

sue of September sixth; it is a healthy sign of interest on your part in one of the very important philanthropic enterprises of our people. If we could secure such prominent mention in the press of Pittsburgh generally, both the fortunes of the League and its wide usefulness would be improved. As a matter of fact, one of the many difficulties with which we have had to deal is the impression firmly held by the press (not the Negro press) that the reading public does not wish to hear of the activities of Negroes. In all fairness, for which your paper has a well-earned reputation, I ask that this letter be given the same prominence in your next edition as you gave the article to which it is a reply.

We are frank to say that the Urban League needs money; activities planned for and by Negroes always have a harder task raising funds than similar activities conducted for and by white persons. At this time many of the philanthropic activities in this community are having a particularly hard time and we, being engaged in work with Negroes are having a harder time than our white friends in the field of philanthropic endeavor. We even hear that many business enterprises are not finding funds as easily as they would like to just at this time. However, we do not consider our present poverty a good reason for giving up our work, for it is just at a time when money is hard to secure in a community that the work of such an organization as ours is most needed.

We wish to take exception strongly to your statement that the work of the league has been confined to too small a circle; we will briefly indicate the scope of our work. At the same time, however, we want to state that we welcome an interview at any time with any person who has a definite suggestion in regard to the practical extension of our interest.

The work of the Urban League has been far too important to be allowed to suffer because of the necessities of any particular season or because of any particular person; its history is the history of the unfolding and development of social work for the Negro in Pittsburgh. When the league began its work in Pittsburgh, there was but four Negro social workers in this city. What is the record today? Men and women of our race are doing social work of a character equal to that of the best white social workers in this community; a number of industrial plants retain men and women of our race, who look after the needs of our people in their employ in a most commendable manner; our own staff of workers has cared for our people in the morals court several suitable lodgings for our newcomers to the city, developed home economics work and performed many other services to our people, and I think we can say without peradventure of contradiction that the service which other philanthropic agencies and institutions has given our people is much finer and more generous than when we came into the field.

In 1923 the league gave service

to 2,048 cases; visited 1,462 residences and made 290 visits to institutions; and conducted 449 group meetings. It does not seem to us that this is reaching only a small number.

In regard to the spirit of the staff, Mrs. Margaret Mann and Miss Grace Lowndes, ask me to express for the mther hearty interest in the work which the Urban League began and developed in this city and to state that their loyalty to the cause of serving their fellows in this community remains unshaken. The staff asks the writer to state that when funds have not been at hand, the writer's own salary has always been the last to be paid, which is entirely as I feel it should be with the executive of an organization, whose aim is of service.

It is true that more than ninety per cent of the funds for our work has come from white friends; this is a larger percentage than some other cities show and this would be a good time for our own people to show their appreciation of their

own organization by contributing substantially in this time of depression. The Negroes of Pittsburgh have occasion to be proud of this work and we would welcome their registering their criticisms, if favorable, by contributing their time and their money in a substantial way to put across their own social agency.

Sincerely,
(Signed) John T. Clark,
Executive Secretary Urban League
of Pittsburgh.

September 9, 1924.

To the Editor
The Pittsburgh Courier,
518 Fourth Avenue,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Sir: The Urban League was surprised to find itself receiving first page attention in your is-