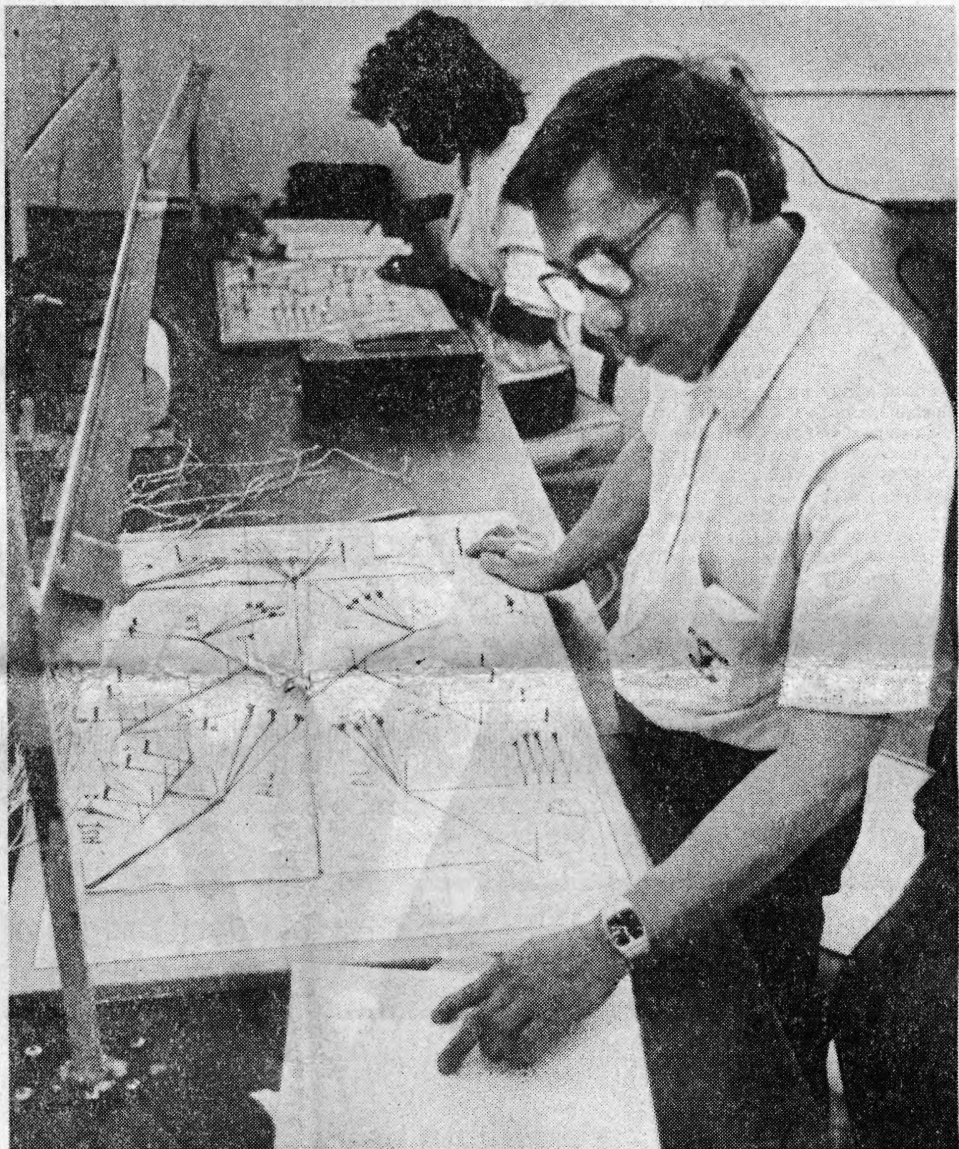




Times Tribune photo by Victor J. Volta  
 Noel Tyler of East Palo Alto practices soldering at the Opportunities Industrialization Center West in Menlo Park.



Times Tribune photo by Victor J. Volta  
 Phan Ty Nhu of Redwood City checks on some wiring during a training session at OICW.

## Job training, counseling center starts offering night classes

By Thomas G. Keane  
 Times Tribune staff

A job training and counseling center in eastern Menlo Park that rebounded from near bankruptcy between 1979 and 1983 will begin offering night classes this week for poor people in the East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park community.

With a \$41,000 grant from Raychem Corp. of Menlo Park and a \$25,000 gift from an anonymous donor, Opportunities Industrialization Center West was able to hire

staff for night programs to train people for jobs as secretaries, technicians and computer operators, and to help students learn basic reading and writing skills.

Dave Creek, a spokesman for Raychem Corp. who is also the chairman of the Board of Directors of OICW, said, "Raychem's contributions and personal support has been concentrated on education and training areas immediately surrounding our plants. We're concerned about helping those people."

Creek said Raychem is "confi-

dent the night program is going to work because we've been dealing with OICW long enough to know it's going to work. Night school is a natural from our point of view."

OICW's executive director said help from local business such as Raychem, among other financial developments, has encouraged growth. "There's a great feeling here," Williams said recently. "There's something happening here."

That special something began in

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1978, when, peering over the edge of bankruptcy, OICW officials recruited businessmen, a lawyer and Palo Alto accountant Ian Thompson to their board of directors to straighten out financial matters.

The new board enlisted help from local companies, especially Raychem and Hewlett-Packard. OICW maintains a healthy \$850,000 budget this year, funded primarily by the federal government, according to Williams.

"Without the support of local companies, we couldn't do as much as we do. They've really been terrific," Williams said.

In its daytime program this year, OICW enrolled 750 students, 65 percent of whom were East Palo Alto residents, she said.

About 300 of the students took vocational classes, either technical or secretarial training, and 250 of them eventually were placed in a job, she said.

The night program was started because of the expressed need of those who wanted OICW's services but couldn't use them during the day.

"Some people are stuck in dead-end jobs during the day; some people want more training. We wanted to give those people a chance," Williams said.

Registration for the night program, which includes the same classes as the day program, was held during four nights last week. After two nights, 65 people had signed up at \$20 for each class.

Williams said the \$20 could be waived if an individual said he or she could not afford it, a condition that was based on the honor system. But after the first two nights of registration, no one had requested the waiver, Williams said.