

# Study Praises Oregon Welfare Reform Results

By JUDITH HAVEMANN  
Washington Post Staff Writer

\* The government released the best welfare news in a decade yesterday.

Oregon's pragmatic, little-bit-of-everything approach to welfare reform has moved roughly 18 percent more clients into jobs and kept them there longer and at higher wages than traditional welfare methods had achieved, according to a rigorous study by independent evaluators.

While welfare rolls have been falling dramatically in almost every region of the country, few states know how many recipients have actually gotten jobs, whether they are better off, or how many of them would have found work anyway in the booming economy.

"The Portland program had major impacts on employment, earnings, and welfare receipt," said Gayle Hamilton, a researcher with the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation, which conducted the study. The results are "the most significant since the late 1980s," when the same research group found that clients required to go to work did better than those assigned to long-term educational programs, she said.

Oregon adopted a "work first" strategy in the early 1990s that was later embodied in federal welfare law and is now operating in most states. But Oregon took the unusual approach of stressing that while clients were ultimately required to work, those who could not find a job right away would have up to six to nine months to absorb basic education, job training, motivational training, self-esteem courses, drug and alcohol treatment and subsidized work experience programs, if necessary.

The approach succeeded in not only getting more people to work, but also getting them better jobs, Hamilton said. At the end of two years, clients in the welfare reform program were far more likely to have full-time jobs and health benefits, than were welfare clients who had found jobs on their own.

A three-year study comparing two groups of Portland welfare recipients, half covered by the traditional welfare program, and half by the new "work first" welfare reform model, showed:

- About 72 percent of clients in the updated reform program got jobs over a two-year period, compared with 61 percent of those in the

unchanged program.

- Clients in the reform program earned about \$1,800 more over two years than the original group, a 35 percent increase.

- The new welfare scheme reduced state and federal welfare costs by about \$1,200 a person.

- The program appeared to work not only for the "cream" of welfare clients who had recent work experience and high school diplomas, but also for long-term recipients with little education or work history.

- Preliminary results from the third year of the study suggest that more recipients are hanging on to their jobs, and advancing, than had been found in previous studies.

- The average recipient landed a job at \$7.34 an hour—86 cents an hour more than the group in the traditional welfare program, earned—and 24 percent had health insurance.

Oregon did not rely entirely on positive incentives to get its clients to comply, but also used financial penalties. The staff tried "lengthy cajoling," researchers said, but when clients did not comply, 21 percent lost part of their welfare checks, and the average length of the penalty was about five months.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To read Post background stories on welfare and legislation, click on the above symbol on the front page of The Post's Web site at [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)

## CORRECTIONS

An item in yesterday's Business section misstated the amount by which Vista Information Technologies Inc. of McLean said its annual revenue will increase after an acquisition. The company said revenue will rise by about \$35 million.

Maryland Route 301 was mislabeled on maps accompanying an article yesterday on Overlook Elementary School in Prince George's County.

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Success Stories

The Washington Post

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 1998

# Clinton Nominates Census Bureau Director

By NATHAN ABSZ  
Special to The Washington Post

President Clinton yesterday nominated Kenneth Prewitt, president of the Social Science Research Council, to be director of the Census Bureau.

Prewitt quickly attempted to make peace with Republican lawmakers who oppose administration plans for conducting the 2000 census.

But his nomination, which had been expected, is likely to generate controversy because he is seen by many as a backer of statistical sampling, a scientific survey method endorsed by the National Academy of Sciences, to supplement the traditional door-to-door head count. House Republicans went to court in February to block sampling as uncon-

stitutional. A three-judge panel heard arguments on the case on June 11. The administration argues that a head count would vastly undercount the poor and minorities. The poor and minorities have traditionally voted overwhelmingly Democratic.

Prewitt, introduced at a news conference by Commerce Secretary William M. Daley, declined to say whether he backs sampling.

"Given the very high stakes, it is unfortunate that Census 2000 has become prey to partisan disagreements," Prewitt said.

He added that he would work closely with Congress to establish that the bureau "is a nonpartisan agency obligated by law and guided by professional traditions to present the most accurate statistics technical-

ly possible, at a reasonable cost." He also said in a brief interview that "if the bureau is precluded from sampling, it will do the very best job it can."

Rep. Dan Miller, who chairs the House subcommittee on the census has expressed strong reservations about Prewitt's nomination, saying "he's never run anything on the magnitude of the Census Bureau."

Prewitt, 62, has headed the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago and has served as a vice president of the Rockefeller Foundation.

Former bureau director Martha Parsonworth Ritchie left in January after two years of battling Congress over sampling and other census is-

## WASHINGTON

In Brief

### Food Stamp Eligibility Restored to 250,000

President Clinton yesterday restored food stamps to 250,000 legal immigrants despite complaints by conservatives that it betrayed welfare reform.

"Reinstating them was the right thing to do," Clinton said during a bill-signing ceremony in the White House rose garden.

Enactment of the law was a partial victory for Clinton, who has pursued piecemeal revisions in the 1996 welfare bill for months. One million legal immigrants lost eligibility for food stamps under the welfare law.

At the bill-signing, Clinton repeated the cuts "were too deep and had nothing to do with welfare reform." In February, he proposed restoration of benefits to 730,000 of the legal immigrants but had to settle for benefits for 250,000 of them.

Even so, conservative Republicans tried three times to scuttle the change but were defeated soundly by a coalition of urban and farm-state lawmakers.

### Sens. Hatch, Feinstein Propose Tobacco Bill

Two senators added their bill to a growing tobacco policy revival effort Tuesday, saying Congress should not waste election-year momentum by ignoring legislation that would support anti-smoking research.

"I think we'd be stupid not to grab that" opportunity, said Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah), who is co-sponsoring the legislation with Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.).

"If this fails, then both sides deserve the blame," Hatch said.

The proposal was instantly panned from opposite sides of the political spectrum.

Sen. Don Nickles (R-Okla.) said the bill's price tag is still too high to comport with the GOP's promise to lower taxes and shrink government.

"I don't see the Senate getting bogged down in any bill that spends hundreds of billions of dollars," he told reporters.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass), one of Congress's foremost anti-smoking activists, said the bill did not do enough to discourage kids from smoking.

"It's totally and completely inadequate," he said.

Feinstein acknowledged the difficulties the bill faces.

"I think there's a lot of involvement of people's egos in the issue and some don't want to see anybody else come along with any kind of a solution," Feinstein said.

Hatch and Feinstein, meanwhile, said the only model that would significantly reduce teenage smoking and crack down on tobacco companies is their bill, modeled on the \$368 billion settlement struck last June between the industry and the dozens of states suing them.

The would charge tobacco companies \$428 billion over 25 years, about \$88 billion less than the price tag of McCain's bill. It would ban class action lawsuits against the tobacco industry and cap the damages companies could be forced to pay at \$5.5 billion a year and \$1 million a year per plaintiff.

Like McCain's bill, Hatch and Feinstein's measure would fund anti-smoking research, settle state lawsuits and approve new authority for the Food and Drug Administration.

—Compiled from reports by Reuters and the Associated Press

The Washington Post

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 1998

# FDA Aide: No 'Trend' in Reports Of Deaths Possibly Tied to Viagra

By JOHN SCHWARTZ  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Case No. 4 took Viagra on April 28. The impotence drug had the desired effect—before long he was able to have sexual intercourse. But during the act, something went terribly wrong for the 73-year-old man: He collapsed. After he was taken to the hospital, doctors found that the man had suffered both a heart attack and a stroke. "He never regained consciousness and died."

So reads one of six cases reported to the Food and Drug Administration filed by Viagra's maker, Pfizer Inc., and physicians describing possible deaths associated with the popular drug. The deaths were announced late last week, and the FDA made the reports available to The Washington Post in response to a Freedom of Information Act request. Such reports are required by law. The agency did not release the names or locations of patients and doctors.

A senior FDA official noted that only four of the deaths described in the reports clearly occurred after individuals took the drug. That number is too small to draw any conclusions, especially because about 1 million prescriptions for the drug have been filled since it went on the market, the official said.

"This does not seem to represent a trend or a signal or something worrisome to us at this point," said the official, who asked not to be

identified. The official added, however, that the agency expects to receive more reports over time—in part because of news media attention to the drug. "We will continue our ongoing monitoring" to "see if something begins to say there is a signal here. Based on what we've got here, we're not at that point," the official said.

Nine patients taking Viagra died during clinical trials, compared to one patient who took a fake pill as part of the test and died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The company and the agency determined that those deaths were "plausibly not related" to the drug.

The FDA approved the drug for use by many of the 30 million Americans who suffer from impotence, with a warning that it should not be used by patients taking heart drugs known as nitrates, which in combination with Viagra can drive blood pressure down to dangerously low levels. The company and FDA warned doctors and patients to look for evidence of cardiovascular or other health problems that might pose a threat to a patient's health if they overexert themselves.

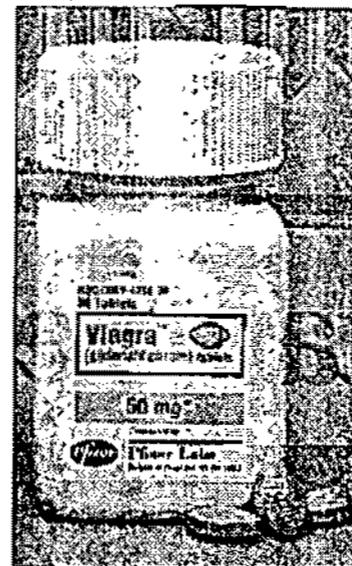
The reports to the FDA are mixed. Some provide full descriptions of the patient's physical condition and treatment, describing patients with prior cardiovascular disease, diabetes, high blood pressure or a combination of the three. Case No. 5, on the other hand, simply states that a patient died

after receiving a Viagra prescription, but does not say whether he used it or why he died. Case No. 6 recounts that a pharmacist "heard from a customer that 1 male patient died while taking viagra. . . . The customer's source of this report is a television show (Jay Leno)."

In case No. 3, a 62-year-old man was admitted to a hospital emergency room "DOA"—dead on arrival. He was taking medications for diabetes and high blood pressure. According to the handwritten report, the man's wife said he became ill about an hour after taking his first dose of the drug. "In car on way to town, his head suddenly dropped & he was no longer breathing and was slobbering/drooling. On arrival No respiration, No Pulse."

In a statement released yesterday, Pfizer said that after reviewing the deaths of patients, the company had no plans to change the drug's label. "The information available in the cases does not suggest any risk to patients" that the company has not already warned patients and doctors about, the company said. It appears, the company said, that the cases "were attributed to either cardiovascular events associated with sexual activity in older men" or patients taking Viagra along with nitrates.

Many patients who might want the drug may have the undiagnosed medical problems that put them at risk, according to Randall M. Zusman, associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School.



Of the six cases of death reported to the FDA, only four clearly occurred after the patient had taken Viagra.

"The patients who are very likely candidates for therapy and have the risk factors for erectile dysfunction are the same patients who are at the most risk for having an event" such as heart attack or stroke, he said. But Zusman, who has served as an adviser to Pfizer on Viagra, said that the drug "certainly can be used safely by the vast majority of patients."

The senior FDA official said that if a pattern does emerge from Viagra reports over time, it is less likely to show a side effect than a foreseeable risk. He compared the situation to that of a person with arthritis who takes an anti-inflammatory drug. What if, the official asked, the person's joints stop hurting and "they go out and shovel snow, so that they have a heart attack. Did the drug cause the heart attack?"

# Panel Backs New Drug To Treat Crohn's Disease

Reuters

A Food and Drug Administration advisory panel yesterday recommended the agency approve a new way of treating the intestinal inflammation caused by Crohn's disease.

The FDA's gastrointestinal drugs committee found that the drug, Avakine, was effective in reducing the fistulas, or small holes in the intestine wall, often caused by the disease.

The FDA is not bound by the opinions of its advisory panels, but usually follows them when deciding whether to approve a new drug or therapy.

Avakine, which is made by Centocor Inc., is a so-called monoclonal antibody and moderates the inflammatory response of cells in the intestinal tract. Antibodies are natural immune system proteins.

Crohn's disease affects about 1 million people in the United States and Europe.

Although the disease may come and go over a lifetime, the condition is serious for many sufferers. More than half of patients eventually require surgery for removal of parts of their bowels. There is no known cure.

Current Crohn's therapies include antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs. But most treatments either decrease in effectiveness over time or have side effects associated with long-term use.

The advisory panel recommended Avakine for treatment of moderate to severe Crohn's disease despite some reservations about its long-term effectiveness.

"The data is quite good in my mind that it works acutely [initially]," said panel member Loren Laine, a professor of medicine at the University of Southern California.

Lee Simon from Harvard Medical School said the long-term impact of taking the drug worried him. "You can't think of biological therapies in the same way we think about drugs," he said.

But Sidney Getz, a patient representative on the committee, said Crohn's sufferers were eager for any effective therapy. "I don't think you'd find any Crohn's patient that would say no" to trying this drug. "It is no less safe than any of the other drugs we take," said Getz.

Centocor presented results of two studies to the committee. In the first, 65 percent of patients showed improvement following a single infusion of the antibody. In a second study of 94 patients with draining fistulas, three treatments over six weeks led to 62 percent of Avakine-treated patients experiencing closure of at least half of the fistulas for at least a month, compared with 26 percent of patients treated with a placebo.

# Getting Ahead of Welfare

## 61 Women Receive Jump-Start to Jobs

By Desson Howe  
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Clinton took time out this week to praise corporate leaders for their efforts to put welfare recipients to work. Yesterday, a local nonprofit organization honored 61 Prince George's County women for pulling themselves out of the welfare hole with the help of local businesses.

Ostensibly a job training center for federally assisted residents, the Campus of Opportunity in Glenarden has taken new federal welfare policy a step beyond the usual tough talk about time limits and benefit cutoffs.

Many welfare recipients who take the initiative to work find themselves beset by secondary problems, from a lack of transportation to a lack of child care. By offering job placement assistance, transportation to their new jobs and day-care centers for their children, the Campus offers something different from similar training centers in public or assisted housing developments: a jump-start in moving from welfare to work.

If the welfare-to-work strategy Clinton is boosting, with its tougher rules and corporate tax incentives, is a "top-down" approach, the Campus and its "neighborhood network center" are an example of "bottom-up" organization, according to program organizer Douglas Rosen.

"There are people in this [housing complex] who have been sitting at home, bearing kids, doing nothing for 10, 20 years," Rosen said. "But now, they care about themselves. ... They're becoming respectable and respected members of society."

"I was sick of sitting at home,"



Outside the Campus of Opportunity in Glenarden, Shawn Harris, left, honors 61 Prince George's County women for completing job training. In front, Dora Williams, left, Alva Fitzgerald and Melinda Oxley revel in their graduation.

said program graduate Margaret Nicholas, 30, mother of seven children, who lived on welfare for almost 10 years. She signed up with the Campus and soon thereafter got a job as a receptionist in Lanham. The Campus provided child care and "helped me get over the fear of getting back out" into the workplace. "It made me confident that I could do the job," she said.

The Campus, sponsored by the National Homes Trust, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit corporation, the President's Welfare-to-Work Partnership, the Prince George's County Private Industry Council and the owners of the Glenarden Apartments, pools grant money and in-kind services to help residents of the apartment complex, many of whom use government subsidies.

Children go to a Head Start day-care center in the Campus building. So single mothers—94 percent of Campus students—can concentrate on Windows 95 classes and résumé preparation.

The Campus asks local companies, such as United Parcel Service, to outline their specific recruitment

needs, then incorporates the information into its syllabus. And with a donated jitney bus, it provides graduates with transportation to their jobs—a critical ingredient to helping welfare recipients find and keep jobs, experts say.

The Glenarden center, which is being replicated at the Hillview Village Apartments in Memphis,

**"It made me confident that I could do the job."**

—Margaret Nicholas,  
graduate of program

another federally assisted complex, is barely a year old. But approximately 70 percent of its graduates are now working for such organizations as the U.S. Postal Service, Southwest Airlines Co., Giant Food Inc. and Glendale Baptist Church.

Among those honored yesterday was 41-year-old Alva Fitzgerald, who previously had signed up for

classes at Glenarden but dropped out because "I was coming in late." After getting herself organized, she completed the Campus's job readiness and computer skills programs. After almost getting kicked out, she said, she was now standing in front of the Campus in the baking sunshine in a jellybean-design dress with ankle-laced white shoes, waiting for her big moment.

"Are they going to call my name?" she asked aloud. Moments later, emcee Shawn Harris dispelled all doubt, and Fitzgerald found herself walking on stage to receive a certificate of completion. She then joined her fellow graduates in a rendition of "I Know That I Can Make It" to music provided by a boombox held up to the microphone.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

To read a Post series on the impact of welfare reform on District residents, click on the above symbol on the front page of The Post's Web site at [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)

The Washington Post  
FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1998

To meet the workforce demands of the 1990s and to be responsive to the families it serves, Cleveland Works has been forging a **Triangle of Opportunity** around the following three cornerstones:



### ▼ FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The **Family Development Center** evolved from the annual Cleveland Works Summer Day Camp. The main component of the **Family Development Center** is on-site, full-day, year-round HeadStart child care for 3 to 5-year-olds. Seven full-time staff operate the program for 10 hours each day, 260 days a year. There are 60 day care slots on-site, and "emergency" care for children birth to school-age. The staff tracks for five years all the kids that leave Cleveland Works HeadStart and enter kindergarten. *Most importantly, Cleveland Works sees to it that children get a true head start by ensuring that parents become employed. After all, if parents have to be poor for their children to qualify for HeadStart, it is a cruel hoax to focus solely on the children and return them after two years of great development and learning to the same poverty-stricken environment.* The second component of the **Family Development Center** is family education. There are daily parenting classes for parents in training, called "Family Works," which include workshops and one-on-one attention. A newsletter is distributed monthly, a special wellness program has been instituted, and a clinical psychologist provides evaluations and ongoing counseling. The third component is a comprehensive, out-patient health clinic—a joint venture between Cleveland Works and MetroHealth. The staff of board-certified physicians, registered nurses, mid-wives, and medical assistants at MetroHealth Downtown Center perform physical examinations and provide primary care for both acute and chronic illness, placing an emphasis on education and prevention.

# Taking families "from hell to heaven"

### ▼ INTAKE

Since 1986, over 17,000 people have been through Orientation at Cleveland Works. Word-of-mouth continues to be the most effective method of recruiting. Newspapers, television, billboards, bus placards, direct mail, "Take One" cards, and referrals from other community-based service agencies are additional ways people find their way to Cleveland Works. Typically, men and women accepted into the program have two children and have been on and off welfare for 10 years. Daily at 11:00 a.m. Cleveland Works conducts an Orientation to describe the program and what is expected of participants.

### ▼ TRAINING

Full-time **Training** runs from 9am to 4pm, Monday through Friday, for a minimum of two 4-week cycles. Cleveland Works tries to mirror the working world in terms of attitude, punctuality, and performance—and each participant averages nearly 400 hours of training at Cleveland Works. In the Job Readiness Workshop students learn essential pre-employment, life-management, and job retention skills. Students also undergo two months of English, math, or GED instruction. Training is then further tailored to each individual's needs. Cleveland Works adjusts the curriculum to meet the needs of the labor market. Course offerings include, but are not limited to:

- TYPING / TEN-KEY
- WORDPERFECT
- LOTUS
- COMPUTER PRACTICE
- DIETARY ASSISTANT TRAINING
- MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY
- NURSING ASSISTANT CERTIFICATION
- HAZARDOUS WASTE REMOVAL
- OFFICE PROCEDURES
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- LEGAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- FAMILY WORKS PARENTING CLASS
- HEALTH

### ▼ JOB DEVELOPMENT

The **Job Developers** (or "Marketers") at Cleveland Works match the experience, abilities, and aspirations of those in training with employment opportunities. They maintain an in-depth knowledge of Cleveland's labor market and each day try to help local employers fill the need for qualified, hard-working, entry-level personnel. The Marketers have sent candidates from Cleveland Works on more than 9,000 job interviews. Additionally, they assist employers by developing customized training programs.

### ▼ JOB RETENTION

Cleveland Works places the greatest emphasis on job retention. The **Retention Counselors** (or "Corporate Reps") develop and maintain important relationships with both the employers that hire Cleveland Works graduates and the graduates themselves. To ensure graduates are successful at work and achieve self sufficiency in their lives, ongoing job counselling, life management, and support services are administered. The Corporate Reps regularly visit work sites to see that there is quality job performance and that family and other issues are being resolved. Support is also given in the form of legal representation, child care, housing assistance, budgeting guidance, and health care.

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*Cleveland Works, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, governed by a volunteer board of trustees, which largely depends on support from the community. All donations are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated.*

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*Please contact us if you would like more information.*

## ▼ LEGAL CLINIC

The Legal Clinic at Cleveland Works accepts only those cases which are absolute barriers to a client's ability to become or remain employed. Even with this strict eligibility requirement, Cleveland Works is forced to open almost five new cases every day, or about 1,000 per year. *In fact, it is a mystery how anyone with a long history on welfare can make a clean break without the assistance of attorneys.* The majority of cases deal with matters emanating from years in poverty: domestic violence, child support, custody, creditor claims, welfare fraud, expungement of felonies, and juvenile and criminal law. The Legal Clinic is staffed by five full-time attorneys; paralegals, law secretaries, coordinators, and docket clerks trained at Cleveland Works; law students and volunteer lawyers—who together render \$10 of services for every \$1 spent. The city's major law schools and firms are represented on the recently established Cleveland Works Legal Advisory Board.

## ▼ BEAT THE STREETS

The Beat the Streets program began in March of 1991 for out-of-school, unwed parents, ages 16 to 25, as one of six nationwide projects participating in a national demonstration by Public/Private Ventures. The participants complete an intensive eight-week Job Readiness Workshop, then are integrated into specialized training with other adults in training at Cleveland Works, before being placed. Fortunately, more than 160 Beat the Streets participants have graduated into well-paying jobs with health benefits, thereby making it possible to declare paternity, pay child support, and take custody of their children. Now almost half the new entrants into Beat the Streets are young mothers.

## ▼ HOUSING AND SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

Cleveland Works provides transportation subsidies and clothing allowances, runs support groups, and works extra hard to provide Special Assistance to overcome all the barriers to employment. Included in the comprehensive range of support services is a cooperative arrangement with New Life Community, a holistic transitional housing program established to ensure economic independence for Cleveland Works' families.

## THE STEPS THROUGH CLEVELAND WORKS



1 A candidate calls 589-WORK and makes an appointment to come to Cleveland Works, any weekday at 11:00 a.m. The person fills out an application and attends Orientation, where a staff member explains the program and answers questions. A personal interview is given to help determine if Cleveland Works is right for the candidate, and vice versa.



2 If accepted, the client attends a four-week Job Readiness Workshop for three hours each day, Monday through Friday. The Workshop focuses on pre-employment, life-management, and job retention skills that all employees must possess. For the remaining three hours each day, the client is enrolled in math, English, GED, and legal rights and responsibilities classes.



3 The Job Readiness Workshop graduate is then enrolled in a variety of occupation-specific courses, ranging from Typing/Ten-Key and Office Procedures to Medical Terminology and Nursing Assistant Certification. This specialized training is designed to enable the participant to focus on individual needs.



4 The next step is job matching. Marketers bring in job orders from area employers, so that each job-ready person is matched with job orders representing the participant's strengths, interests, aspirations, and needs. The job-ready participant is then screened, then granted an interview with the employer (if appropriate), arranged by the Marketers. All interviews are for full-time jobs with employer-paid health benefits.



5 Once hired, the graduate is assigned a Corporate Representative / Counselor. Cleveland Works provides the graduate with important transitional services—such as budgeting guidance, counseling, legal assistance, and a clothing and transportation allowance—so he/she is ready to begin and retain the job.



6 Soon thereafter, the individual gets a regular paycheck and is on his or her way to permanent employment. Cleveland Works follows up on all placements to ensure that everyone's expectations are being met. This enables Cleveland Works' graduates to successfully complete the steps it takes to literally "work" their way out of the welfare cycle. Now the individual benefits from employment, not welfare; independence, not dependence.

# CLEVELAND WORKS

... so everybody can!

589-WORK

Winter 1993-94

Dear friend,

Since Cleveland Works' inception in August of 1986, we have continually sought to identify and successfully serve the socio-economic needs of families in poverty, especially parents and children on welfare. We have recently moved our offices to the landmark Caxton Building, overlooking the city's new Gateway sports complex. The move reflects our confidence that more and more families can "work" their way out of the vicious welfare cycle of poverty, crime, violence, drugs, and alienation.

With an on-site legal clinic, HeadStart family development center, "Beat the Streets" youth program, health clinic, and a 400-hour employment training program, Cleveland Works continues to expand and improve its ability to remove families from poverty through gainful employment. People cannot escape poverty without lawyers and doctors, counselors and advocates, teachers and trainers working for them. Developing programs to remove employment barriers is a small investment for the great reward of escaping poverty and becoming hard working, productive, taxpaying citizens.

More than 500 employers in Greater Cleveland have hired Cleveland Works graduates into full-time jobs with family health benefits, enabling more than 7,000 men, women, and children to no longer live off public assistance. Eighty percent of the families Cleveland Works has helped off welfare have never returned to the rolls, generating three dollars in savings for every dollar funded. Hundreds of visitors, including the Vice President of the United States, want Cleveland Works replicated nationwide, but the only way we can continue to take families from "hell to heaven" is if the necessary resources and funds exist in order to meet the overwhelming demand.

There are immeasurable benefits of having children grow up in families with working parents, instead of parents on public assistance. Please help us as we further our commitment to Cleveland's families. Invest in Cleveland Works.

Thanks for caring.

David B. Roth  
Executive Director