

"Adopt a Mississippi Freedom Center"

Proposed by the Council of Federated Organizations

If you adopt a Freedom Center in Mississippi, you can

- . meet a serious need of the civil rights groups in Miss. for money, supplies and equipment;
- . help to meet the basic needs of people caught in a bind of unemployment (due to automation), unemployability (due to lack of education), and official indifference to this plight;
- . promote an exchange of ideas between Mississippi people caught up in a movement of social change, and other Americans.

These are the steps to "Adopt a Freedom Center":

1. Secure the interest of some group which can assist the Mississippi project--or organize a group of people you know who are interested. A group should have stable composition, some source of income and an interest in civil rights; BUT it is best not to utilize a group already devoting all its resources to the movement. The adoption plan should try to reach new people and new groups.
2. Determine what the group realistically can do--regularly.
3. Write to COFO in Jackson and describe your group's interest. We'll suggest a suitable center, and give you the names of people there to contact. Also, we will tell them of your interest and ask them to contact you.
4. If your group decides to sponsor the project, we will assist you in outlining the project's basic needs. From there on, it's between the sponsoring group and the adopted Miss. project.

This is what sponsorship would probably mean:

- . food and clothing drives during the winter--for welfare and relief.
- . equipment and supplies for the Freedom Centers (see enclosed memo)
- . money for operating expenses--phone bills, rent, etc.
- . subsistence for COFO workers, and recruitment of new workers.
- . building campaigns to raise funds for new Freedom Centers.
- . exchange of ideas, beliefs, experiences of people with different lives, who haven't met before, but would like to.

"The adoption plan for community centers will involve local organizations in the North who would probably never be reached through conventional appeals and contacts. We can make the movement in Miss. immediate to them--very concrete, and very personal, because these people will see people whom we introduce to them involved in it. This means much more than monthly checks and truckloads of food. It is potentially a dialogue with the rest of America". (quoted from some old correspondence between COFO workers).

We hope your group will "Adopt a Freedom Center." Write to:

COFO Community Centers
Council of Federated Organizations
1017 Lynch St.
Jackson, Miss.
telephone (601) 352-9605, -9788