

THE MENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM *of Civilian Public Service*

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LEONARD EDELSTEIN, Program Coordinator
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HAROLD BARTON, Education Chairman
WILLARD HETZEL, Legal Research Chairman

Dear Friend:

Can you name nineteen people you like or love? Add your own name to make twenty on the list. If your group of twenty is an average one, figures show that at least one of you is likely to spend part of his life in a mental institution.

Two thousand of us have seen with our own eyes what sort of care and treatment you or your friend are likely to receive. Assigned to Civilian Public Service units in more than sixty mental institutions in twenty states, we have found many conditions almost unbelievably bad. Public ignorance of these conditions is appalling. For the most part, superintendents are conscientious in attempting to meet the problems with which they are faced, but they can do little without the active interest and support of public-spirited citizens and their legislators.

Because we believe taxpayers and prospective patients should have an opportunity to become fully aware of institutional needs and problems, one major project of our nation-wide Mental Hygiene Program is the preparation of an accurate summary statement of conditions we have observed. There are other projects, too, of equal importance. These are described in the enclosed folder.

The National Committee for Mental Hygiene has given our Program its official sponsorship. Dr. Earl D. Bond, former president of the American Psychiatric Association, has described it as an "opportunity that comes but once in a century." C.P.S. men consider it an opportunity, too -- an opportunity to make a lasting contribution to patients' welfare.

Although they cheerfully give much of their time to its activities, C.P.S. men are unable to give the Program the financial support it needs. As opportunities for effective service have increased from month to month, we have grown more and more dependent on financial contributions from individuals "outside" who share our concern for institutional betterment.

Unless our income increases substantially in the near future, we will be forced to curtail our activities in the face of rapidly increasing needs and opportunities. With sufficient support, we plan to expand the present Program and lay a firm foundation for continued activities in years to come. Ten thousand dollars is our present goal. Your contribution, whether it be one dollar or a thousand dollars, can help us carry on.

Remember your friend who may be destined to spend part of his life in a mental institution. Will you help us to give him a better chance to regain his place in society? The stamped and self-addressed envelope enclosed is for your convenience in responding to this invitation.

Sincerely yours,
Leonard Edelstein
Program Coordinator