

"By working so untiringly to achieve the ideals of freedom and human dignity for all men SCEF has given new hope for the possibility of transforming the tragic midnight of racial injustice into the glowing daybreak of freedom and equality."

—The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Love thy neighbor as thyself," said Simple, "but until he loves you, prod him a little. Or, at least, try to educate him."

—Langston Hughes

"SCEF serves the nation well by opening the eyes of thousands of key-people, inspiring them to act, and showing them how to act swiftly at points where justice and solidarity hang in the balance."

—The Rev. Dr. Howard Schomer

"The SCEF is one of the valuable assets in our American life, North and South, which helps us to move with a rapidly changing world in an orderly and creative direction."

—Clarence Pickett

"The SCEF angers nobody except those who are not angered by injustice."

—Irving Brant

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SOUTHERN CONFERENCE EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.

822 Perdido Street, New Orleans 12, Louisiana



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The SCEF board of directors in session.

... the truth shall make men free.

Photograph below by MARION PALFI



The Southern Conference Educational Fund is an organization of Negro and white Southerners working to end all forms of segregation and bring about a new society based on brotherhood in the South.

We base our work in faith: faith in our region, faith in people, faith in democracy, faith in the ability of the individual acting in concert with others to change his world.

We exist to insure that the struggle to change the South will be carried on not by Negroes alone, but by Negro and white working together. White Southerners willing to act for integration at this time are a minority in the white South as a whole, but if they are in communication with each other and if they act jointly with Negroes, they become a significant minority; they guarantee that the Southern struggle is not a movement of white against black but of people against injustice.

SCEF grows out of a long liberal tradition in the South. It began as a part of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, which was organized in 1938 and brought Negro and white

Southerners together in a great liberal upsurge that arose in support of the New Deal of Franklin D. Roosevelt. It continued as an independent agency when the SCHW went out of existence in the 1940's.

We are an educational organization and also an action organization; we believe that informed people will act, for

Our Philosophy of Social Change is based on our belief that the truth shall make men free, that the democratic processes will work if they are used, that the individual citizen can make his voice heard in the places where decisions are made; and that society can be changed by people banding together and using the tools of democracy.

And we believe that no individual moved by conscience need wait for a mass movement to take action. We know from experience that often a whole community situation is changed because just one person had the courage to speak and take action. Thus



Our Method of Work is to seek out all over the South people of good will who are looking for ways to make themselves felt. . . .

. . . . to put these people in touch with each other so that they may have the strength that comes from being part of a "movement"

. . . . to provide them and others with a steady stream of information on segregation and its evil effects, on integration and how it works, on what others elsewhere are doing to effect change, on crucial issues outside their own community which need regional and national attention. . . .

. . . . to open channels of communication in all directions: between Negro and white, between integrationists in different communities in the same state, between actionists in different states, between Southerners and people in the North who want to assist the Southern struggle. . . .

. . . . to suggest action that people across the South can take on special regional and national issues to the end that Southerners of good will may form a cohesive force and speak with a united voice.

Our Continuing Program, within the framework of this general approach to social change down through the years, includes:

- Integrated conferences bringing together Southerners of good will to exchange information on how to end segregation and discrimination. (The first such conference was in 1938; almost every year we hold one major regional meeting and several smaller ones.)

- Publication of a monthly journal, *The Southern Patriot*, which reports activities and aspirations of people and organizations working for integration, published continuously since 1942.

- Printing and distribution of brochures, pamphlets, and reports on various aspects of segregated living, with suggestions for action to eliminate it.

- Stimulation of local and state groups designed to combat segregation by direct action or political action, or both.

- Operation of a news service which provides information on integrationist activities to numerous publications throughout the nation.

- Provision of funds for test cases to establish rights of minorities.

- Campaigns to inform people of their rights of free speech, assembly, and petition under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, since we believe that civil liberties and civil rights are inseparable and that the right of free speech is essential to any effort to bring about peaceful social change.

In addition, we strive to keep our organization flexible enough to respond to the needs of the moment. A few examples of

What Evokes SCEF Into Action

- When civil rights workers are jailed, we mobilize our contacts throughout the South and the nation in coordinated protests that often help free those under attack.

- When grass-roots movements develop in Southern communities, we provide the services of our news bureau to carry their story to the nation and win them wide support.

- When important civil rights legislation pends in Washington and Southern congressmen presume to speak for a "solid white South," we organize support for the legislation across the South with letter-writing campaigns, petitions, and delegations. We also organize campaigns at the state level.

Our Structure is a loose one. SCEF is not a membership organization; the only actual members are the approximately 80 people (from 17 Southern and Border states and the District of Columbia) who make up our board and set our policy. In addition, about 100 more Southerners are organizationally identified with us as members of our advisory committee. Beyond this are thousands of supporters of SCEF, who identify themselves with us in varying degrees.

These are the people, whose number is constantly increasing, with whom we keep in regular touch, providing them with a steady supply of information, assisting where we can on local projects, putting them in touch with each other, and on occasion when quick action is needed attempting to draw them together into an effective force.

We require no pledge of allegiance, no promise of any kind from our supporters, but we are constantly trying to broaden the circle of those who will act.

We feel that this loose structure is one which allows the greatest room for individual creativity, providing the strength that comes with being part of a movement but without the hampering effect of too rigid a framework.

In Our Relationships With Other Organizations, we strive for the greatest cooperation and coordination. We are in regular touch with about 75 grass-roots civil rights organizations throughout the South. For example, when the Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth was jailed in Birmingham in 1962, SCEF and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference coordinated a protest by these groups which helped free him quickly.

We are in competition with no other civil rights groups. In this struggle, we feel there is need for a number of different regional and national organizations and for many local ones.

Our emphasis on drawing Negro and white together for interracial action distinguishes us from important organizations primarily concerned with organizing Negroes for action. Our emphasis on action distinguishes us from other important interracial groups.

It is not easy to measure precisely

The Effectiveness of SCEF. Much of our time, energy, and money is invested in providing the informational and educational channels that develop people—people who may then direct their energies into many different organizational structures. There is no accurate way to follow the ripples that may be started by one conference, one publication, one coordinated action project, one person aroused and put in touch with another.

We do know that SCEF projects over the years have made a deep impression on the Southern scene. Even more important than this, we know that there are today throughout the South many people actively working to help bring about a society of brotherhood who received from SCEF either their original stimulation, crucial support in a moment of crisis, contacts with others, or help in some form. These are the most lasting dividends of our investment.

What Evokes SCEF Into Action
will serve as an illustration:

• When the Southern student upsurge began in 1960, we noted that it was almost entirely an all-Negro movement, so we made a grant to a student organization to employ a special worker to try to stimulate white students.

• When a key civil rights worker in the Deep South was about to be driven out of his state by economic pressure, we quietly raised a loan fund to enable him to buy a business and stay, and he has been invaluable ever since.

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Photograph by
ROBERT GILBERT.

TEAR OFF HERE

The Southern Conference Educational Fund Inc. solicits your support and your participation in its activities. Your commitment may be as great or as limited as you wish it to be.

SCEF is supported by the voluntary contributions of several thousand friends. Our program

can constantly be expanded with more financial support. We solicit your contribution. (All contributors receive a subscription to our monthly newspaper, *The Southern Patriot*.)

(An annual audit of all accounts is made by Hueck & Aucott, New Orleans)

SCEF
822 Perdido Street
New Orleans 12, Louisiana

I am interested in the work of your organization.

Please send me more information.

Please find enclosed a contribution of _____, of which \$2 is for one year's subscription to *The Southern Patriot*.

Please put me on your mailing list to receive regular action memos by which I can work in coordination with your other supporters.

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