

## JOB CENTRE UNDER WAY

Last year in 'Action' we talked about our ERIC proposal to help the unemployed. ERIC, or the Employment Resource Information Centre has now become the Job Centre and plans are well under way for its establishment.

Some legacies came to hand unexpectedly and this enabled the Board to allocate \$40,000 for the Job Centre as a one year pilot demonstration program. Bill Wells has now been appointed as the Co-ordinator and other staff will be employed very soon. The Centre will be located at 181 King Street, Melbourne, close to the corner of Bourke and King Streets, one block away from Spencer Street Station. It consists of a shop front which will provide an informal atmosphere where unemployed people can feel comfortable in talking through their difficulties and in finding solutions.

The main purposes of the Job Centre include assessing the practical value of an alternative, community based em-

ployment service as a supplement to the Commonwealth Employment Service. It will also provide training programs to help the unemployed in their efforts to find suitable work and make recommendations about improving existing services. Along with other community groups the Job Centre also aims to provide support and practical assistance to the unemployed while they are looking for work.

It is hoped to gather more detailed information on available jobs and then assist the unemployed in the job matching process. The Centre will also be encouraging participation by the unemployed in workshops and discussion groups, and will explore avenues of assistance arising as a result. Users of the Centre will be assisted to develop such skills as interview techniques, where and how to look for jobs, and appropriate ways to approach employers. The Centre will also offer advice and information on the rights of unemployed people and the assistance available from the various authorities.

A Management Committee

which will include representatives from relevant government departments, voluntary welfare agencies and other self-help groups, as well as users of the Centre and Brotherhood staff, will guide the development of the Centre and establish priorities for its various activities.

The Centre will employ a full-time staff of four and they will be supported on a part-time basis by the Brotherhood's Social Policy Officer, and Re-

search Officer who will also evaluate those areas of the Project which are largely experimental.

**"The Job Centre — A Proposal for Helping the Unemployed"** has recently been published by the Brotherhood. It outlines these plans, as well as giving current information on unemployment, and is available from the Publications Department, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy. Price \$1.20 plus 50c postage.



Judy Ann Stewart hopes that this year there will be more toys than ever for the Christmas Toy Club.

## CHRISTMAS TOY CLUB

Christmas for children everywhere wouldn't be Christmas without toys and each year the Brotherhood gives thousands of toys to children from low-income families through the Christmas Toy Club. Families join the club during the year and pay a nominal amount of up to \$3 per family, whatever the size.

We feel it's important that parents are able to give presents to their children themselves, and so it's mum or dad who comes to choose what they would like to give their children. A large number of new toys come from The Sun toy fund, and others are bought with the money paid by the families.

Many volunteers are involved throughout the year,

dressing dolls, sorting, repairing and painting the 'pre-loved' toys given to us during the year.

This year volunteer Judy Ann Stewart is collecting toys through a number of Melbourne schools for the Club. She's asking students to give one of their own toys, in good condition, so that the giving on their part becomes as important as the receiving, rather than merely cleaning out the toy cupboard.

## DO YOU LIVE NEAR IVANHOE, GREENSBOROUGH, BENTLEIGH OR GLENHUNTLY?

If you have some spare time and would like to help in our shops in these suburbs, please ring Mrs. Thelma Tuxen on 41 4151.



How many will still be unemployed this time next year?