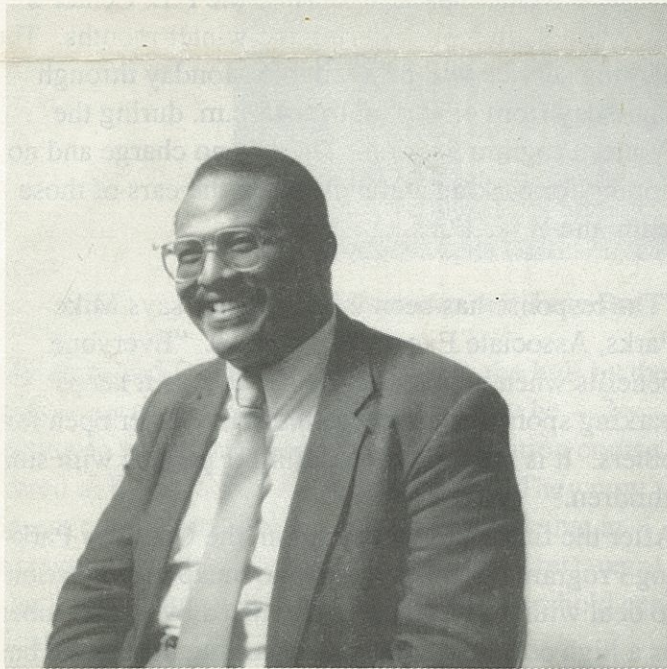




News Exchange

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Carl Cole Gives Kids Something to Sing About



Carl Cole

The YMCA's new Associate Director of Community Outreach programs is not your average guy. Carl Cole is a multitasking young man, with lots of good ideas and a great sense of humor. He's already leaving his special mark on the youth after school programs he is in charge of.

Carl's immediate areas of responsibility are supervising the youth educational/recreational programs at Fairgrounds and Jane Addams Housing Developments, and the Safe Place programs at Haskell, Barbour and Ellis schools.

Carl previously worked for two Northern Illinois University programs, called Upward Bound and Project Talent, which provided tutoring, college preparation,

and career planning services for area high school students.

Carl has incorporated his experience and belief in the value of tutoring into the After School programs. All sites now have more "quiet time" devoted to the completion of childrens' homework and to educational games or worksheets for those who have no homework.

Music is another talent which Carl is sharing with the kids in these YMCA programs. Carl is an accomplished musician and singer, and has his own music production company. So far, the musical activities at the youth program sites have taken the form of the kids singing familiar songs accompanied by Carl on the piano. In the future he hopes to form youth choirs at each site.

In February, Carl is planning a field trip to a live musical performance featuring some of Rockford's best black gospel artists at Washington Center Auditorium. Carl's production company is organizing the event as a community-wide celebration of "Black History Month" on February 25. Carl plans to incorporate other black history activities in to the YMCA youth programs throughout the month.

Carl was born and raised in Freeport, but has recently moved to Rockford which, he says, he knows like the back of his hand. It sounds like Carl is about to become very well known by a bunch of lucky Rockford area kids.