

Fall, 1964

Re: Subsistence for Volunteers in Mississippi (Freedom Force)

Each day I get five or six more people who want to be added to the Freedom Force. As first conceived the FF was supposed to be those people in Mississippi whose subsistence was sent from groups or individuals in the north. Until I got the responsibility of trying to connect the northern groups with the volunteers, I thought there were many groups who had expressed interest and 50 or so volunteers could be "adopted" with no difficulty.

But, those groups are very few and have already committed themselves to supporting the FF. I just sent a mailing to all the ministers who worked in Mississippi and all the organizations and groups whom we have had recent contact with. There has been no response.

There are about 150 volunteers who need money to live-- to buy food, toothpaste, etc. They have no money and are borrowing money from SNCC workers who themselves make only \$9.64 per week. This is top priority and you should be contacting every individual, group, or organization asking them to send money to these volunteers. The details of the program is enclosed, perhaps you can duplicate it for a mailing.

I am at my wits end on how to get money for the volunteers, will they starve? will they have to leave? will they have to get jobs and therefore will not be able to devote their full time to the movement?

I need help because I really don't know what to do when someone writes...

"At Tougaloo in late August, we were informed that all Summer Volunteers that stayed in the state would be provided for. I returned North for awhile and for the past several weeks have been trying to find out how to get this money. Frankly, I have no financial resources at all and will have to leave the state, if you or someone in Atlanta cannot get me subsistence... I repeat: It is imperative that I get subsistence and very soon. She continues to say that she teaches Freedom Schools and works in Federal Programs but as most human beings she needs to eat and needs subsistence."

I FEEL THAT IF WE ARE SERIOUS WHEN WE SAY WE WORK TO SUPPORT THE PROJECTS IN THE SOUTH, THEN WE WILL HAVE TO GET THE MONEY FOR THESE VOLUNTEERS.

FREEDOM,

Barbara Jones
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