

six-week summer program for low-income, elementary children to promote reading skills, to create strong partnerships with mentors, and to provide nutritious meals. Energy Express is an innovative Americorps program that helps low-income children with a healthy, safe environment, and promotes reading skills in a community environment.

Energy Express formed an effective partnership with the existing Summer Feeding Program that provides nutritious meals and education to promote proper eating habits. The Energy Express summer camps go beyond the call of duty to simply prepare and provide; they create a family-style atmosphere where the children learn how to make decisions, engage in conversation, assume responsibility, and cooperate with one another and others.

The mission of Energy Express also goes beyond just child nutrition to promote further education. Recognizing the need to increase reading skills and to encourage retention of lessons from school, Americorps provides four hours of tutorial time that always remains fun. Weekly themes of "myself," "family," "friends," "home place," "community," and "ideal world" guide the mentors and children in their work. The curriculum includes creating books, performing stories, reading both silently and out loud, and immersing the children in creative art activities, all of which are pertinent to a designated theme. At the end of each week, the child is able to take home a book relevant to the theme to keep in his or her personal library.

The design of Energy Express organizes six to eight children per one college student mentor. These mentors serve as tremendous role models for maturity, educational development and also as wonderful community volunteers committed to West Virginia. Each mentor receives an extensive eight week training program led by on-site educators who teach them positive feedback, how to productively discipline and the basic fundamentals of tutoring. Through preliminary visits and weekly contact concerning their child's progress, the mentor reaches out to the parents in ways which encourage involvement and support.

The program's growth in the past four years characterizes one of its successes. In 1994, Energy Express reached two counties, 85 students and 13 college mentors. This summer the program reaches 38 counties, 68 sites, 2721 students, 425 Americorps college mentors and approximately 25 Americorps VISTA Summer Associates. In 1997, Energy Express received national recognition as it won the Joint Council of Extension Professionals Award for Excellence in Teamwork and the Council of State Governments Innovations Award. Energy Express also serves as a national model for many other states attempting to duplicate such programs.

Most important, however, is the success of the children. In 1997, studies in-

dicated that many of the students not only retained previous knowledge, but gained one month in word identification and three months in comprehension. 124,990 nutritious meals were served and the children received 12,930 books to add to their personal library. Many states as well as other communities in West Virginia hope to duplicate these same results. Their hands are somewhat tied by the lack of needed funds available. Each site costs approximately \$25,000, but the rewards passed on to the children, communities and mentors are immeasurable in return.

Energy Express demonstrates the incredible work and success of Americorps. The commitment of its volunteers not only helps the community, but also provides growth for the volunteers themselves. My experience as a VISTA worker gave me a similar experience, and I continue my dedication to our Mountain State. I see that today's volunteers show that same dedication, and I extend my sincere gratitude to all of them. These persons have committed themselves fully to public service, both as volunteers and employees. It is through their hard work that the people of West Virginia benefit from the world's myriad of opportunities.

TRIBUTE TO THE DEVONSHIRE MEMORIAL CHURCH OF HARRISBURG

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the youth group from Devonshire Memorial Church in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. On Sunday, July 26 ten students from the church traveled to Manning, South Carolina to assist in the rebuilding of the Macedonian Baptist Church which the Ku Klux Klan destroyed by fire in 1996. The young people worked to renovate homes of church members that suffered damage due to the fire.

The teenagers, who raised their own support for the trip through things such as church-wide dinners and fundraising letters, joined approximately 250 other young people from across the nation to work on painting, hanging drywall, repairing roofs and caulking windows.

Church burnings are a violent act of hatred against the free exercise of religious faith. Arson, which has destroyed many southern African American churches, has also destroyed our dignity and our humanity. By dedicating their time and effort to rebuilding the walls of a church burned by hatred and bigotry, these young men and women are tearing down the walls of violence and racism and restoring faith to the Christian community.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the young men and women of Devonshire Memorial Church for their dedication to restoring a church and a community, as well as the ideals of freedom in this country.●

NEED FOR HMO REFORM

• Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, our health care system is in a state of crisis—a crisis of confidence. Many Americans no longer believe that their insurance companies can provide them with the access to care or quality of service they need.

Today I continue our series of stories describing how some managed care plans seem to have put cost saving before life-saving. The experience of Clara Davis is just one more example of the pressing need for Congress to act now to protect the rights of patients.

Clara Davis is a retired grocer from Bolivar, Tennessee. In 1995, her doctor placed her on the prescription drug Prilosec to control a bleeding ulcer. But her health provider changed from a traditional fee-for-service plan to an HMO, and they told her she would no longer be covered for that medication. The HMO would only cover cimetidine, the generic equivalent of Tagamet, a different prescription drug.

Clara's doctor fought vigorously to keep her on Prilosec, which had greatly improved her condition, but to no avail. While on the generic alternative, Clara's ulcer worsened. At one point, her doctor removed her from that medication and began giving her office samples of Prilosec whenever possible. But it wasn't enough.

The ulcer would not go away and required surgery. Thirty-five percent of Clara's stomach was removed. During recovery, she suffered a stroke that left her partially paralyzed on her left side.

What happened to Clara Davis should not happen in America. HMOs should not dictate which medications a patient should receive when their doctors say otherwise. Patients should not have to face surgery when a simple switch in medication can remedy the situation.

Whatever we do will not alleviate the stress that Clara Davis has endured. But we can ensure that a doctor's decision will not be overruled by an HMO bent on saving money. All medications are not the same, and health-care providers should be able to say what is most effective to treat their patients.

Mr. President, we must take up and pass meaningful patient protections now. Experiences like Clara's can be prevented if we enact legislation such as our Patients' Bill of Rights which protects the doctor-patient relationship from interference by HMOs. Insurers should have to make available to patients all information on which drugs the insurer will be willing to cover, the possible interactions of those drugs, and the procedures available for appealing an HMO's coverage decisions.●

CHANGES TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ALLOCATION

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, section 314(b)(3) of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended, requires the