

# "Local Citizens Will Sponsor Vacations for Refugees," Newspaper Article, July 3, 1940

## Local Citizens Will Sponsor Vacations for Refugees

Although Individuals and camps have provided refugee children with vacations prior to this time, the National Refugee Service, Inc. has announced that Greenbelt is the first community as a whole to officially sponsor the project.

Miss Mildred Stadhola, a representative from the National Refugee Service, visited Greenbelt last week to discuss the details of the vacation plan for refugee children.

After a sight-seeing tour of Greenbelt, Miss Stadholz met with the Citizens Association committee to formulate the necessary arrangements. The meeting was attended by Mrs. Robert Kincheloe, Mrs. Thomas McNamara, Mrs. Theodore Taylor, Mrs. Joseph Bargas, and Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Chasanow. Miss Stadholz also conferred with Mayor George Warner after the meeting.

The plan, as tentatively approved by the Citizens Association committee and the National Refugee Service, will provide a two week vacation for approximately 15 refugee children between the ages of 9 to 12 late in July and early in August. Agencies cooperating in the selection of the children are the American Committee for Christian Refugees, the Committee for Catholic Refugees from Germany, and the National Refugee Service, Inc., all of New York City.

Miss Stadholz announced that all children will receive medical examinations before leaving New York. Upon arrival in Greenbelt they would again be examined by the local physicians and turned over to their foster parents for the two weeks' stay. The refugees will be chaperoned to and from Greenbelt by representatives of the National Refugee Service. Attempts are being made by the Refugee-Orphan Vacation Committee to arrange with transportation companies special rates for the trip to and from New York.

The children who are being sent here came from practically every country in Europe, and have obtained a fairly good knowledge of the English language either through instruction in their native countries, or during their stays in England and this country. It is expected that their vacation in Greenbelt will provide most of the children with their first real glimpse of democracy in action. It will also afford them an opportunity to enjoy the atmosphere of a modern American planned community and to see the sights of the Nation's Capital.

The Executive Committee of the Citizens Association voted that the proceeds of the Association's July 3 dance be used to defray the expenses incurred in the transportation of the refugees from and to New York.