

Dear Friend,

Enclosed is a description of our plans for Mississippi this summer. You might also be interested to learn what we are doing within the state to structure these plans and to prepare for the hundreds of Volunteers we are expecting to participate in our program.

Since the beginning of February we have been traveling the state consulting with local leaders, speaking at mass meetings, and in general, informing as many people as possible of what is planned for this summer. Local groups everywhere have responded with enthusiasm and are making preparations for the programs and the number of people they would like to see in their community. At the moment we have already lined up housing in various communities for over 200 people; and the commitments are continuing to come in. We have also begun to negotiate for facilities in which to locate Freedom Schools and community centers - and at the moment there are many promising prospects.

We have already begun recruitment of high school students for the Freedom Schools. A statewide Mississippi Student Union has been formed and local affiliates are being organized. The Union is expected to serve as a natural source of recruitment. In addition, we are using our local contacts with adults - ministers, teachers, community leaders - and we are planning two statewide student conferences at which recruitment for the Freedom Schools will be the keynote.

We have had several sessions to map out curriculum for both the Freedom Schools and the educational programs of the Community Centers. A weekend conference of various people trained and experienced in education is being planned for March at which further details will be worked out.

Funds are now desperately needed to make all these plans work. We urge you to begin a fund-raising drive on your campus, at your church, among your working colleagues (if you are out of college) or wherever you can. You could open a special "Mississippi Summer Project" bank account and try to raise as much money as you can by June.

Everyone over 18 is invited to apply for the Mississippi Summer Project (though we are asking parental permission for those under 21). If you would like to help recruit others for the project we urge that you give special emphasis to people with the type of skills listed in our application form. Application forms or any further information can always be obtained by writing to Mississippi Summer Project, 1017 Lynch Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

We expect by May 15 to inform everyone of their acceptance or rejection. At that time those accepted will also be informed of where they have been assigned, where they will live, what they will be doing, and under whom they will be working. An orientation period for all summer workers is being planned for sometime in June.

We hope to hear from you soon. If you have any comments, suggestions, or questions please let us know.

Mississippi Summer Project  
1017 Lynch Street  
Jackson, Mississippi