

THE CITY OF  
**DUBUQUE**  
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION



RICHARD J. SLATTERY • DIRECTOR

BUNKER HILL • DUBUQUE, IOWA 52001

September 24, 1971

Mr. Don Powers  
Vice President, JayCees  
JayCee Office  
Professional Building  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

Dear Mr. Powers:

Dave Brauhn has asked that I write you concerning Sing Out Dubuque organization. I and my office can only offer praises for the fine job these young people have been doing and we are proud that they can be counted as one of our programs.

The Sing Out Dubuque helps young people develop rhythm and pitch, and they work together for a common goal, which is an entertaining and professional-looking show. But I might add that you don't have to be a great singer, musician or even a beauty, but when all are on stage, everyone is an enthusiastic "star." The spirit of the cast can easily be seen across the footlights.

But they are not just performers. The philosophies they sing about seem to carry into their everyday world, and they have a positive outlook on life. The group has done many benefit shows such as singing on a street corner for a tag day, singing many Sundays at Mercy Hospital mental health ward, then staying and talking to the patients, singing at the senior citizens' homes, and at church services, to name a few.

They are also not afraid to work. I've seen them collect enough pop bottles and newspapers to fill a barn, scrub a church, pick up litter in a park, tutor those members who are having trouble with studies, and have many, many car washes.

The Sing Out Dubuque group who protest for Up With People became a program under the Recreation Department in 1959, and in that year their shows reached an audience of 17,500 persons. Junior Sing Out, comprised of those ages five to thirteen, practices two or three times per week, as does the Senior Sing Out group for those ages thirteen to twenty-four.

The Sing Out Action Council meets once a month to conduct business and round tables are held once monthly for all registered members to discuss timely issues or problems which have arisen. The fine arts supervisor of the Recreation Department acts as their advisor, but the young people run the group themselves through their action council board.

Anyone may join and no fee is charged. The group operates on donations they receive or from work projects like collecting pop bottles or having car washes.

I understand you are hoping to start such a group in your community. I'm sure the young people of your town will benefit as ours have. If you need any help getting started, I'm sure the members of the Dubuque group would like to do a show for you and maybe have some workshops to help you get started. They have worked with other communities and have been very successful.

Dave will be a good man to get such a project started. He was the enthusiastic force behind our group here in Dubuque. Your gain is our loss. Best of luck!

Sincerely,

  
Susan J. Riedel  
Fine Arts Supervisor

SJR:lm