Funds Needed

Lafayette Day Nurseries Face Danger of Closing

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Seeing a need is one thing—filling it quite another. Lafayette Day Nurseries is in a race for survival in its efforts to feature its scores of working mothers and fathers who work at any job rather than depend solely on the state for their total income.

There is a race of such day nurseries in the city, but Lafayette Day Nurseries stands a good chance of losing them unless funds for carrying on a solvent operation are forthcoming by March.

Lafayette Day Nurseries, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization devoted to the care and teaching of pre-school children, aged 2 to 5. It is open to all children of working mothers and fathers, who are unable to pay for private child care. The nursery is non-profit and is dependent on the parent's income.

Day Nursery No. 1 and No. 2 are two of only three day nurseries in Lafayette, according to the Louisiana State Department of Welfare. Organized in 1920 by the Federated Women's Clubs, the agency has been financed by the tuition, plus money from the United States Government and private donations. Total income for the nurseries is $1,071.50 per month, which is $1,071.50.

Out of the $1,071.50, the nursery pays $100 to the United States Government and $50 to private donations. Total income for the nurseries per month is $1,071.50. Out of the $1,071.50, the nursery pays $100 to the United States Government and $50 to private donations.

Sound impossible? It is.

The nurseries are running about $300 in the hole per month, even though every money-saving step in the nursery operation is conscientiously followed.

Before coming under the supervision of the Department of Welfare in 1960, the enrollment of the schools was about 120. To meet licensing standards of the department, the enrollment in both schools was cut to 90, also cutting in half the money which was making Lafayette Day Nurseries a solvent operation.

The nursery locations are at 106 Clay Street and 250 Lafayette Street. Nursery No. 1 is a former residence with eight rooms, sufficient for the care of 26 children. The nursery is not licensed by the Louisiana State Board of Education, but the nursery is required to care for 26 children.

Lafayette Day Nurseries receive $100 per month for the second day nursery.

Requirements besides space and equipment outlined by the Louisiana State Board of Education include the areas of personnel, education, and admission and care of children.

The day nurseries each employ two staff members to attend to children and a cook. One bookkeeper keeps records of the nursery's transactions for both schools.

D掘ing In—State Welfare Department standards for accreditation of day nurseries require that a hot, well-balanced meal be prepared and served every day along with morning and afternoon snacks. In Day Nursery No. 1, Mrs. Almeda Brown cooks meals and serves as bookkeeper. (Advertiser Staff Photo)