

Dear Friend:

I enclose a copy of a letter which we are circulating to appeal for support in carrying out projects that you will immediately recognize as being of vital importance. I want to make a little different sort of an appeal to you.

One of our biggest jobs is that of determining what conditions do exist within any given state or locality. It is not always easy to put a finger on the activities being carried on to improve conditions, or on materials that relate to present conditions in State hospitals, training schools for mentally deficient, delinquents' schools, homes, prisons or other institutions. There is no national agency concerned with making such studies on a general and complete scale.

You can be of great help to us by:

1. Clipping all newspaper or magazine articles you see which tell of institutional conditions, of legislation which affects the institutions, or of court and community action as related to health or crime when mental illness is involved.
2. Marking the clippings according to name, place and date of publication. Keep them in an envelope and send them to us once a month. If you care to give us financial help, too, you can be a supporter by enclosing a dime each month.
3. Writing to us of any conditions familiar to you, and urging your friends to do likewise.

The information gathered in this way from thousands of sources will soon give us a body of detail on each state that will indicate the course of action necessary to remove some of the tragic conditions that now exist. In many, many cases, it is a matter of life and death. With your help much of the brutality and heartache of the institutional experience can be eliminated. And the first steps are as simple as indicated above! We will keep you advised of conditions and progress.

So far our support has come from the Brethren, Friends, and Mennonite Churches, with small contributions from the Evangelical and Reformed and from the Christian committees. A few individuals and service clubs have also contributed. We'd like to see the financial load taken from the churches and are anxious that individual citizens become interested, informed, concerned and active in sharing the work of raising the standards of their institutions. It is a responsibility of each one of us.

May we hear from you soon?

Cordially yours,

*Harold Barton*

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