

[Sept. 18, 1966]

September 17, 1966.

STATEMENT ON H.O.P.E., INC.

It was in May of 1965, almost 18 months ago, that the dream of HOPE, Inc. was developed by two distinguished clergymen in this community, working together in an inter-racial, inter-faith effort to rebuild the broken dreams of the community. Their plan was to direct some of their religious fervor into the physical rehabilitation of a community in the concept that the surroundings in which people live must have a profound effect upon their moral and community conceptions.

With this dream they created a community, non-profit corporation named HOPE--which, in other words, spells out "Housing Our People Economically". At that point the two leaders in this inter-faith effort, Rev. Walter Grevatt and Rev. Fr. Albert Koklowski, brought community leaders together and established a community, non-profit organization which they agreed to incorporate on June 16, 1965.

Thereafter things began to happen. The first property was acquired by the proceeds of donations. This first property was at 6516 Hough Avenue, a run-down one-family dwelling place. The purchase price was the value of the land. The first rehabilitation efforts went into this single property which today has a value of approximately \$10,000.

Thereafter the Belvidere Apartments were acquired by HOPE for the sum of \$22,000, or \$1,000 a unit. Since the acquisition of the Belvidere Apartments which we dedicate today, HOPE, Inc. has now acquired a two-family house on Zoeter Avenue, a six-suite apartment next to HOPE, Inc. on Hough Avenue, and several other properties by gift or at low-acquisition cost.

The Belvidere Project, which we dedicate today, will provide homes eventually for 21 families. This property will be completely rehabilitated with completely reconstituted utilities systems.

Without the program of human renewal, HOPE's work would be shallow. Neighborhood residents have planned programs of supportive services to the tenants of HOPE.

HOPE also intends to do a job of training men in home repair skills (basic construction skills) in preserving these properties. It has great aspirations from here on in.

What we do here today in partnership with the people of the community, the city, and the federal government, is in fact the Demonstration Cities Program at its beginning.

I am happy that the federal government has made efforts to move into this critical area of need to help people like the good citizens of Hough in providing rehabilitation loans and Federal Housing Administration insurance to make possible these humble but challenging dreams of the community.



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