

VISTA volunteer: most Nebraskans don't admit state has poverty problem

By Mary Jo Howe

In Lincoln, the majority of them live downtown, along O St. and above some of the best stores in town.

They are the elderly, the disabled, single mothers with children, uneducated—people whose incomes fall below the poverty line.

It's convenient to forget about these people; in fact, few middle-class or upper-class people in Nebraska admit there is a poverty problem here, Glen Murray said Sunday at the Wesley House.

But Murray knows the problem of poverty in Nebraska first-hand. The 1976 UNL Law College graduate and former Residence Hall Association president is a VISTA volunteer with Grand Island Legal Aid in Grand Island.

The 1970 Nebraska census shows that 13 percent of the population lives below the poverty level, Murray said. The poverty level is a \$5500 income or below for a family of four. There are about 4500 people below that level in Hall county where Murray works.

The Legal Aid service in Grand Island began as an idea by the local Bar Association applied to VISTA, a federal anti-poverty program, for a volunteer to run the project.

Murray said he found out about the project through a VISTA representative visiting the Law College and has now worked there one and a half years.

The Legal Aid service works exclusively with low income people in Hall and Howard counties, dealing with domestic, government agency, housing and consumer problems.

By far the greatest amount of problems come from the domestic area, including divorces, adoptions, and enforcing child support, Murray said.

The project will be taken over by the Legal Service Corporation in January and Murray said he hopes to stay on as a paid staff member.

Murray said that volunteering has been a rewarding experience for him, even though the government allowance for living expenses is low.

One philosophy of VISTA is that the volunteers should experience the same problems the poor have, Murray said, but his living conditions aren't much different than when he was in college, he said.

The volunteer is only in a community to mobilize its resources and help it solve its own problems, Murray said.

There are 30 to 40 VISTA programs in Nebraska dealing with problems of Indians, alcoholism and winterization of homes, to name a few.

Students interested in volunteer programs can apply at the student volunteer bureau at the Nebraska Union.

Willingness is about the only requirement to become a volunteer, Murray said.

For all your bridal needs.

J'Marie's
Bridal Shoppe

2441 N. 48th
466-7603



ENTERTAINMENT

Midwest Ramblers

Tuesday and Wednesday Nights, 9:12 p.m.
October 15th and 16th

Never a Cover
AT OUR DOWNTOWN LOCATION

Godfather's
Pizza



Upstairs in the Glass Menagerie
12th & Q 474-8000

48th & Highway 2
483-4129

GATEWAY SHOPPING CENTER
Open Nights 'Til Nine
467-4602

artworld

Lincoln's largest selection of Art, Drafting, Craft & Framing supplies

10% OFF

ANY PURCHASE WITH THIS AD!!!!

Holiday Adventures in



Holiday shopping begins at 12th & N in the beautiful new shopping center of attention. The Atrium.



Register Nov. 14 - Dec. 17 at any participating Atrium shop to win — \$1,000 Holiday Shopping Spree in the Atrium.

JOSE FELICIANO

An Evening With Jose Feliciano
SAT. NOV. 19 8:00 P.M.

At O'Donnell Auditorium 50th & Huntington
Tickets \$600 for UNL & NWU Students With ID.
General Admission \$700

Available At Both Nebraska Unions,
Nebraska Wesleyan & Dirt Cheap Presented By PAW and

Have We Got A Summer For You! EARN FREE ROOM AND BOARD, PLUS \$550!

Applications are now being taken for summer employment as a student host for the New Student Orientation Program. Student hosts help to supply information and assistance to the new students and parents of UNL during summer orientation. Position is open to any interested UNL undergraduate students wanting to share their good experiences at UNL.

You must be available to work from June 5th through July 14th, 1978 and attend training sessions on Thursday evenings during second semester. In exchange, you get FREE room and board, plus \$550 for six weeks of summer employment. Applications and reference forms are now available and must be turned into the applicant's college by Wednesday, November 30, 1977.

Applicants should also plan on attending one of these information meetings for prospective orientation hosts at the Nebraska Union.

Tuesday, November 15, 1977—2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 16, 1977—3:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 17, 1977—7:00 p.m.

Check Daily Events Calendar for the room numbers.

APPLICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM ANY COLLEGE DEAN'S OFFICE OR 200 NEBRASKA UNION

QUESTIONS? CONTACT NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION
200 Nebraska Union
472-2484