



SPRINGFIELD COUNCIL

THE POWER OF A SMALL GROUP OF CARING PEOPLE

The school year 1965/1966 had just started and parents meeting at PTA groups all over Springfield were celebrating that all of their "back to school" shopping was done and that their kids were back in school, These parents were discussing the possibilities of school fundraisers, enhancing art programs, and really working to make it a good school year for all kids attending school in Springfield.

However, it was at these very PTA meetings that parents began hearing stories about kids not coming to school because they didn't have shoes to wear or that health nurses discovered that while helping kids who had "accidents at school" some of the kids were not wearing underwear. These parents decided they were going to work together with the Springfield PTA Council to provide a way for kids to have access to free NEW shoes, socks and underwear. It was the beginning of a "one-of-a-kind" voucher program called the PTA Clothing Fund Program.

Presently the Springfield Council of PTAs Clothing Fund Program has accounts with two local stores. Families can go with their children to shop for new shoes socks and underwear. Older students can go by themselves to do their shopping. Vouchers have a set limit according to the age of the student and need of the student. This program has grown to be a vital essential service to low-income kids attending Springfield Schools. This program, which in it's first year provided 10 students with voucher totaling about \$200 has grown to provide over 450 student with new shoes, socks and underwear with a cost of over \$13,000 last school year. This

could not have happened if not for United Way, the contribution of local PTAs, booster clubs and local community members this program.