

# We can do THESE THINGS NOW



## THE NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

has been developed to help enlighten society to the true nature of mental illness and deficiency; to cooperate with others in the promotion of mental health and the prevention of mental illness; and to seek higher standards of care and treatment in mental institutions. We plan to accomplish these objectives in a number of ways. Here are a few.

### TO THE PUBLIC

We will bring the story of present conditions in mental institutions;  
Educational pamphlets, attractively prepared, in lay terms, to interpret the mental patient;  
A program of community education for religious and civic groups to acquaint them with the needs of their own communities.

### TO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

We shall appeal to students for their services, to encourage them to work in this field as professionals or as volunteers;  
To faculties to encourage them to offer more extensive programs in mental hygiene, nursing, and psychiatry.

### TO LEGISLATORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

We shall present a survey of existing state legislation to serve as a basis for further research;  
A set of model mental health provisions.

### TO MENTAL INSTITUTIONS

We shall present training handbooks and suggested programs of instruction;  
A monthly publication, "The Psychiatric Aid," which presents helpful information to institutional employees;  
An organization of attendant personnel to bring to this group of employees the stature and privileges of a professional society.

For decades the history of mental hygiene has been studded with sporadic exposes, focused upon individuals, and blasting at the apparent problems of the institution "under fire." While effective to some extent, these attacks too often have left disruptive influences in their wake, have struck at superficial problems; have focused blame upon personnel who are too handicapped to be able to act effectively. Instead of censuring those who strive to succeed in spite of their limitations, the National Mental Health Foundation will go forward in the philosophy of sympathetic understanding — to enlighten and aid rather than to censure and condemn . . . and we shall join with all who strive for improved standards of care and treatment, and the prevention of mental disease.