cuts.

The CCC Crime Prevention Committee, in response to complaints from block club members about the length of time it takes for the police to respond to emergency calls, scheduled an open community meeting in October, 1979 with Police Chief

Ron Hansen and members of his staff. Thirty-five neighborhood people attended the meeting to question the Police Chief about police procedures, staffing, and average response time. The meeting was a good beginning in establishing a dialogue between neighborhood residents and the Police Department. As a direct result of the meeting, the police department is now leafletting neighborhoods that have been hit by burglars to warn residents to be on the look-out for suspicious activity or unfamiliar persons or cars.

Another issue affecting many of our neighborhoods is the placement and operation of bars and nightclubs in residential neighborhoods. Both the CCC Council and Board of Directors have identified this as a key problem in our attempts to make our neighborhoods better and safer places to live. CCC has addressed this issue by formally asking the city's mayor, police chief and City Council to support CCC's efforts by enforcing the laws and ordinances which govern the operation of drinking establishments. The city responded in October, 1979, by staging a organized check of 13 bars, making arrests for minors drinking, drugs and weapons. The bar's owners and patrons responded by threatening legal action against the city. A special meeting of the City Council was called to allow the bar owners to air their grievances. CCC notified neighborhood residents of that meeting, and over 100 CCC members attended the meeting to demonstrate support for the police crackdown.

In October, 1979 CCC also backed a block club in its attempt to prevent a rezoning which would have allowed another nightclub to open in a residential neighborhood. CCC was successful in our first attempt to block a rezoning by making it a community-wide issue. Block club leaders and members from all of the neighborhoods that CCC works in attended the hearings to show support for the neighborhoods' contentions that another club would create problems with noise, litter and traffic, and that there are already enough bars and clubs in these neighborhoods.

**E. Goal: TO MAKE PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS WHICH WILL IMPACT ON THE INCIDENCE OF CRIME-RELATED PROBLEMS.**

Objective: Work with the block clubs to identify general improvement problems in each neighborhood, such as abandoned properties, overgrown lots, garbage and junk, which contribute to the overall appearance and image of the neighborhood.

Achievements: The block clubs have individually taken 191 separate actions to remedy problems with deteriorating rental properties, clean-ups, trash removal, traffic problems, and other situations which directly affect the residents of a particular neighborhood. A typical example deals with a deteriorating rental property. Usually, the block club captain writes a letter to the landlord requesting that he/she repair the code violations at the property. If a satisfactory response is not received, a complaints is made by the block club to the City Housing Inspector. If compliance is not sought or not achieved by the city, the block club might petition the City Council asking for their help or contact the press to put additional pressure on the landlord to fix up the property. These strategies have been successful in the resolution of many neighborhood problems.

More than fifty different petitions have been circulated by neighborhood leaders and signed by hundreds of residents asking the city for help with various problems. Some of the specific successes include the prevention of 4 commercial business rezonings in residential areas; the placement of street signs or traffic control in numerous blocks; the organization of spring and fall clean-ups in many of our block clubs and successes in improving many individual rental properties.

Objective: Through work with the CCC Council of Block Club Captains, to identify community-wide problems which affect each of our neighborhoods.

Achievements: CCC has effectively addressed city-wide housing problems through work headed up by its volunteer Community Development Committee. In August, 1979, the three-person committee organized a public hearing on housing problems with a panel of representatives from the city, local banks, a realtor, and the HUD area representative. Over 130 neighborhood residents attended to question the panel about their institutions' policies and practices in our neighborhoods.

The CD Committee has also effectively organized for the city's Community Development Block Grant hearings during the past three years. Over 400 neighborhood residents have attended the City's hearings to identify the physical development needs of their neighborhoods and to advise the city as to how they think the CDBG funds should be spent.

The city responded by expanding the neighborhoods targeted for use of CDBG funds and doubling number of housing code inspectors. The city staff publicly credited CCC with the tremendous increase in neighborhood participation and input into the Block Grant allocations process.

CCC has consistently pressed for more effective housing code enforcement to rid the neighborhood of vacant and deteriorating properties which bring down the image of the entire area. The city has responded by taking more property owners to court for violation of the code. In July of 1980, the Community Development Committee sponsored an informational picket line to dramatize the lack of action on one property which had been allowed to sit vacant and open for several years. CCC was successful in convincing the judge to levy one of the highest fines ever against a landlord and continued court supervision until the property was finally fixed up. The Committee continues to work on code enforcement.

In the fall of 1980, the CCC Housing Committee was formed. Homeowners and renters joined together to develop solutions to the problems of vacant housing and low-income renters. CCC's research showed that City programs were accomplishing little in these areas.

The Committee put together a proposal to the City for Block Grant funding to initiate a non-profit housing rehab corporation. The proposal was approved by the City in February for funding from HUD. The corporation, headed by a Board of neighborhood residents (who are also CCC members), will buy and rehab vacant housing for sale to lower-income families.

The CCC Clean-Up Committee worked during 1980-81 to strengthen the City's enforcement of health code ordinances. Many of our neighborhoods were plagued by problems with trash and garbage strewn through yards and alleys. Through a CCC-sponsored bus tour for the City Council and attendance at many City Council meetings, the CCC leaders were able to convince the City to adopt a strict health code enforcement policy with fines for property owners who violate it. The Committee's most recent tour found that the problem has been significantly improved.

**F. Goal: TO INVOLVE NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS IN THE EXISTING PLANNING PROCEDURES USED BY THE LOCAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM; TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION AMONG NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE OFFICIALS.**

Objective: Identify and research the components of city and regional criminal justice planning in order to increase citizen input into this system including possible the appointment of CCC representatives to appropriate commissions and committees.

Achievements: The CCC Crime Prevention Committee has worked over the past three years to identify means for reducing crime in our neighborhoods. The Committee also has been especially concerned with juvenile crime and the response to it by the criminal justice system. The Committee has been investigating the roles played by the various departments involved with juveniles. The Committee has been participating over the past nine months on a Juvenile Crime Task Force of the Chamber of Commerce. The Committee is now planning to bring together a forum of persons from the various departments and the courts to brainstorm about possible solutions to the juvenile crime problems in our community.

G. Goal: TO BUILD A COALITION OF NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS TO WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE CCC AREA.

Objective: To bring the diverse groups of people living within the CCC area together to work on common problems.

Achievements: We have effectively organized the moderate-income homeowners in the CCC area. In July of 1980, we began a special effort to organize the low-income tenants who live in the four public housing projects. This organizing has been very successful, resulting in 16 block clubs and an active Tenant Union Council of leaders who work on issues specific to public housing.

In March of 1981, we began a concerted effort to organize lower-income renters who live outside of public housing - this group of people has not been actively involved in the block clubs over the past three year. We have conducted a door-to-door survey in the highly rental neighborhoods in our area and organized a Renters' Steering Committee to actively involve renters in the CCC.

We bring all of these people together at the CCC Council meetings monthly. This provides these leaders with the opportunity to meet one another, discuss common concerns and interests and to begin to understand and care about each other.

MAJOR TASKS AND SERVICES PERFORMED

CCC organized sixty two block clubs over the grant period. These block clubs brought neighbors together on a block-by-block basis and, within the organization, created a sense of community, reducing isolation and fostering relationships between black and white neighbors.

Each block club and the leaders as a group identified problems which they wanted to address. The Neighborhood Watch was organized, and neighbors readily took responsibility for preventing crime and cooperating with the police department. The block clubs sponsored crime prevention meetings and circulated the engravers for Operation Identification.

Each block club has taken on neighborhood improvement projects, resulting in a marked betterment in the physical appearance of the CCC area. This brought with it increased pride on the part of the residents and recognition from the City that the neighbors

were willing to help themselves.

Area-wide problems have been addressed by the CCC Council of leaders and the Committees.

The Community Development Committee was successful in involving hundreds of residents in helping the City decide how to spend Block Grant funds in our neighborhoods. Due to this Committee's work, housing code enforcement has been strengthened.

The Clean-up Committee convinced the City Council to adopt a fine for property owners who do allow garbage and trash to cause problems in a neighborhood, resulting in fewer problems with trash-filled alleys and yards. The Committee also encouraged block clubs to organize regular neighborhood clean-ups.

The Housing Committee was successful in its efforts to receive Block Grant funds to initiate a non-profit housing rehab corporation to buy and rehab vacant housing in our neighborhoods for low-income families.

The Crime Prevention Committee developed a handbook for block club captains and is now addressing the serious problem of juvenile crime.

The CCC Education Committee is just beginning to work on the problem of low reading levels in our primary schools in the CCC area.

New leadership has consistently been developed at the block club level, and involved in Committees, the Council and the Board.

The major service performed as the result of the project is the development of a wide base of neighborhood leadership willing to take responsibility for solving neighborhood concerns. The impact of this has had a very noticeable affect on the neighborhoods in the following ways:

- 1) neighborhood residents feel better about the CCC area as the result of their involvement in the organization;
- 2) the crime rate has dropped since 1978, with credit given by the City to the CCC's efforts;
- 3) the physical appearance of the area has improved over the past three years as the result of block club activities and individual residents's efforts;
- 4) neighborhood residents have obtained a sense of control over what happens in their neighborhoods as a result of the organizing project.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

Difficulty in Documentation

Because our project has involved some thousand different residents in our programs each year, we found it difficult to maintain an accurate count on the numbers of people involved in some of our programs. We refined our record-gathering on meetings and activities being organized by staff, but found it more difficult to monitor activities which were supported by volunteers. For example, we do not have an accurate count on how many of our members participated in Operation Identification. Our block captains would circulate the engravers through their neighborhood, and we could not always be sure how many households had taken advantage of this. However, we consider this a minor part of our effort, and thereby a minor problem.

### Cutbacks In Local Police Departments

The cooperation of our Police Department was vital to the success of our project. Due to budgetary problems not within their control, several of the crime prevention programs offered by the police were cut back in 1980-81. The Ride-Along program was terminated, and there were no longer police officers available to conduct our crime prevention presentations. This has made it somewhat more difficult for us to schedule crime prevention meetings. However, the Police Department has trained police cadets to make the presentations. We have urged the Police Department to maintain an emphasis on crime prevention efforts despite its budgetary problems.

### PRINCIPAL FINDINGS AND RESULTS

The Rock Island Anti-Crime Block Club Organizing Project of the Community Caring Conference was an unqualified success.

We feel that this success was the result of strong interest and active involvement on the part of neighborhood residents. Throughout the project, it was the responsibility of the CCC leaders to define the problems and determine the solutions. The project was a success largely because it was their project - the work that was accomplished was done by the neighborhood residents for their own neighborhoods.

The tangible results of the project were as follows:

1) Due to our combined crime prevention efforts - Neighborhood Watch, crime prevention presentations, Operation Identification and the block club organizing itself - residents have a greater sensitivity to the crime problem in the area and a heightened awareness of the role they can play in crime prevention.

2) The Neighborhood Watch program has resulted in the doubling of calls from residents in the City of Rock Island to the Police Department from 1979-1980. This has had the effect of increasing the likelihood that crimes are reported (both while in progress and afterwards) and made it easier for the Police Department to track patterns of crimes in our neighborhoods and to make arrests.

3) We know of several instances over the past three years in which crimes were stopped in progress as the result of a call from a neighbor participating in the Neighborhood Watch. In these cases, burglaries and possible personal injuries to residents were prevented.

4) The crime rate in the City has consistently dropped since 1978. Crime statistics in 1978 were up over 1977. Aggravated batteries and burglaries both were on the increase PRIOR to the start of the project.

In 1979, serious crime in Rock Island decreased by 1.4 percent, while in cities of comparable size nationally showed increases in serious crime of 11 percent. The greatest improvement in Rock Island came in the rate of property crimes which decreased by 1.9 percent. The Police Department credited the CCC with helping to lower the crime rate.

In 1980, despite an overall increase in reported crime, the crime rate in Rock Island fell dramatically below that of cities of comparable size. Serious crime decreased by 13.2 percent. At the same time, all of the Quad-City area counties and cities showed a rise in crime above the national average. The biggest drop in Rock Island was in the actual burglary rate from 1411 in 1979 to 1401 during 1980. The Police Department's clearance rate for burglaries increased by 23 percent. The police chief

attributed this to more professional police work and increased neighborhood vigilance.

In March, 1981, the Department called the Neighborhood Watch program "the key" to effective crime prevention.

5) Due to more frequent communications between the Police Department and neighborhood residents we feel that relations between the two have improved somewhat. Residents have a better understanding of Police Department operations and policies. In turn, the Police Department has had many opportunities to make residents aware of what they can do to prevent crime.

6) Neighborhood residents have become more active and better citizens as a result of the block club organizing. CCC leaders have learned through their own efforts how to work constructively for necessary changes - from the addition of street lighting to the prevention of unwanted zoning changes. As active citizens, they have come to realize the importance of being informed about the workings of City government. They have combined this knowledge of how to get things done with their willingness to work together as neighbors to effect change.

7) CCC has received requests for assistance from residents of five of the surrounding cities in our metropolitan area. CCC volunteers and staff have provided information and assistance to many individuals and groups seeking to start Neighborhood Watch and crime prevention programs in their neighborhoods. This is an obvious reflection on the need for such programs and the perceived success of CCC's efforts.

CCC's block club organizing and anti-crime work was started prior to LEAA funding and will continue without LEAA funding. The project has been a success because there was a need to do something about crime and a willingness on the part of neighborhood residents to get involved. These conditions continue to exist.

The LEAA grant allowed CCC the resources to build a strong base of leadership in our neighborhoods. This foundation will allow us to continue our efforts to institutionalize this project. This anti-crime project has demonstrated all that neighborhood residents can accomplish with a relatively small amount of federal assistance.

We would strongly recommend the block club model as the basis for any effective community-based anti-crime program. As long as the neighborhood leadership is directly in control of the project, their active involvement can be assured. This project has operated on a very tight budget. The many accomplishments of the project (due to the work of hundreds of volunteer leaders) demonstrates the economic feasibility of our approach.

We believe that the intent, focus and programming of the Community Anti-Crime Program, as funded by LEAA, is providing an effective and successful means for fighting crime in our neighborhoods.

### Documents Produced

"Handbook of CCC Block Captains"

Produced to aid the block captains in organizing their own neighborhoods, the pamphlet describes how to organize a neighborhood meeting, the crime prevention programs and the structure of the organization. We have received a very positive response to the handbook and have sent it out to interested residents of other communities.

**END**