

Welfare Mothers Sell Blood to Buy Warm Clothing: Most are Rejected for Lack Of Iron Due to Poor Diet

Geller, Lawrence
Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001); Nov 11, 1967;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)

pg. 3

Welfare Mothers Sell Blood to Buy Warm Clothing

Most are Rejected for Lack Of Iron, Due to Poor Diet

By LAWRENCE H. GELLER
More than 30 welfare recipients
and several clergymen offered to
sell a pint of their blood Wednesday
to point up the need of many
mothers for a higher clothing al-
lance from the State Depart-
ment of Public Welfare.
However, 25 of the mothers
were turned down because their
blood was deficient in iron—the
result of improper diet.
"We can't even sell our blood,"
said the disappointed women in
the crowded room of the blood
center of the Episcopal Hospital
at Front and Lehigh ave., during
the "Blood Demonstration" spon-

sored by the Welfare Rights Or-
ganization.
LOW IN IRON
The first four women in line
were turned down because "the
blood of nearly all of them seems
to be low in iron," explained John
Hansen, a technician at the blood
center.
When the women were told they
should eat plenty of raw meats,
like liver, and green vegetables
and fruits, like apricots, they re-
plied, "When you don't have mon-
ey, you eat hotcakes and gravy,
Mrs. Mildred Porter, 25, of 3824
Spring Garden st., was the first

mother accepted to give blood.
She was nervous, as she told
the Tribune that "this is the first
time I have ever given blood. But
I guess it'll be alright."
**CLOTHES-MONEY GOES
FOR RENT**
Mrs. Porter, the mother of five
children, said she had three chil-
dren who needed shoes. "My old-
est boy has come to me several
times and complained about hav-
ing to wear the same clothes to
school day after day," she said.
"But what we should be able
to spend for clothes, we have to
spend for rent," she said.
Mrs. Porter receives \$131.50
every two weeks and pays \$60 a
month plus utilities, for her small
apartment.
She said she would buy her lit-
tle girl a pair of shoes with the
five dollars she received for her
pint of blood.

The ministers and social work-
ers who "sold" their blood said
they would donate the money to
the Welfare Rights Organization.

MANY AILMENTS
Several women who came to
donate were turned down because
of particular medical disabilities
such as low iron level, high blood
pressure, asthma condition, dia-
betes.

One of those turned down was
Mrs. Hazel Leslie, co-chairman of
the Welfare Rights Organization
(WRO).

While disappointed because she
couldn't give blood, Mrs. Leslie
said she was pleased at the turn-
out of women who did come.

'ME OR MY DAUGHTER'
Mrs. Leslie, who was wearing
sneakers because she said "it was
either shoes for me or shoes for
my daughter," feels "if it takes
action like this one to get the
State Legislature to wake up to
the needs of our children, then
we'll have more and more of
them."

Mrs. Martha Melton, the other
co-chairman of WRO, said that a
Philadelphia representative of
the group would be going to Har-
risburg today (Friday) to meet
with a similar group from Pitts-
burgh, known as the Citizens
Against Inadequate Resources
(CAIR).

From this meeting it's hoped
that a state-wide welfare rights
organization will be formed.

Mrs. Melton also said that
"those in Harrisburg" will also go
to see their legislators to demand
that welfare recipients receive
one hundred percent of the mon-
ey which the State, itself, has set
as the minimum standard for
persons on welfare. Only 71 per-
cent is now given.

— An Orphans' Court Judge —

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.

The Philadelphia Tribune articles are courtesy of the Philadelphia Tribune, America's oldest historically Black newspaper and the Greater Philadelphia region's largest newspaper serving the African-American community. The Philadelphia Tribune was founded in 1884 by Christopher James Perry, Sr. and has been the voice for African Americans locally and nationally for 130 years. The Philadelphia Tribune extensively covered the Philadelphia Welfare Rights Movement and other similar twentieth century social and political African American movements. The author is deeply grateful to the Philadelphia Tribune for its generosity in allowing the selected articles to be reprinted for this publication.

Digital images produced by ProQuest LLC as part of ProQuest® Historical Newspapers. <http://www.proquest.com>. Digital facsimiles of the articles are published with permission of ProQuest LLC. Further reproduction is prohibited without permission.