Indigent Children Tutored by Rice Interfaith Group

By LINDA WALSH

As we walk along the narrow sidewalks, past the rows of cramped apartments, we listen to the sounds of San Felipe Courts. Each of the thousand families there may have from four to twelve children, and it is the sound of these children that we hear with special interest.

SOUNDS OF their crying and laughing, their singing and their shouting, mingle with voices of parents, blare of televisions and night-noises of the city. In teams of two, one boy and one girl, we go to their homes and speak to them. Others of us talk and work with them in the library and study rooms which the Housing Authority of the cohorts has made available. Many of the students are Latin-Americans who have difficulties with English, in addition to questions in about courses.

Most parents are interested in seeing that their children do well in school, but they have no means of helping them and don’t encourage them. Poverty and illiteracy are infectious diseases that reach into every corner of the Courts. Bright and curious minds are often not enough to fight them, and after children are well into school they find their appetites dulled by environment.

RICE STUDENTS tutor these children under the auspices of the San Felipe Tutoring Project, organized by the campus Interfaith Council and supervised by the Rev. Jimmy Reese, a social worker at the courts. Nearby schools co-operate by making available the names of those who need special help.

DIFFERENT GRADE levels are taught on different evenings: Mondays, 1-4; Tuesdays, 7-9; Wednesdays, 10-12; and Thursdays, 1-3. Students going out at least once a week number about fifty. The student representatives of the Rice campus are Ron Wilder, Thorpe Butler, and Judy Gathers.

A progress report will be made tonight as those participating in the project and those interested in it will be meeting with Rev. Reese at 8:30 pm in Anderson Hall, 108.