



Anna G. Thorpe
Cleveland Christian Home for Children

WE USE MUSIC TO "PREVENT" DELINQUENCY

"Mom" Thorpe has a theory. And, like all good theories, it is based on facts.

"My job," says Mom, "is not to cure delinquents. It's to prevent them."

"Mom" has mothered over 2,000 children at the CLEVELAND CHRISTIAN HOME FOR CHILDREN in Cleveland, Ohio. So she knows a great many things about boys and girls. She can scent a problem pertaining to a child almost before it arises.

"Every child who comes to us is a problem in one way or another," says Superintendent Mom Thorpe. Broken homes ... poverty ... rejection by unfit parents - our boys and girls are victims of all of them. Left to circumstances, no one can say how many of them would join the 300,000 teenagers who, each year, find their way to juvenile courts and penal institutions.

"Take Johnny, for instance. Johnny was not a bad boy when he came to our Home. But he was a perpetual truant - one of the paths that eventually leads to delinquency. Johnny would rather be any other place than in school. He was bright, eager, explorative, always brimming over with energy. The first week after Johnny came to us, he truanted as usual. We had to bring him back from Canada where he had bummed his way 'to see the sights'. Yes, Johnny was a problem."

"And there was Anabelle, the timid child with all sorts of hidden frustrations. And Dick with his bullying cockiness. And Paul ... and Harry .. Dozens, hundreds of red-heads and blonds and freckle-faces - each one with problems of his own. Each with problems which had to be solved, if ever the child was to amount to anything."

"What do we do about them? How do we overcome these teenage tensions which come to every boy and girl no matter who they are or where they live?"

"Here at our Home, we have many ways. Many activities to keep hands, minds and bodies busy: sports, games, work. With each child we must fit the answer to the problem."

"BUT, ONE OF THE BIGGEST HELPS WE HAVE IS MUSIC."

"It was a wonderful day for us when our good friend, Mr. Harry Stanley of the Oahu Publishing Company, gave us the instruments to start a band and orchestra in our Home. The team work, the joy and the fun that our boys and girls have gained from this group playing seems to give them the healthful release -- just the right zest and zing - which they need."

"It was music that proved a God-send to Johnny. Given solo parts in our band, Johnny was too busy doing constructive things to find time to run away. His school work improved. And, as his interest in his own progress grew, his problem became - not delinquency - but picking out a man-sized career for himself."

"Special lessons in music worked magic, too, with pretty Marian, opening her eyes to opportunities never before dreamed of. And so it was with the others. MUSIC OFFERS THE EMOTIONAL OUTLET WHICH EVERY CHILD MUST HAVE."

"All progressive schools for delinquent children use music to help 'cure' the boys and girls who come to them. But, here at our Home, we do more:

"WE USE MUSIC TO 'PREVENT' DELINQUENCY!"