

## **AND WELFARE**

*"Charity itself fulfills the law, And who can sever love from charity." — Shakespeare*

In recent years both the state and the county have assumed a large proportion of the responsibilities of caring for needy and dependent people, with the establishment of assistance programs for which federal grants are available. In addition, federal legislation has increased the responsibility of the Social Security Department for such people. Municipal responsibility, therefore, is limited primarily to general assistance, that is, aid to needy persons not provided for by other levels of government.

### **Local Assistance Board**

Three members are appointed to the Assistance Board by the Township Council. One Board member is also a Councilperson. Members of the Board are non-salaried, serve two year terms, and meet quarterly, or whenever an emergency arises.

The Assistance Board appoints a Director of Welfare, who must be certified by the state, to head the Welfare Department. The Director is employed on a part-time basis for a five year term and has office hours each weekday morning in the Municipal Building. The principal duties are securing the client's case history, determining the assistance necessary, and making referrals. The Welfare Department aids qualifying residents to obtain USDA Food Stamps, fuel allocations, pharmacy assistance, and hospital and clinic care. The state reimburses the Township 75 per cent of its total expenditures for Public Assistance under the General Assistance Program. Emergency assistance is not reimbursed by the state.

### **Union County Welfare Board**

Residents of Scotch Plains who are eligible may receive aid from the County. The County Welfare Board gives assistance to the blind and aged who do not meet the requirements of Medicare. It also administers Aid for Dependent Children and refugee programs.

### **Private and Voluntary Health and Welfare Services:**

#### **Nursing Homes**

Ashbrook Nursing Home is the only private nursing home or convalescent center in Scotch Plains. This home has 102 beds and offers care for a single day or long term. It serves invalids, the aged, and convalescents over the age of 21. It is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals and is approved by Medicare.

#### **Hospitals and Clinics**

Since there is no hospital in Scotch Plains, residents may use the many hospitals, clinics, and treatment centers in the area. The following hospitals are accredited by the State of New Jersey and are voluntary, non-profit institutions with the exception of those operated by Union County.

1. Muhlenberg Hospital, Randolph Road, Plainfield.  
A community teaching hospital serving Union, Middlesex, and Somerset Counties.
2. John E. Runnells Hospital of Union County, Berkeley Heights.  
A County institution specializing in the care of the chronically ill. Provides care for terminal cancer patients. Has rehabilitation program for alcohol, sedative, or poly-addicted persons, facilities for short term voluntary treatment for acute psychiatric symptoms, as well as out-patient psychiatric services. Provides a senior citizen diagnostic clinic which offers weekly physical examinations and tests for blood pressure, glaucoma, diabetes, pap smears, S.M.A.C. Also a free monthly chest X-ray clinic.
3. Overlook Hospital, 193 Morris Avenue, Summit.  
A community teaching hospital, also serving the Scotch Plains area.