



**THE ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
GREATER OMAHA ASSOCIATION  
FOR RETARDED CHILDREN**

**1972 - 1973**



**608 BARKER BLDG.  
OMAHA, NEBR.  
346-6338**

GOARC ANNUAL REPORT

Table of Contents

The Presidents Annual Report . . . . .	.1
The Executive Directors Annual Report . . . . .	.3
The Administrative Directors Annual Report . . . . .	.5
Pilot Parent Committee Report . . . . .	.6
Poverty and Mental Retardation Action Committee Report . . . . .	.7
Citizen Advocacy Report . . . . .	.8
Task Force and Ad Hoc Committee Report. . . . .	.9
GOYARC Report . . . . .	.10
Honey Sunday Time Line. . . . .	.11

## PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Just one year ago almost to the day, Leighton Goodrich then retiring President of GOARC, used the phrase "The Challenge of Change" to describe our situation and position.

A few months later Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger called it "The Precious Process of Change". In other words, GOARC was being restructured completely by design and by necessity.

We moved through a year with many "separation pains" due to spinning off all of our funded delivery services to ENCOR. At the same time we were losing our professional staff and office personnel plus several volunteer leaders. Happily through the dedicated efforts of our Committees, most of these were replaced by extremely capable office and professional people. The spirit and cooperation of our staff has never been greater.

But why is GOARC needed now? Mainly because a new cause and a new mission have emerged. We are struggling to be a parent/citizen catalyzing agency to enable professionals and volunteers to work directly with the retarded and to represent the handicapped legislatively and in all phases of their daily living.

Advocacy Systems. At present there is an active Citizen Advocacy program. Citizens are recruited, screened, trained and matched with mentally retarded persons in the community. Also, Group Advocacy Task Forces are being set up. Members are developing skill and expertise in monitoring every delivery service for the retarded in the community.

Poverty and Mental Retardation. Action committees are being set up in both North Omaha and South Omaha. They have been focusing more and more on services for the mentally retarded in their community. They have been helpful in backing up ENCOR's proposals for 2 hostels and a workshop in North Omaha.

Parent Education and Pilot Parents is another new program area. Pilot Parents have been recruited, screened and trained. These veteran parents "who have been there" now stand ready to work with new parents of the retarded. Out of their enthusiasm has come our first government grant request for a lending library. Its interesting that this group which was to be just a part of the parent education program now is becoming the fountainhead for all kinds of parent education possibilities.

Public Attitudinal Change. Somehow, "public information" or "public relations" doesn't get it for us. We are now seeking to find ways to change negative attitudes toward the mentally retarded and help society to widen their hearts so they can accept the retarded who are trying to make it in the Greater Omaha area.

Governmental and Legislative Affairs. This continues under

enthusiastic leadership. Our telephone pattern is working again. It is our feeling that next year will be a very important one in the legislature. We will work at getting ready for it.

GOYARC. There is new life in the youth movement. At present a reorganized organization with over a hundred youth are studying, attending lectures and involving themselves with the retarded in order to qualify as members. We are proud of them for the pain and struggle that both the advisors and the youth went through. They stuck in there and there appears to be the beginnings of a youthful, creative force that will work directly with the retarded in the community.

Membership has reached an all time high and we continue to attract new parents and non-parents who are willing to contribute much time and effort.

Hundreds of hours are currently being spent on shorter term projects of great importance such as Special Olympics, Honey Sunday and others.

We have recently finished hosting the North Central Regional Meeting of NARC and the annual convention of NebARC.

Our work in my judgement has been quantitative but more important qualitative and if we ever sacrifice quality for quantity it will be the beginning of the end. We must learn to differentiate between a whisper and a roar or a wave and an ocean. GOARC must remain parent/citizen oriented and not professionally dominated.

Public awareness of our mission and reason for existence are important but it is a sad fact that many of our own associates are unaware of our history and activities.

Finances continue to plague us and a hard look will have to be taken at this year's expenditures. Local, State and National requirements could create a serious financial situation.

All things considered it has been an exciting time for GOARC and it has been a privilege for me to be a part of it.

Respectfully submitted,



George G. Barker

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Since others have spoken so well about the past year, let me be futuristic and talk about the coming year.

To Fight for the Rights and Dignity of Every Mentally Retarded Person No Matter Where He Lives in Douglas and Sarpy County. That is the motto on the GOARC Brochure. It can mean many things. But, let me tell you what it means to me now:

1. ENCOR, CHAP, MADONNA SCHOOL, DISTRICT 66 and OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS all have community programs. They have not met all the needs of retarded citizens in Douglas and Sarpy County. They want to. They need our help. On the other hand, they need a group with a strong sense of objectivity and a willingness for citizen advocacy support and surveillance. We are the group that can do it. If we don't help them to enhance and increase their community program, the institutionalization of retarded children will slowly and subtly take place. It happens so quietly, so low-key, and so very powerfully. We will have to work to initiate the mechanisms to accomplish this goal.
2. FULL FUNDING OF LB 855 IS A MUST. If it is not gained, the ENCOR community programs will be seriously impaired. We cannot stand by and let this happen. In my estimation, a group of GOARC members should begin working on this immediately. I predict that this will be won or lost by November; even before the legislature meets. It is time that the legislature voted unconditionally in favor of community programs. LB 855 will tell us all which way things are going.
3. GOARC MUST DEVELOP A GROUP CONSUMER/CITIZEN ADVOCACY ATTITUDE IN EVERYTHING THEY DO. If it does not do this, then the motto we use is a misnomer. This includes GOYARC, Pilot Parents, Assigned Citizen Advocate Friends, and all the rest. This group advocacy must permeate everything that GOARC does. It is this advocacy attitude that can help to keep the mentally retarded living the best life possible in the community. We must plan to work hard on this development.
4. TASK FORCES, EMERGENCY AD HOC COMMITTEES MUST CARRY OUT SPECIFIC ADVOCACY FUNCTIONS. (a) The Task Force on Residential Care is our first beginning example of a long standing committee. (b) The emergency ad hoc committee knocking on doors surrounding the proposed new children's living unit in Bellevue is an excellent example of how a group of parents can mobilize quickly, do a task, achieve the goal and disband. (c) The emergency ad hoc committee reading and commenting on ENCOR's new "behavior management" policy is another good example. (d) A forthcoming committee on "moral standards" in ENCOR facilities has been requested to work in emergency ad hoc fashion, do the job and disband. GOARC must keep open to answer all kinds of emergency situations. We will continue to expand this action area.

5. PILOT PARENTS, along with the work they are doing with new parents of the retarded, need to develop a sense of alertness to the fact that they are part of a larger group advocacy system. With their expertise, they should keep themselves "on call" for emergency ad hoc committee duty.
6. GOYARC, along with the work they are now planning, should be helped to develop the strong sense that they are a definite and usable part of the concerted GOARC advocacy operation. In my opinion, reliable, well-motivated youth would be an invaluable asset to any group advocacy ad hoc committee operation or task force. We must all work to strengthen and support this effort.
7. THE INDIVIDUAL CITIZEN ADVOCACY PROGRAM needs to bring their recruited and trained citizen advocates into the large organizational advocacy family of GOARC. It is important that they be part of the overall GOARC process. They could add much to GOARC's concerted efforts to fight the battle of a community existence for the mentally retarded. This may or may not be in conflict with the original schema of citizen advocacy. But healthy progress dictates that if the individual CA program is to be funded and carried out by GOARC, their general loyalty and technical knowledge should be available for the larger cause. We are, and will continue working in this direction.
8. OUR POVERTY AND MENTAL RETARDATION PROGRAM should also operate along the general GOARC community-instead-of-institution philosophy. This means that they continue their efforts to fight for mental retardation services for their community with this philosophy as their basic principle.
9. LITIGATION is now taking place all over the country. It is being started by those groups who are deeply interested in seeing that the human and legal rights of retarded citizens are not being denied. When all else fails, then it is just and proper to let the court decide. NebARC has voted at its annual meeting to appoint a seven-person Human and Legal Rights Committee that will investigate and recommend that court action be taken. GOARC members are on this committee and many GOARC members will be utilized as technical advisors. We all must support this effort.
10. THE DEVELOPMENTAL MAXIMATION UNIT SHOULD BE UPPERMOST IN OUR MINDS. This is the beginning of a crowning hope that all mentally retarded can be served in the community. I have watched County Commissioner Dan Lynch go to long lengths to see that DMU is opened even when state funds have been denied! Shouldn't all of us who have our loved ones at home see the significance of this event? ALL GOARC SHOULD BE VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN DMU. WE SHOULD STAND READY TO HELP IN ANY WAY WE CAN.

The fight for the rights and the dignity of every mentally retarded person in our communities has only really begun. The hardest job we've ever had is still staring at us. The mechanism that quietly but powerfully attempts to "put away" the mentally retarded is all around us. It is so easy to let our whole effort slide back into it.

If we ever lost our thrust for community programming, we will have lost a great thing. WE MUST KEEP THE PRECIOUS PROCESS OF CHANGE ALIVE IN OMAHA! I plan to do everything possible to support this effort and need your active and full support, direction and assistance.

## ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

The financial situation of the Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Children at this point, (May, 1972), is stable. Our budget from UCS is \$47,400 for 1972. In addition to the UCS apportionment, we have averaged in the past, the following:

\$5,000 a year	contributions
\$2,500 a year	dues from memberships
\$11,000 a year	special events
\$4,200 a year	rent income
\$70,100	TOTAL

In the future we can hope for increases in our membership and, as GOARC involves itself in new and vital programs for the mentally retarded we expect to increase our funds from contributions and donations. We are hopeful that more people will be willing to donate to our cause as they see the work we are doing. In an effort to increase our donations and memberships we have established supportive membership for churches and other agencies that will be in a supportive role more so than in an active role in the association. It is felt that these supportive members will in turn provide us with additional contributions and donations as we may need them.

I'm happy to report that our total membership as of this date is 572. Of the 572, we have 121 honorary members. These are: mayors, councilmen and State Senators of the communities in the two county area, school board members in the various communities in Douglas and Sarpy Counties. Also included in the honorary memberships are the presidents of the JC Chapters who have supported the Honey Sunday efforts and other projects related to mentally retarded children. These honorary members are figured in our total for Omaha but will not be part of the total going to National Association. They will receive the GOARC GAZETTE only. For a town the size of Omaha, and the surrounding communities, we can hope for a membership of close to a thousand individuals. Hopefully, of this thousand, we will have 150 to 200 who are very active in the voluntary roles of working on Task Forces and Committees as they are formed.

We are a growing organization and with increased membership comes increased mailings, with more publicity and parent involvement, comes more correspondence and publications. We are continually increasing the efficiency of our office, and staff, of our mailings and publications. We will continue to run the administrative functions of COARC along sound business and management principles.

## GOARC ANNUAL REPORT

### PILOT PARENT COMMITTEE

There is a very exciting energetic group of parents which has recently been formed in GOARC. These are the Pilot Parents - a group which is volunteering to help parents who have just found out that their child is mentally retarded.

Pilot Parents are prepared to help new parents by offering:

1. Emotional support
2. Factual information on mental retardation
3. Recommendations of specific services and programs
4. Introductions to other helpful persons and groups sharing the same interests and concerns.

The proposal for the Pilot Parent Program was prepared by Fran Porter, Shirley Dean, Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger and Ronald Kaiman, and was presented to the GOARC Parent Education Committee in July, 1971. By September, a steering committee was formed. This group then recruited 15 families, who made a one year commitment, to serve as Pilot Parents, thus forming the charter group.

An orientation session was held early in December and then, starting in January, five weekly training sessions were held. Now, monthly meetings provide a time for bull sessions and further training.

The Steering Committee was divided into four sub-committees; publications, publicity, parent meetings and assignments.

Many pamphlets and books have been reviewed and copies have been obtained of those publications most appropriate for use by the pilot parents and new families. A grant application has been submitted to fund a lending library for all parents.

A very ambitious publicity campaign about this new program involved all of the Pilot Parents in such things as TV appearances and radio spots. Also, stories have appeared in the World-Herald and Sun newspapers. The Pilot Parents are now involved in contacting professionals known to them personally as well as hospitals. All of the doctors, dentists and ministers in Omaha have been contacted by mail and have received a supply of Pilot Parent brochures.

We are starting to gain momentum in obtaining referrals and are in contact with 10 new families, with referrals coming from many sources.

Although Pilot Parents will be meeting with new families on an individual basis, informal get-togethers are also planned so that the entire group (Pilot Parents and new families) can become better acquainted. The first such event will be a coffee hour early in May.

As more referrals are received we anticipate the need for organizing another group of Pilot Parents and again offering the orientation and training sessions.

## GOARC ANNUAL REPORT

### POVERTY AND MENTAL RETARDATION ACTION COMMITTEE

One of GOARC's major concerns and priority programs is the involvement of low income and minority parents. The association is sponsoring two groups of parent volunteers. One group representing the North area and the other, a newly formed group, representing the South area. These groups were organized to provide broader participation in the association and to work in their community for improvements for the retarded and his family. Most important the groups represent the poor and minorities to whom GOARC looks for leadership in identifying problems and issues.

To underscore the importance of this area of involvement and the need for staff support, Dr. Frank Menolascino, Clinical Director, Department of Social and Preventive Psychiatry, NPI, made available a part-time staff member, Clem Morrow to work in this area. In January, 1972, she became a full-time staff person of GOARC to coordinate the activities of the Committee on Poverty and Mental Retardation. The committee, a broadly represented group, is composed of parents, representatives from ENCOR, organizations serving the poor and civic groups with common concern. The Committee was organized around two basic objectives, to work for improvements and a new climate of acceptance for the retarded and his family and to work for a strong prevention program.

GOARC has made provisions for transportation and child care while these volunteers are working to carry out their goals.

The group has concentrated their efforts in the following areas: Public School lunch program, Rubella Campaign, family guidance services and Vocational Services of ENCOR, and Legislative Affairs.

## GOARC ANNUAL REPORT

### CITIZEN ADVOCATE PROGRAM

In the late 60's Dr. Wolfensberger, Mental Retardation Research Scientist at the Nebraska Psychiatric Institute and Vice-President of GOARC, formulated a plan called citizen advocacy which provided for acceptance for individualized relationships between competent citizens and handicapped persons. An independently located program would foster and support these helpful relationships in which the citizen advocate could be free to represent the best interests of a particular handicapped person.

After spinning off its service system, GOARC turned attention to citizen advocacy in late 1970 and established an "Advocacy Study Committee" to explore the program possibilities in Omaha. Areas other than retardation were represented on this committee in an effort to encourage the development of advocacy for anyone not able to adequately represent his own interests. GOARC proposed in the spring of 1971 that UCS establish an Ad Hoc Citizen Advocacy Study Committee to continue this exploration using the GOARC committee as a base.

By late summer UCS had not been able to take action on the proposal. At that time ENCOR agreed to contribute the salary of a coordinator for a GOARC sponsored citizen advocacy effort to retarded persons. (This funding was made for a limited time only, with GOARC assurance of finding other sources.) GOARC agreed to offer supervision of this program, office space, supplies, mileage, and secretarial support. UCS congratulated GOARC for undertaking to prove a citizen advocacy service in a special area.

In September 1971, Helen Zauha, who had worked with Citizen Advocacy Leadership Training Workshops and on a monograph on citizen advocacy, began to coordinate the GOARC Citizen Advocate Program. An initial publicity effort was carried out including radio and TV spots, a brochure, and talks to groups in order to attract program participants. Referrals of retarded persons needing advocates have been continually gathered. Each month an orientation meeting has been held to attract new advocates. Prospects are interviewed and attend two training sessions before being matched informally with a retarded person. Each relationship is encouraged and supported by the program coordinator particularly in the establishment phase. By May 1, 1972, forty advocates have been assigned to build helpful relationships with particular retarded persons.

Throughout this period citizen advocacy has become a more integral commitment of GOARC. The program fosters attitude changes in society toward retarded persons and provides retarded individuals with necessary spokesmen who are interested in and accepting of them personally. Advocates will be seeking more active involvement in and support by GOARC Task Forces and Ad hoc Consumer Advocacy Committees.

Plans are being made to accelerate and accommodate the growth of the GOARC Citizen Advocate Program. A proposal for future funding allowing for increased staff support for the growing number of advocacy relationships has been submitted for Welfare Department Title XVI and IVA funds. Hopefully the new funding mechanism will be operating by July 1, 1972.

## GOARC ANNUAL REPORT

### TASK FORCES AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

Since spinning off its direct community service programs for the retarded, GOARC has been in a rather unique position among ARC's across the country. It has become a pioneer seeking a new identity, a new relevance, in regard to the growth and development of programming and life in the community for the retarded.

GOARC is drawing upon the strength of its independent stance and the collective voice of its parent, professional and citizen membership. It is building mechanisms by which to insure growth of quality programs for retarded persons. GOARC supports individualized interaction between volunteers and the retarded and their families (i.e., Citizen Advocacy, Pilot Parents), but also can muster the efforts of committees.

Ad hoc committees and Task Forces are small groups united in a common specific cause to monitor and to survey an area of programming or concern. They can operate as a clearing house for problems of an individual or several individuals.

These committees do not involve themselves in long term relationships or projects, but rather channel such needs appropriately. Largely they serve to muster the clout of group effort and pressure. They ask questions and get others to ask questions, resulting in professional programmers doing their jobs better. With their specific mission accomplished the committee disbands or moves on to facilitate continued program growth and equity in service among consumers. On occasion a member of the committee may work upon a problem as an individual, investigating it out and providing a sort of individualized crisis advocacy.

Examples of the more permanent group advocacy are the GOARC Special Education Task Force and the Residential Care Task Force. Those committees which serve a more temporary function are a committee reviewing programming in ENCOR Developmental Centers, a committee to facilitate the acceptance of a particular hostel, and a Committee on Morals for the Retarded in the Community.

## GOARC ANNUAL REPORT

### GOYARC

The Greater Omaha Youth Association for Retarded Children is an organization of young people between 13 and 25 who are directly involved with the retarded. Some activities of the group over the past year have included regular visits to the Beatrice State Home through the Youth Advocacy Program; tour of Glenwood State School; and attendance of a basketball game, picnic and football game with the retarded. Representatives of GOYARC took part in the National YOUTH Convention and the "Admitted for a Day Program" at the Beatrice State Home. GOYARC members helped with the GOARC Honey Sunday Campaign and entertained youth volunteers with a Pizza Party following deliveries.

The Pizza Party was one of several efforts to increase GOYARC participation. Beginning in late January 1972, GOARC, GOYARC Advisors, and GOYARC Steering Committee members made a concerted effort to reorganize membership and guidelines for the organization. A slide presentation showing youth activities was completed. A new brochure and information on GOYARC was widely distributed to individuals, Schools, and youth groups in the Omaha area.

A reorganizational meeting, held in March was attended by 130 youth representing 22 schools in the Omaha area. Many of these young people have since participated in instructional meetings on retardation and activities with retarded persons. Efforts have been made to prepare candidates to work efficiently as GOYARC officers, to be elected May 14th.

The newly formed GOYARC Steering Committee and membership, well versed and experienced with the retarded, will provide the framework to support more youth activity with the retarded here in the community and with residents from this area at the Beatrice State Home. Publicity will continue to be one of the focal points of GOYARC in order to keep membership growing and to educate the community toward acceptance of the retarded and their rights. GOYARC welcomes GOARC's increased support and view of youth involvement with the retarded as one of its major thrusts.

GOARC ANNUAL REPORT  
HONEY SUNDAY TIME LINE

Although Honey Sunday is in November, we at GOARC are doing the initial planning and "leg work" to insure we have the best Honey Sunday ever. To have a better idea of what is happening the following time line is presented for your information:

<u>Task or Assignment</u>	<u>Action to be started by</u>
1. Appointment of GOARC co-chairman	April 6, 1972
2. Determine Honey requirements	May, 1972
3. Appointment of Jaycee co-chairman	May 5, 1972
4. Appointment of Jaycee/GOARC Manpower Committee Chairmen	May, 1972
5. Appointment of 7 Manpower chairman	May 15, 1972
6. Recruitment of drivers and workers	ASAP after May 15
7. Appointment of Publicity Chairman	May 15, 1972
8. Establish contact with and coordination with other local Jaycees in Sarpy and Douglas Counties	May, 1972
9. Order out honey	June, 1972
10. Preparing maps for workers and drivers	July, 1972
11. Request for billboard space	July/Aug., 1972
12. Appointment of Honorary Chairman	Aug., 1972
13. Publicity package for Radio/TV	Sept./Oct., 1972
14. Prepare correspondence and publicity for all media	Oct., 1972

This year Mr. Jerry Lenz will be the GOARC Co-Chairman for Honey Sunday. Earl Hurley will be the Liaison Coordinator between the Jaycees and GOARC.