

corners of the main intersection of Grand Avenue and Douglas Road. There is a general feeling here that anything done in the community is only a palliative, not an intention of progress. The people feel that the policy directed toward them is symbolic of "throwing the dog a bone." Given this classic situation we felt this area could only be saved in one way, by going for a pilot model.

BLACK GROVE, INC. grew out of the thinking of a handful of people, Walter Green, Julia Allen Field, William R. Rolle and LeRoi Scott. The organization was incorporated by the law firm of Shutts and Bowen on February 23, 1970. The office on Grand Avenue opened at that time. Its program began slowly, offering the space as a meeting place for community organizations and clubs, offering community information and general counseling, offering the services of a lending library by affiliation with the Miami Public Library. It began cooperation with the Center for Urban and Regional Studies, of the University of Miami, to find a location for a health clinic. It began by renovating the office space and undertaking long-range goals, with very limited means.

The men knew the area well, all were born here; a group of spirited men who have lived in the ghetto and know the ghetto. Willing, knowledgeable, and non-partisan, they view the whole scene objectively and they have invaluable insights to contribute.

BLACK GROVE, INC. set out to capture the talent of outstanding professional planners and thinkers in an actual place and critical time to translate knowledge into action in this community. One of the first outside people we asked to collaborate with us was Donald Stull, black architect and environmental designer of Stull Associates, Inc. in Boston. He was impressed by the manageable scale and the cooperative people and felt with us that there is hope for this community — a people with magnificent survival instincts.

People are the primary resource with which BLACK GROVE, INC. was founded. But large-scale funding is essential, either a Title VII grant or private foundation support. Investments of time have already been made by William R. Ewald, development consultant, Washington, D.C.; Daniel Urban Kiley, planner and landscape architect of Charlotte, Vermont; Wilfred Owen, urban advisor and transportation authority of The Brookings Institute, Washington, D.C.; Bob T. McLeod, of the Department of Commerce's Office of Minority Business Enterprise; and Joseph Browder of the Environmental Policy Center, Washington, D.C. All have traveled to Miami to make preliminary surveys of the Black Grove area. The President, Walter Green, Lee Pugh, Albert R. Veri, Richard S. Kaynor, Edward F. Swenson, Jr., Canon Theodore R. Gibson, Stephen A. Blass, and R. Grady Barrs, have all given time and effort to the ideas and growth of BLACK GROVE, INC. Therefore, the local and national members are in themselves matching funds. We estimate that at least \$150,000 worth of time has been volunteered so far.

We believe that the people of this community, at this time and this place in history, with assistance, with economic development funds, can make a contribution to the health and growth of the whole society. That is what BLACK GROVE, INC. means: *human growth and development*.

The name BLACK GROVE, INC. is not the designation of the area by race, but is a name chosen for its national context, simple, strong, memorable. The word *black* does not imply a

threat; it represents a decision to inform the greater society of the special values and qualities which an oppressed people can contribute to this society. These qualities and values are an investment which black people have been willing to contribute for 300 years. They have been refused acceptance by a people desperately in need of the same qualities, which Whitney Young called, "soul, style, compassion and faith."

Black people have an enormous potential that has never been drawn upon by this society. They possess an inherent sense of humaneness and human values that are vital to the health of an ailing nation. The new growth of Black Grove will have a vigor and a style to contribute to the history of Miami.

Where is Black Grove Going?

BLACK GROVE, INC. is piloting an alternative to government planning. It has brought together a national team of specialists to offer their expertise to the people. It represents a coalition of knowledge for the community. BLACK GROVE, INC. wants people represented at all levels. It wants the people to discover and to express their own thinking in the planning of their environment.

BLACK GROVE believes that the time has come when both black and white want to actively work at new solutions. The past program of destructive conditioning has both insidiously, and brutally, created violence and hatred of such proportions that the whole society is afflicted with fears and insecurity.

(Photo by John Massey)

