



SCHOLARSHIP,
EDUCATION
AND DEFENSE
= FUND FOR
RACIAL
EQUALITY

The Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund for Racial Equality was established in 1963 to provide a number of basic, and previously neglected, services to the civil rights movement. Chief among these is making educational opportunities available to young people who have demonstrated exceptional character, a capacity for community leadership and a serious commitment to the civil rights movement. In addition, SEDF has accepted major responsibilities in voter registration education and in furnishing legal counsel where it is needed most urgently — in the often remote places where small groups of civil rights workers wage their lonely struggle.

Contributions to the Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund for Racial Equality are tax deductible. This folder describes the full range of its activities.

PROGRAMS of the Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund for Racial Equality

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT SCHOLARSHIPS

James Potts, a superior student and an effective civil rights worker, sacrificed a merit scholarship at a Negro college to become the first Negro student to attend Louisiana Polytechnic. He was expelled once for civil rights activity, then reinstated. "The cat-calls have become atrocious," he wrote shortly after he entered the school, "but don't worry. I'll make it."

Mary Robinson, who is now 19 years old, has been active in the civil rights movement in Sumter, S. C., since 1961. Her father, because he was a leader in the movement in Sumter, lost his livelihood. The family has been subjected to every imaginable form of economic pressure. He has barely enough money for subsistence, none for college education. But Mary, a promising student and leader, is attending Claflin College on an Eleanor Roosevelt Scholarship grant provided by SEDF.

James Potts and Mary Robinson are representative of the 47 students now attending colleges and universities (six are attending law school) with the aid of SEDF scholarship grants of up to \$1,500 a year. The awards are made to young leaders and potential leaders, regardless of race, whose need for assistance arises from, or is related to, their participation in the civil rights movement. Some of our recipients were expelled from public institutions near their homes because they dared to take democracy seriously. Some,

white as well as Negro, require financial aid to integrate previously segregated institutions. Some, as a result of their civil rights work experience, have raised their educational sights beyond their financial capacity. All recognize the importance of higher education to themselves and to the movement to which they have dedicated themselves.

Eleanor Roosevelt Scholars must be persons of proven capability and integrity and must be accepted by an accredited college or graduate school. An important and unique feature of these scholarships is that they give a chance not only to brilliant scholars, whom so many are eager to aid, but to students of average, or even less than average, academic standing who have demonstrated exceptional character and leadership capacity.

\$48,377 was spent in scholarship grants during the past fiscal year. Although the maximum yearly grant is \$1,500, the average last year was slightly over \$1,000. Of the 47 recipients, 12 are attending Northern schools (including Yale Law, Boston U., Bard, Western Reserve and Columbia Law), and seven are among the first Negro students to matriculate at Auburn, Louisiana Polytech and other Southern colleges.

Because Eleanor Roosevelt Scholars must meet exacting standards, this program could not be expanded without limit. The need, however, greatly exceeds our present financial resources.

LEGAL DEFENSE AND SERVICE

In Louisiana, the fastest school desegregation on record was achieved in three communities when SEDF successfully challenged the issuing of school bonds to finance segregated schools. The courts ordered desegregation of schools in three parishes as a result of these suits and a new technique for ending non-

compliance with the 1954 Supreme Court decision was evolved.

Legal action in Bogulusa, Louisiana, against police acquiescence in Klan terror received wide publicity during the summer. SEDF lawyers obtained an injunction in federal court ordering Bogulusa police to protect Negro demonstrators and to end acts of violence against them. When policemen, in defiance of the injunction, failed to protect demonstrators against assaults, SEDF charged the police with contempt of court, and the U.S. Department of Justice filed a criminal contempt action against the officers who were involved.

Before 1965, the SEDF legal program was confined to paying counsel and court costs in significant civil rights cases, and to assisting in preparation of briefs and arguments by volunteer lawyers in such cases. Because funds were lacking, SEDF had to refuse many pleas for legal service in the field.

In January, 1965, SEDF retained lawyers in three areas where there was a special need for legal service for civil rights projects—northern Florida, Louisiana and North Carolina. These lawyers, in conjunction with SEDF's Legal Director, in New York, have had a dramatic impact on the development of court interpretation of law relating to civil rights.

At the local level, civil rights workers and Negroes in the community have received effective legal protection and advice rarely available to them before. In the broader area of interpretation and enforcement of law, new ground has been broken in obtaining rulings to end segregation in education and public facilities and to protect citizens against police misconduct.

The presence of lawyers in field positions in the civil rights struggle has been of inestimable value to the rank and file

worker. Until 1965, there had been no lawyer within 200 miles of Tallahassee to handle a civil rights case. This meant no protection for workers against harassment and false arrests by local officials and police. It also meant many lost opportunities to sue in the courts for enforcement of civil rights that had been violated. John Due, the SEDF lawyer in north Florida, has succeeded in opening segregated public facilities, such as a lake and recreation area, to Negroes. The presence of a lawyer in the area to represent Negroes and civil rights workers has reduced sharply the number of prosecutions for "reckless driving" and other charges habitually lodged against them.

Mr. Due has also played a major role in securing the participation of the Negro community in Office of Economic Opportunity programs in several communities.

Test cases in the U.S. Supreme Court make headlines and history. But the most critical unmet need of the civil rights movement today is for lawyers at the scene of action. Legal advice before action takes place can often avert disastrous consequences and make the action more effective. Local citizens and civil rights workers often languish in filthy, crowded and brutal jails for weeks, and even months, regardless of established law and Supreme Court precedents, because no lawyers are available to take their cases.

The need for on-the-spot legal services is immense and is not abating. SEDF has only been able to make a beginning on this crucial program.

VOTER EDUCATION AND REGISTRATION

The importance and problems of registering southern Negro voters are now generally recognized. SEDF gained considerable experience in this area in 1964

in successful registration campaigns in Louisiana, north Florida and California. Currently, SEDF is sponsoring a Citizenship Education Project in South Carolina.

The South Carolina Citizenship Education Project has set as its goal the registration of 100,000 additional Negroes before the November, 1966 elections. Project staff members are working with local youth groups, voters' leagues, ministers' groups and others to coordinate local voter registration drives. The campaign began in a modest way in 10 counties. It has now been extended to 29 of the 46 South Carolina counties. In January, 1965, 317 Negroes were registered. The figure for August was 5,558. The total number registered in 1965 was 32,844.

Passage of the Voter Registration Law of 1965 has not eliminated the need for the project. In many communities, the books are open only for one day each month. Registration workers in some communities are so methodical as to invite suspicion of a deliberate slow-down. Many Negroes must be reassured that the laws apply to them, others transported to the registration office. All must be informed about the hours and days when the registration office is open.

To take advantage of the enthusiasm engendered by the new voting rights law, SEDF made a small grant for voter registration work in Louisiana. Within three weeks, project staff had registered 11,443 voters in 12 parishes.

Voter projects often produce important side benefits. For example, in north Florida previously unknown community leaders emerged during the drive, community participation and spirit developed, and groups organized for voter registration moved effectively to cope with other community problems and needs.

CHANEY-GOODMAN-SCHWERNER MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTER

In Meridian, Mississippi, a community center will be built to honor and carry on the work of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, the young men who were murdered in June, 1964. SEDF is sponsoring the building and financing of this center. Jackie Robinson and Ralph Samuels head the fund-raising committee.

The site has been purchased, and construction will begin this summer.

Before Michael Schwerner's death, he and his wife struggled to maintain a center in Meridian with few resources. The new center will be used by the Child Development Group of Mississippi for Headstart programs and for medical care programs under the auspices of the Medical Committee for Human Rights.

It will also provide meeting and class rooms, a library, space for recreation, health services, vocational training and remedial education — facilities never before available to Negroes in Mississippi.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIPS

The Fellowship Program was launched, in the summer of 1965, to provide financial assistance to students desiring to work on summer projects sponsored by a national civil rights organization. Its purpose was to enable these students to enrich their academic experience by direct experience. Specifically, students were (1) to have an opportunity to apply and test concepts learned in the classroom, and (2) to learn first-hand about individual and group behavior and local government.

The Community Development Fellowship program placed 59 students in both southern and northern projects. Thirty-six students worked in the Louisiana project, 10 in Westchester County, New York, five in South Carolina, five in Florida, and three in North Carolina.

Each student was given a \$200 stipend to cover room, board and personal expenses. They also received travel grants ranging from \$40 to \$85 each. Sponsoring organizations were reimbursed for costs of training, supervision, communications and, in the case of the Louisiana project, safety measures. Most of the students received orientation and training for five days at the Methodist Assembly Center in Waveland, Mississippi.

Total expenses to date are \$37,341. Income earmarked for the project was \$35,227. The project was funded by income from the Broadway Answers Selma benefit, a grant of \$5,000 from the Aaron E. Norman Fund, and \$6,340 from the Wechsler-Slater-Brody Foundation.

"For me," said one student, "the greatest reward in working here has been getting to know the individuals of this community; hearing them express their deepest feelings about what it is like to be a Negro in the South; sharing with them their courage and determination to assert their dignity as free human beings and to improve the community in which they live." "My summer in Louisiana," said another, "contributed much to my education. Much of what I have learned will remain with me and provide me with certain insights, a certain way of looking at things . . . This new awareness brought on by a summer's experiences can change a person's political outlook considerably. Simply put, I believe that all, or almost all volunteers can be considered recruits for future 'freedom fighting' in ways we cannot now guess about."

SEDF derives great satisfaction from this first experience with Community Development Fellows. Students developed their technical and social skills, dramatically extended their view of the society in which they live and made a valuable contribution to the community in which they worked.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

In the last five years the non-violent direct-action movement has attracted thousands of people because of its militancy and its success. People from every walk of life, many of them with no organizational experience or affiliation, have joined the movement. New patterns of organization and an increased emphasis on community organization, freedom schools and community centers called for skills and training most of them lacked.

SEDF sponsored a training institute in New Orleans in January, 1965, to provide some training for staff members and community leaders and to acquire experience for a far more ambitious leadership training program to be developed during the current year. The New Orleans Institute involved about 100 people, including 20 local leaders. Sessions were devoted to community organization, community centers and freedom schools, and federal programs and resources. There were also sessions on legal problems.

SEDF then set up a committee to analyze this workshop, to discuss training needs with field people and to formulate a program that would be national in scope. Members of the committee included Dr. Kenneth Clark, Andrew Norman, Douglas Levin, Ann Singer, Joyce Ware, and Robert Heilbroner.

After the end of the fiscal year (1965), SEDF sponsored a second workshop at

the Deer Hill Conference Center in New York State. Mr. Ronnie Moore was added to the staff to direct the leadership development program.

SEDF's board of directors has given this program top priority for the coming year, and has budgeted it at \$53,000 for fiscal 1965-1966.

The young leaders and potential leaders constantly emerging in the civil rights movement and related community groups urgently need training. Experience is the only real teacher, but experience without preparation often teaches little more than frustration.

Students in the leadership training program will be people already involved in civil rights and community action. Their studies will relate directly to their work, not remove them from it. The faculty will be made up of persons with solid qualifications in their subjects, teaching in the institute on a part-time but more or less permanent basis. Current planning is for a series of four week-end workshops in each area. These workshops will focus on The Law and Civil Rights, Economic Problems, Community Organizing and Work Skills.

ADMINISTRATION

SEDF is proud that it has been able to manage substantial funds and vital programs with a very low overhead. The Fund utilizes a number of skilled volunteers, including its own board members, and avoids costly fund-raising and operating methods.

CORE Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund, Inc.
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
For the Year Ended August 31, 1965

F U N D S

	Combined Funds	General	Legal Defense	Scholarship	Citizen Education Project	Mississippi Project	Journal	Chicago Community Center	Memorial Center	Community Development Fellowships	Leadership Development Program
Fund balance (Deficit)— September 1, 1964	\$ 57,398.07	\$46,236.64	\$ 5,190.25	(\$ 34.84)	\$ 3,000.00	\$1,669.02	\$ 752.00	\$550.00	\$ 35.00		
Excess of income over expenses for the year	20,034.66	20,034.66									
Contributions for specific purposes	98,071.16	----	675.00	4,519.27	21,660.00	----	2,100.00	----	29,888.93	\$39,227.96	
Net proceeds from "Artists for CORE"	57,092.00	----	57,092.00								
	\$232,595.89	\$66,271.30	\$62,957.25	\$ 4,484.43	\$24,660.00	\$1,669.02	\$ 2,852.00	\$550.00	\$29,923.93	\$39,227.96	\$ ----

Special Fund Expenditures and Fund Transfers:

Salaries and related expenses of project employees	\$ 25,185.56		\$ 8,568.00			\$3,852.56	\$12,765.00				
Scholarship grants	49,174.66			\$49,174.66							
Legal fees and expenses	36,324.93		36,324.93								
Grants for voter registration	24,660.00				\$24,660.00						
Grants to organizations and individuals	43,102.11							\$ 5,447.56	\$35,754.55	\$1,900.00	
Deficit transferred to General Fund	----	\$12,096.54				(2,183.54)	(9,913.00)				
	\$178,447.26	\$12,096.54	\$44,892.93	\$49,174.66	\$24,660.00	\$1,669.02	\$ 2,852.00	\$----	\$ 5,447.56	\$35,754.55	\$1,900.00
Fund balances (Deficits)— August 31, 1965	\$ 54,148.63	\$54,174.76	\$18,064.32	(\$44,690.23)	\$ ----	\$ ----	\$ ----	\$550.00	\$24,476.37	\$ 3,473.41	(\$1,900.00)

CORE Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund, Inc.
BALANCE SHEET
August 31, 1965

A S S E T S

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash—(\$23,730.50 restricted for Memorial Center)	\$29,380.28	
Loan receivable	25,500.00	
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Total Current Assets		\$ 54,880.28
Furniture, net		34.58
Security deposits		210.00
		<hr/>
		<u>\$ 55,124.86</u>

L I A B I L I T I E S

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Payroll taxes withheld and accrued	\$ 865.38	
Accrued expenses	110.85	
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Total Current Liabilities		\$ 976.23

FUND BALANCES (Deficits)

Legal defense	\$18,064.32	
Scholarship	(44,690.23)	
Chicago Community Center	550.00	
Memorial Center	24,476.37	
Community Development Fellowship	3,473.41	
Leadership Development Program	(1,900.00)	
General	54,174.76	54,148.63
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		<u>\$ 55,124.86</u>

Board of Directors

CORE Scholarship, Education and
Defense Fund, Inc.

I have examined the Balance Sheet of CORE Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund, Inc. as of August 31, 1965 and the related statements of General Fund income and expenses and changes in fund balances for the year then ended. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances. As to contributions, it was not practicable because of their nature to extend the examination beyond accounting, on a cost basis, for the receipts as recorded.

In my opinion, the accompanying Balance Sheet and statements of General Fund income and expenses and changes in fund balances present fairly the financial position of CORE Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund, Inc. at August 31, 1965 and the results of its operations for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

September 22, 1965

SAMUEL S. PERELSON, C.P.A.

Please Note: Since this audit was prepared the name of the CORE Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund has been changed to the Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund for Racial Equality.

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*Contributions to the SCHOLARSHIP,
 EDUCATION AND DEFENSE FUND
 for RACIAL EQUALITY are tax de-
 ductible. Your help is needed.*