

***JAPANESE AMERICAN
SERVICE COMMITTEE***

**ANNUAL REPORT
1973 - 74**



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Member, Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago - Endorsed by the Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry,
Subscription Investigating Committee, for the Year Ending December 31, 1973.

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT



LILLIAN C. KIMURA
President

The need for an agency such as the Japanese American Service Committee has not diminished in spite of the apparent inclusion of Japanese Americans into the mainstream of American life.

The Civil Rights movement of the 1960's and the thrusts of Black Americans have made those of Asian ancestry aware of the necessity to speak out for our just due. Stereotyped as the model minority, Asian Americans are now articulating their concerns with vigor and advancing a truer picture of a people who, like other ethnics of color, are relegated to second class citizenship in America.

In working toward an open society, JASC, in the past year, has joined other Asian American groups to seek funds which would identify gaps between needs and services. One proposal, submitted by the Midwest Asian American Coalition and for which JASC provided the funds for its preparation, was caught in the change of Administration policies and "died" despite it being rated a very fine proposal by regional officials. As of this writing, JASC is cooperating with the Japanese American Citizens League in a project to develop training materials which will identify those factors in Japanese American culture and life style that prevent Isseis from making full use of existing human service resources. This spring, we expect to participate in a Conference on the mental health needs of Asian Americans sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health.

No longer the "quiet Americans", the Board of JASC has challenged the arbitrary cutbacks by the State in services to former mental patients in our sheltered workshop, brought suit to acquire the property adjoining the building, and sought funds from a variety of sources, including governmental and private, for extension of services to the elderly.

One of the most exciting developments within the past year has been the increasing involvement of Sansei in volunteer services to the Issei. Under the auspices of JACL's Japanese American Youth, they have gone on friendly visits to shut-ins (these visits were especially appreciated at Christmas time), volunteered in our Nutrition for Elderly Program, plan to work with the Drop In Center and, just recently, they sponsored a "Casino Matinee" for the Issei.

As vacancies occurred on the Board of Directors, Sanseis were appointed to serve. The mural on the north wall of the building, a Sansei effort, is tangible expression of the concern of our youth for a better world.

In looking to the future, plans are being made to remodel our present facility to make it more functional and serve our expanding programs. Staff has also explored the possible sources of funding in the event we may wish to build a new facility.

Elsewhere in this booklet you will read more about our programs. We invite you to visit the agency and witness the exciting activities which take place there daily. We would also like to express our appreciation to our membership, staff and many volunteers for making JASC the vital agency that it is. I would particularly like to thank all the dedicated Board members who consented to serve an extra six months because of the change in our fiscal year system.

With your continued loyalty and support, JASC pledges to meet the challenges of tomorrow with wisdom and courage so that all of us may, one day, be living in a free and just society.

Lillian C. Kimura
President, JASC

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



MASARU NAMBU
Executive Director

Organized in 1945, the Japanese American Service Committee has assisted thousands of Japanese Americans to resume life in the Chicago Metropolitan area after leaving wartime relocation centers. During the past 29 years, the agency has grown both in its scope of service and its professionalism in assisting clients. Today, the once active Issei (first generation) who first helped to organize the JASC have reached retirement age and have themselves become some of the most important clients of the agency. With the assumption of leadership roles by Nisei (second generation), the era of tightly-knit ethnic concerns is giving way to visions of the larger place of JASC in the general community.

The Senior Citizens Work Center, a sheltered workshop originally conceived only for Issei aged, has undergone vital changes with its expansion to include former mental patients from the Edgewater-Uptown community as well as Nisei and other Asian clients. The JASC is now an important member of the Midwest Asian American Coalition, a group which aims to coordinate available welfare services for all Asian Americans.

Recognizing the unique needs of aged Issei who face insurmountable frustrations due to lack of cultural and linguistic adaptability, the JASC has instituted an ambitious program of complete care through the Issei Comprehensive Program encompassing such services as home-delivered meals, the Nutrition for Elderly program, telecare, dental and medical clinics, counselling and a wide variety of social activities. Evidence is seen daily that the lives of these otherwise isolated persons are being immeasurably enriched.

The agency is also coming to grips with problems of younger members of the Japanese American community whose emerging recognition of their peculiar ethnicity has begun to take its emotional and social toll. The purchase of an adjoining property will afford opportunities for expanded services in this and other areas.

Although JASC continues to place emphasis on assisting the culturally different, it is always cognizant of the areas in the wider community to which it can apply its unique expertise and cooperates strongly with all community welfare organizations. With the continued support of all, JASC can expand and improve its ability to provide sophisticated and concerned human care and to contribute to the improved well-being of the entire community.

JAPANESE AMERICAN SERVICE COMMITTEE

OFFICE STAFF

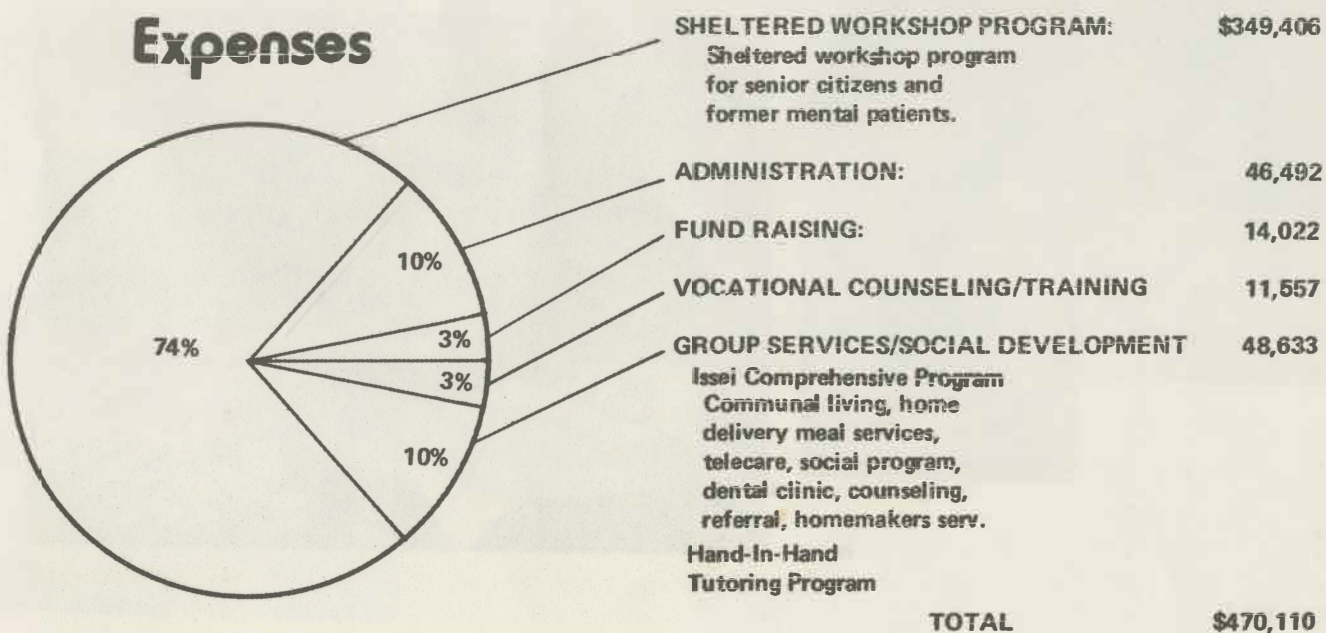
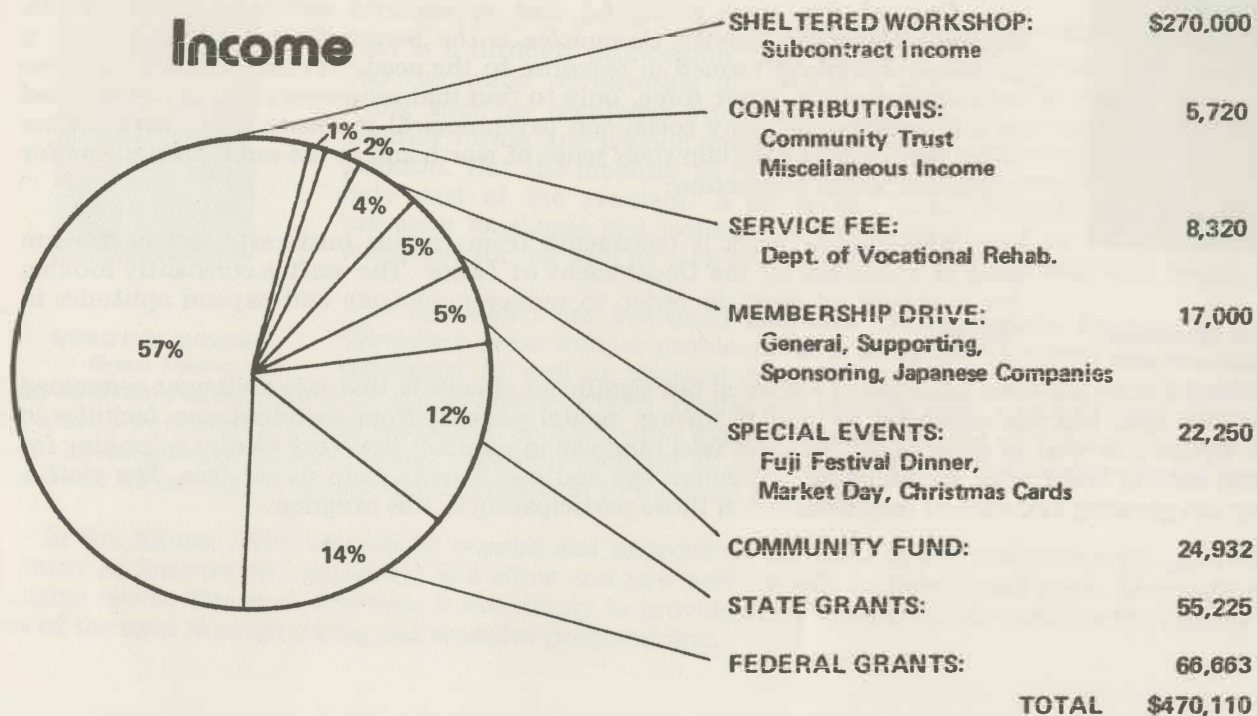
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Cathy Yamada
Cecilia Ishibashi
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Treasurer's Report

FISCAL YEAR 1974 BUDGET



SENIOR CITIZENS WORK CENTER



FRED ODANAKA
Workshop Director

One of the most successful and appreciated services offered by the Japanese American Service Committee is the Senior Citizens Work Center, a sheltered workshop formed in response to the needs of older Issei who left the mainstream of the labor force, only to find that retirement frequently resulted in the surfacing of many social and psychological problems. The Work Center helps participants maintain their sense of worth and at the same time allows for continued social interaction.

Appropriate work is contracted from various businesses and clients are paid at a rate set by the Department of Labor. The staff is constantly looking for a variety of work in order to reduce monotony and expand aptitudes in clients.

The Work Center has been undergoing a gradual but significant change in that it is no longer concerned only with Issei aged but has expanded to include former mental patients from sheltered care facilities in Edgewater-Uptown as well as older Nisei. As older Issei diminish in number, the Work Center is looking for more clients among Nisei who are reaching retirement age and can benefit from its services. The staff is gratified by the growing evidence of improvement in those participating in this program.



ISSEI COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM



DOROTHY KANEKO
Group Worker

In a society where youth and language facility are highly valued, to be an Issei is a difficult proposition. Age, language and cultural barriers loom large and resolution of resulting difficulties is tenuous. The simple mechanics of living such as obtaining information over the telephone, filling out social security forms, and seeking medical assistance are arduous tasks to those in this position. But the inability to handle the day-to-day events of normal living is only part of the problem. A larger and more difficult challenge is that of pervasive loneliness and isolation, a condition shared by all aged persons but magnified for the Issei by lack of adequate cultural and linguistic facility.

The JASC has instituted the Issei Comprehensive Program to assist in alleviating these unique problems. It is designed to attend to the social and emotional as well as physical needs of aged Issei through such programs as home delivered meals, telecare, homemakers services, dental and medical care, a communal living program and a drop-in center. Monthly social and club activities expand educational and cultural opportunities. The recent establishment of the Federal Nutrition Program at JASC under which low-cost meals are served to those over 60 has added an important dimension to the total program.

In the future, JASC expects to expand and improve on all facets of the Issei Comprehensive Program as much as finances and personnel will allow and new services will be introduced upon demonstration of changing needs. The goal, however, is not simply to provide more services but to enhance the quality of the lives of the aged through caring and sensitive programming.



COUNSELING SERVICE



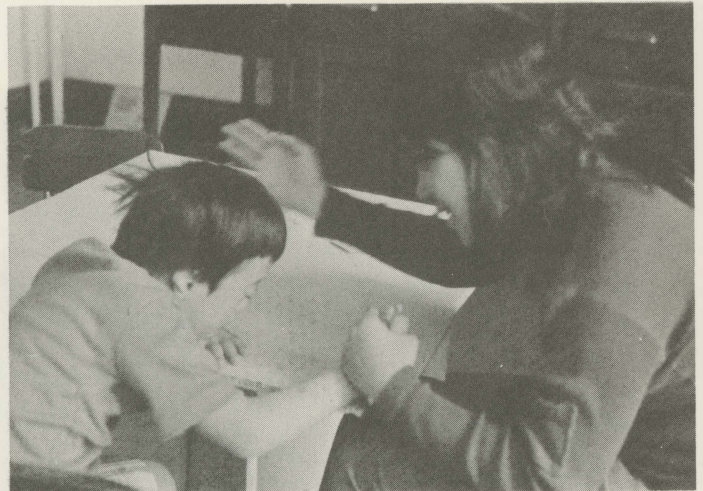
EIKO FRICKE
Counseling Director

Counseling services have always been available at the Japanese American Service Committee, but with the marked increase in the number and variety of clients needing help, the agency established last year a formal Counseling Department, staffed by four counselors and a part-time consulting psychologist. In addition to increased counseling requests from the primary target community of Japanese Americans, clients include 40 former mental patients who are employed in the Work Center as well as many non-Japanese Asians. The Council for Community Services in Metropolitan Chicago has also requested that JASC be one of the agencies providing counseling to the impaired aged.

The Counseling Department is concentrating on providing the best and most appropriate types of counseling to clients in all of these areas, an effort requiring the application of the highest and most sophisticated standards. Such areas as referral services, intake procedures, case consultations, staff meetings, group discussions and town hall meetings are constantly undergoing close scrutiny to improve their effectiveness. It is hoped that clients will receive increasingly adequate answers for their deepest concerns.

HAND-IN-HAND

Formed in October, 1969, Hand-in-Hand is an organization supported by the Japanese American Service Committee whose purpose is to increase public awareness of the problems and possibilities of exceptional children and to provide informed support for the parents of such children. Meeting regularly on the second Friday of each month, the group discusses common concerns and plans activities which will enhance the lives of children with a variety of handicaps such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy, mongolism and learning disabilities. Speech therapy classes are held every other Saturday from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon at the Academy of the Sacred Heart, led by a professional therapist.



The group was originally organized with funds raised by the Young Japanese Americans, an arm of the Japanese American Citizens League, and membership is open to any interested persons whether or not they have any direct connections with handicapped children. Through discussions with professionals in the field, planning for relevant legislative action, and community education, the group provides a much needed human service to parents of exceptional children as well as to all concerned persons.

BLOOD ASSURANCE PROGRAM



CATHY YAMADA
Blood Assurance
Program Coordinator

As part of the people-helping-people program, the Japanese American Service Committee implemented a Blood Assurance Program in 1973 which provides free blood replacement coverage to all members of JASC and their families should the need arise. Approximately 4000 people are now covered and already several Issei, Nisei and Sansei have been assisted.

In order to maintain coverage, 4% of the total membership must donate blood. This plan assures members of JASC that they will not be charged for blood transfusions. The plan also has been extended to cover members of other Japanese American community organizations if 4% of their memberships have donated blood.

Hopefully, programs such as this one will make people become conscious of the great need in veterans' hospitals, disaster emergencies and medical research. Any blood donated over and above the minimum requirements for coverage of the group will go to help these other worthy causes. In this way, it is hoped that the public will be educated to the need for development of a voluntary community-wide blood program.

Present plans to cover 6000 people in the Japanese American community will require the donation of 240 pints of blood in 1974. Mobile units accepting blood donations will be at the JASC building on June 24 and November 18, 1974. Everyone who is able to give is urged to contribute blood toward this worthy effort.

Grateful acknowledgment is extended to the following people who have donated blood as of December 31, 1973:

JASC BLOOD ASSURANCE PROGRAM

BLOOD DONORS

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1973

Hisa Amimoto
Minoru Amimoto
Paul Ase
Mikio Doi
Tetsuo Doi
Leo Edwards
Edward Farmilant
Eiko Fricke
Kathy Fujii
Mickey Fujii
George Fujimori
Glenn Y. Fujimori
Mitsuo Fujishima
Joy Fujita
Neil Fukuda
Henry Fukui
Mutsuko Hara
Yoshiro Harada
Isamu Harakawa
James Hashiguchi
Alice Hashimoto
Mark Hayashi
Scott Hayashi
Fred Hikida

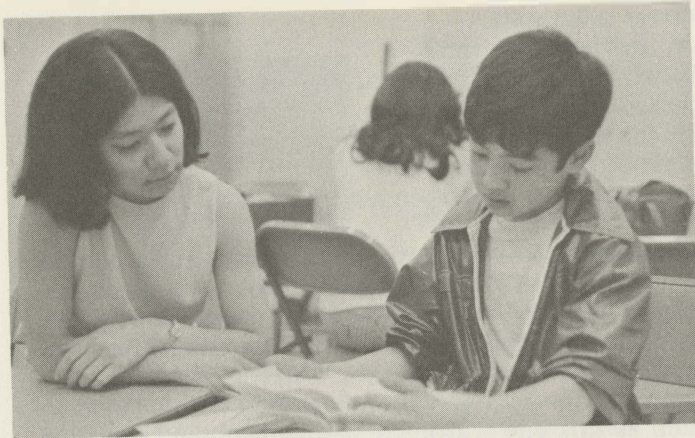
George Hirata
Calvin Hori
George Inouye
James Inouye
Ray Inouye
Cecilia Ishibashi
Donna Ito
Dorothy Ito
Joe Iwaoka
Dennis Jennings
Don Kaihatsu
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Charles Kaneshiro
Takio Kariya
Ken Katahira
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Paula Kitahata
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Nel MacPherson
David Maeshiba
Rocky Matayoshi
Fred Matsumoto
Katsuo Matsumoto
Aki Matsushita
Yoko Mitani
Mike Mitsueda
Dorothy Miyake
Jack Miyake
Ron Miyamura
Hideo Motoike
Lauretta Nagatomo
Dennis Naka
Mas Nakagawa
Takeshi Nakamura
Lawrence Nakamura
Takashi Nakao
Cathy Nakashima
Bob Nakazawa
Masaru Nambu
Harold Nemoto
Michael Nishi

Jiro Nishime
Arthur Nishimura
James Nishimura
Janice Nishimura
Bing Nishiura
Jack Oda
Erick Odanaka
Fred Odanaka
Shoji Ogawa
Daniel Omi
Fred Omi
Robert Oyama
Eugene Paulsen
George Saiki
Frank Saito
Minoru Saito
Robert Sakamoto
Jane Sakoda
Norman Sato
Henry Shimabukuro
Noboru Shimoda
Tom Shimoda
H. K. Suzuki
Dennis Takata

Chisako Takayama
Keiko Takemoto
Yosh Takimura
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Hitoshi Tanigawa
Judith Tanigawa
Mary Terada
Mary Anne Thompson
Thomas Tokuhisa
Hiro Toyama
Ronald Toyama
Tom Tsugawa
Fred Tsuji
Alice Tsuma
Hattie Umekubo
Arnold Watanabe
Robert M. Yamada
Kay Yamagiwa
Fred Yamanuha
Erwin Yasukawa
Ron Yoshino
Isamu Sam Zaiman

TUTORING PROGRAM



Every Saturday morning through the school year, the Japanese American Service Committee building becomes a classroom for some fifteen young children ranging in age from seven to fourteen. They are students in the JASC Tutoring Program, initiated three years ago by several Sansei who wanted to offer their services in an enrichment program for neighborhood children.

From 10:00 to 12:00 each Saturday morning, volunteer tutors offer assistance in mathematics, reading and the sciences. They try to give students as much individual attention as they can, and where possible, a one-to-one ratio is maintained. An effort is made to keep the sessions informal and flexible so that each student can work at his own pace.

In addition to classroom studies, various field trips are scheduled during the year. This year, the children have visited the Museum of Science and Industry, Lincoln Park Zoo, River Trails Nature Center, and the Goodman Theater where they enjoyed a performance of "The Three Musketeers".

Although the program is only for two hours a week, it is felt that the students benefit from the individual attention and it is hoped that the service can be expanded to reach more children.

PROJECT SANSEI

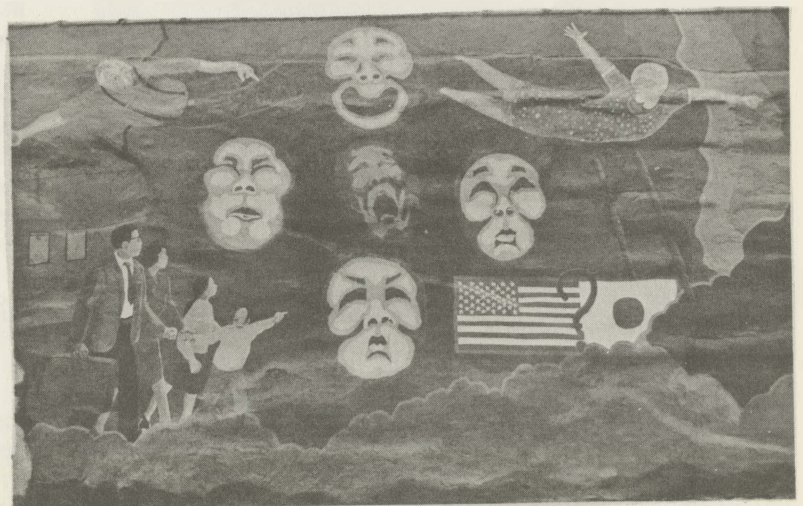
Project Sansei began in 1973 as a program to encourage the healthy acknowledgment of their ethnicity among Sansei (third generation) and younger Japanese Americans. It began in the months of April and May with various cultural events, including Japanese martial arts, dancing, cooking and flower arranging.

The Project was spearheaded by a few older Sansei who saw that Japanese Americans were slowly losing contact with the many positive aspects of their heritage, resulting in a confusion of identity among many of them.

An important event was the completion of an outside mural on the north wall of the JASC building which was conceived by young artists and executed by members of the Sansei community. It depicts the history of Japanese immigration, hard work, internment, joy, unhappiness, personal aspiration, and ethnic pride. The mural has something to say to everyone, but it is particularly meaningful in establishing a positive Japanese American identity.

The mural serves to point up a basic goal of Project Sansei, which is to help Sansei live successfully as individuals with unique and important ethnic contributions to make to the community. This not only provides armament against stereotyping and racism but a strong point from which to deal with them.

This program will continue to grow as an important concern of JASC in the future.



Picture of Mural being painted by Sansei.

FUJI FESTIVAL

The Fuji Festival Fund Raising Dinner, sponsored annually in the fall by the Japanese American Service Committee, has become firmly grounded as one of the cultural highlights of the community as well as a highly successful fund raising event.

The Third Fuji Festival was held on September 23, 1973, at the McCormick Inn, attracting 450 people who were treated to a delicious dinner of teriyaki beef. Entertainment included Japanese music, dance and exhibits and featured the lively music of "Moses and the Highbrows", a talented group from the Philippines. The Fourth Fuji Festival is scheduled for Sunday, September 29, 1974, at the McCormick Inn.

This glamorous event affords both honorary and regular JASC members an opportunity to contribute substantially to the various programs of JASC.

MARKET DAY

Market Day, an annual fund raising event held on the first Saturday of June, was first instituted in 1971. An average net income of more than \$3000 is realized during this one day affair. Merchandise on sale includes chinaware, kitchen utensils, small appliances and a wide variety of gift articles. Food items such as lunch boxes and home-baked goods bring in a healthy portion of the income. Market Day 4, held on June 1, was again a successful community wide effort aided by community merchants and sales tables manned by volunteers.

JASC PICNIC

The annual community picnic sponsored by the Japanese American Service Committee has become a tradition anticipated by young and old alike since its inception in 1948. Held on the first Sunday of August each year, the event attracts more than 2,000 people. Races for all ages, door prizes, Japanese folk dancing, demonstrations of martial arts, performances by the Nisei Ambassadors Drum and Bugle Corps and other attractions have been part of the programs during past picnics. Community merchants participate generously by donating most of the prizes. The picnic affords opportunity for good fellowship and serves as one of the unifying forces of the community.

