

451 Cottrell Street
West Point, Miss.
July 3, 1965

Dear Mrs. Sochet,

We've just opened up a new Freedom Center in a rural community outside of West Point called Whites. ~~Five~~ Five people will be living out there and will run Freedom Schools and a library ~~out there~~. People are also living in Tibbee, a similar community, and a Freedom School will soon be operating there. All told there are about 15 volunteers down here, and fifteen more expected soon. We'll probably be working in at least 10 communities in the county this summer, with at least 5 areas having people live in them. Is there any possibility that a car in running shape could be got by the Club? We have two cars in the county and the lack of transportation is hindering us greatly (although two sounds like a lot, I know). This is just a shot in the dark -- I thought maybe someone might have one lying around ...

Do you think it at all possible that the Club could help to supply a Freedom School? We are very much in need of good books (not textbooks) relating to the civil rights movement -- especially by Negro authors and about Negro history. Could anyone approach a publisher and get them to donate enough copies for a small class. Also very important are records -- folk, jazz, classical -- for music workshops. Is there a possibility of getting office equipment? We especially need a mimeo machine. Also typewriters. A paper cutter. Please don't send clothing -- too many problems distributing it. But if there are individual families, it's o.k. to send them clothing.

We also have great need for subsistence (10 dollars a week) for local kids who are working with the movement. Could you see whether one person or a group of people could arrange to help us with this for the summer -- 8 weeks? What I would really appreciate would be for you to call me in West Point (or John Buffington or Mary Larsen) and tell me what the Club will be able to do in the near future. I understand that with Ryan ~~not~~ trying to get the nomination for mayor, the Club's attentions will be turned in other directions, but we would like to have a rough idea of the support we will be getting so that we can ask specific people for specific things. Please call or write even if the Club can't do a thing.

Thanks very much for your interest.

Yours in freedom,

Joel Bernard
Joel Bernard

P.S. Our number is 601-494-9836.