

President speaks out on Community Education

President Carter has been interested in the Community Education concept since he saw the film "To Touch A Child" in 1971. Prior to his election, he stated, "We have a tremendous need to develop more sense of community throughout the nation, and I feel that the community education concept, if fully implemented could make an impact in meeting this need." The following statement was made by President Carter on March 8, 1977, in response to a request for a statement for inclusion in **Educational Considerations'** special community education issue:

Community education enhances a sense of ownership and belonging to the community. It encourages citizens to share in the responsibility for services they deem vital to their community. Community education is a means for citizens to join arms and focus on issues, for families to learn and play together, for learning to be a continuous life long process and for public facilities to be used for this purpose.

In the Office of Education, \$3.5 million is expended annually to this end. Current grant recipients are State Educational Agencies, local school districts and institutions of higher education.

These demonstration projects provide technical assistance to communities, train community leaders and provide funds for communities to implement cultural, recreational, educational and other services deemed necessary by the community.

The concept of community education promotes and encourages community involvement not only in the determination of need but in the decisions of policy and action necessary to meet those needs.

I am aware of the tremendous growth of the Community Education concept in the past few years and would like the nation's Community Educators to know of my continued interest in this worthwhile movement which can mean so much for all of us.

