

COLUMBUS BLACK EXPO GETS BOOST - Columbus Dispatch, The (OH) - July 8, 1987 - page 5

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This year's **Columbus Black Expo** will get a boost from Bank One in the form of a \$2,000 check for corporate sponsorship and hours of volunteer work on the part of bank employees, said James Manuel.

The **expo**, planned for Aug. 8 at Mt. Vernon Plaza, shows off Ohio minority businesses and attracts exhibitors from Akron, Dayton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Chicago, Philadelphia and New York City.

Bank One will have a booth at the **Columbus Black Expo** manned by its employees of its business, mortgage and consumer lending departments and from its human resources department.

Manuel is regional loan officer in a part of the business lending group at the bank and a member of the Affirmative Exchange Group at the bank.

Members of the Affirmative Exchange Group will be working with Rhonda Downs Robinson, director of the exposition, he said.

The Affirmative Exchange Group is a support group made up of "minority officers and supervisors" who "help the bank identify, hire, promote and retain minorities.

"We assist the corporation and we have meetings on a monthly basis," Manuel said.

The **expo** isn't the only project the exchange group is working on outside the bank, Manuel said. The group will help raise money for the United Negro College Fund, and "we have an informal program where we act as mentors, and we are in some community activities."

Through a newly organized "adopt-a-student" program, members of the exchange group will help high school students learn about the world of finance by adopting students and working with them one-on-one.

"We just got approval from the **Columbus** Public Schools for that program," Manuel said.

Often, minority is synonymous with **black**, but the exchange group has a varied membership. Manuel said the 40 members of the group are blacks, Hispanics and Asians.

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