

THE NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION  
1520 Race Street, Philadelphia 2, Pa.

March 6, 1947

MEMO TO EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF STATE MENTAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS

Dear Friends:

We believe that to gain adequate popular support for mental health facilities we must:

1. Give the public at large a basic understanding of mental afflictions, and strive to remove the elements of stigma and superstition now surrounding mental handicaps.
2. Adequately inform citizens of conditions and possibilities in their public mental institutions.
3. Mobilize public support for local, state, and national efforts, through active membership in a coordinated, nation-wide, citizens' mental health movement.
4. Provide responsible public officials with reference material of assistance to them in planning effective legislative programs for prevention, treatment, and care of mental disorders.

To this end, the Foundation has:

1. Promoted and contributed a major portion of the material used in the LIFE article (May, 1946) showing state mental hospital conditions; and articles such as those of Surgeon-General Parran in THIS WEEK and of Owen J. Roberts in LIBERTY (March 1, '47).
2. Furnished a staff to write and promote the distribution of the popular pamphlets TOWARD MENTAL HEALTH (Aug. 1946 - Public Affairs Pamphlet #20), FORGOTTEN CHILDREN (The Story of Mental Deficiency), and many others.
3. Produced transcriptions for the radio series of popular dramatizations FOR THESE WE SPEAK, which will be heard on an estimated 250 radio stations - 2000 programs in all.