New York Foundation, 61 Broadway, New York 6, N.Y.

Dear Uncle Herbert:

Because of the new developments at Union Settlement and because of the urgency of the situation in East Harlem which necessitates the continuance of our enlarged program, the Board of Directors of Union Settlement wishes to apply to the Board of the New York Foundation for a renewal or increase of their grant.

Over 200,000 people live in East Harlem which extends from East 96th Street to the Harlem River and from Fifth Avenue to the East River. Here living in crowded tenements and substandard dwellings, are approximately the same number of people as in the city of Syracuse.

Every day approximately 100 Puerto Ricans are arriving in New York City from Puerto Rico, mostly by cargo planes, and the majority of them come to East Harlem. As they are American citizens there is no quota, no physical examination is required nor is proof that they will be able to support themselves. It is not uncommon to find seventeen living in three rooms, taking turns sleeping in the few beds. The new immigrants are having trouble adjusting themselves and finding work as
so few of them speak English and the majority are unskilled workers; they also have racial problems among themselves as they are white, mulatto and Negro in background. In spite of these drawbacks, the Puerto Ricans make fine citizens if given help and leadership.

Union Settlement - One of the Few Social Agencies in East Harlem:

In spite of the size of East Harlem there is a lack of social agencies, particularly settlement houses. A settlement house is the first agency to which a family turns for advice and help.

We check continually that we are in no way duplicating work carried on by other agencies, public or private. It is our policy to pass to others any of our activities if possible. To mention one recent example: the Department of Health now gives whooping cough inoculations in our neighborhood after we had demonstrated their worth.

Interracial Program at Union Settlement:

Among the 3500 members at Union Settlement who range in age from two to 96 years, there are thirty eight different nationalities or racial origins represented, but the majority of those coming to the Settlement are Italians, Negroes or Puerto Ricans. Our work is carried on by an interracial staff of seventy five men and women. At the Settlement tolerance and admiration
for those of different races is learned through working and playing together.

Among the many activities at the Settlement are music, adult education for citizenship, English classes, a nursery for all day care for children of working mothers, day care for "latch key" children, a program for oldsters 65 years or over, athletics and clubs for teen-agers, art, and health education.

Our three summer camps near Bear Mountain for boys, girls and mothers are known throughout the country for their successful interracial programming. This is especially an achievement in the mothers' camp as the older generation has more established prejudices which are difficult to break down.

Budget: While $24,836 or 11.4% of our budget for 1946 came in through neighborhood dues and fees - a record of which we are very proud - still we cannot receive as much from our neighborhood people as many other organizations in the City because the people living in East Harlem are of the very lowest income groups: the unskilled worker, the last to be employed and the first to be laid off. An abnormally high rate of broken homes exists here. For instance, of the mothers who have children in our day-nursery, two-thirds are the sole support of their families.

The total budget for Union Settlement in 1946
was $212,585. Only $1,928 came in during 1946 from interests on investments.

The budget for 1947 calls for an expenditure of $230,000, an increase of almost $20,000 because of increased costs of personnel and materials.

Because Union Settlement is one of the few organizations existing in this difficult neighborhood of East Harlem, and because of its outstanding interracial work, and because of the necessity of raising new money to support its program, it is our hope that you and the other trustees will decide to make a substantial grant to Union Settlement.

I have been on the Board of the Settlement for sometime, and believe in it very heartily as a most necessary service in a depressed part of the City. I should be delighted to supply you with whatever additional information you would like.

With love,