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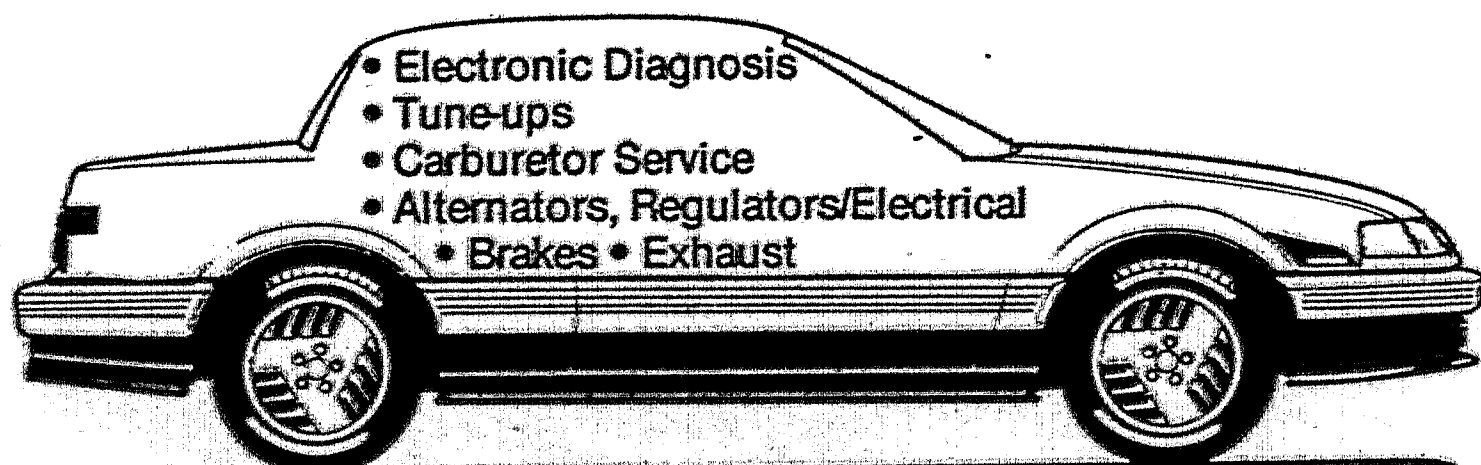
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Sharing a Vision:

A Conversation with Judy Hay

BY LOIS HARTSOUGH

Why does a person dedicate 16 years of her life to a neighborhood? As Interim Associate Director, I have enjoyed opportunities to hear from Judy the answer to that question. In the midst of hectic days filled with meetings, phone calls, and proposals to write, it's easy to lose sight of a vision for a better neighborhood. Wanting to hear more about her vision and the history of SWPC, I asked Judy to sit and reminisce about her time as Director of SWPC. As she talked, Judy demonstrated great warmth, joy and satisfaction about what SWPC has accomplished.

The beginnings of Judy's vision for the neighborhood arise from what she learned as a child growing up on a farm in northern New York. Her family members have been carpenters, masons and farmers. She remembers watching her father and grandfather move a house and rehab it. From her family she learned to value land, to care for land, to plan for a community's needs, and to build homes on the land. Judy has lived out these values by lobbying for the development of Marie Daley Park, by swinging a hammer to construct one of the homes on Gregory St., and by creating space for a community garden.

Why as a pastor did you do housing and neighborhood development work?

For me, a concern about decent housing for every member of the community is a part of my personal faith. My faith calls me to bring together resources to provide for housing needs. I think that a church and its neighborhood are interrelated; a church is a resident of its neighborhood and has a responsibility to that neighborhood. ... Why do I do housing work? It's fun, yes, it's fun! It's fun to see a vision completed, to see houses built for low income families. It's fun to bring partners together, to find out that collectively we can do something, it's fun to build teams of people. Those personal relationships will linger with me.

As you look back, what gives you the greatest satisfaction?

Working with the people, gifted people, committed people, yes, the personal relationships. I think of all the people who have given time and energy, Marie Daley, Ron Maier, Bob Shepherd, Winnie Bryant, Stephanie, Ray, all the Board members over the years. As a staff person, I am only as good as the people I work with. Working with community people has broken the isolation, I never felt that "I" did it, but "we" did it. Our ac-

complishments have been the product of a corporate vision. I have always had good staff people to work with, Jeanne Higgins, Anne Waasdorp, Nan Aronson, Lois Hartsough, Phil Stukas. There have been good people at the City to work with, from Commissioner Swain on down the line. And then there has been all the residents

Several projects come to mind: Marie Daley Park, the Gregory St. Triangle; the Hickory St. home, Averill Court, bringing in GRC, and this building (288 Sanford St.). Phil dug out part of the old cellar by hand so we could put in a new floor, Pete Monacelli donated time, Josh Canfield had the vision to purchase it when it came up for auction. This summer Ray and Joe painted, cut linoleum and brought the building to completion after 10 years of work.

The Urban Workcamp was an exciting vision of bringing youth and senior citizens together. I think of the number of lives that program has touched ...

Clearly it is hard to sum up 16 years of work in a few paragraphs. Why has Judy given time and energy to the South Wedge? Because she deeply believes in providing decent housing for everyone, and a neighborhood which offers a quality of life. ▲

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City of Rochester Sponsors The Congress of Neighborhoods Workshop Schedule:

- "Organizing your Neighborhood Association" February 20, 1992
- "Promoting your Neighborhood Association" March 19, 1992
- "Making your Neighborhood Green" April 16, 1992
- "Youth Outreach" May 21, 1992

All workshops are free and open to the public. Information on locations and times will be available at a later date. For more information on the Congress of Neighborhoods, please contact Lisa Maas at City Hall, 30 Church Street, Room 205A, Rochester, NY 14614 or call 428-7190.

BALLOON-AH-GRAM