

F W F A

Southern Conference Educational Fund
822 Perdido Street, New Orleans, La. 70112

June 25, 1964

MEMORANDUM

TO: SCEF Board Members and Other Friends
FROM: Jim Dombrowski
RE: Mississippi White Community Project

Would you like to help in the massive program of the civil rights forces in Mississippi this summer?

One of the most exciting parts of the program, although one of the least publicized, is a project designed to reach into the white communities of Mississippi and win allies for the civil rights movement. This work is being carried on by young white Southerners.

Ed Hamlett, who works on the SNCC staff and is a new member of the SCEF board, is organizing this white community project described in the enclosed fact sheet.

Ed has asked SCEF to help raise money to provide fellowships for the four students who have volunteered to work in the white community but have no financial resources of their own.

Will you help us do this? The dollars we give can give each of us a little stake in the history that will be made in Mississippi this summer. Please do the following:

First, send your own contribution, large or small, toward fellowships for these young people.

Then, note the five copies enclosed of a fact sheet describing the project and the students who need help. Please take time to write a personal letter to five friends; enclose one fact sheet and ask your friends to contribute, and ask each of them to write five friends and ask those five to do likewise - so that we establish a chain. A sample letter to start your chain is included below; use it if you wish, - or write your own.

Make checks payable to: SCEF, earmarked "Summer Fellowships".

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SAMPLE LETTER TO START CHAIN

Dear _____

I have been asked to help with an exciting project described in the enclosed "Fact Sheet", and consider it a privilege to do so.

Even a few dollars invested in this way gives us a stake in the history to be made in Mississippi this summer.

Won't you help too?

Make a contribution of your own, if you wish; then please make five copies of this letter and send one to five friends, asking them to contribute, and to write five friends. Also make copies of the enclosed "Fact Sheet" explaining the project, and send one along with each letter.

Sincerely,

(Signature)

What can the civil rights movement do to reach the white community in Mississippi? A group of Southern white students has one answer.

This project is part of the massive freedom summer now being launched in Mississippi by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and other groups working in the Council of Federated Organization (COFO).

The major part of this program, which will bring 1,000 students into the state, will be in the Negro community - voter registration, freedom schools, etc. But at the same time some will be working in the white communities:

1. Assisting moderate whites who are already forming organizations to save the public schools from those who would close them to avoid integration.
2. Reaching out to the low-income white community, trying to help these people see that their enemy is not the Negro, but poverty; that the struggle in the deep South is one of "people against injustice" instead of "black against white".

Twenty young white Southerners, some of them natives of Mississippi, have volunteered to do this work. Of these, four valuable persons may not be able to participate because they do not have the necessary funds. The COFO budget is very strained. Therefore all young people going to Mississippi this summer must bear their own living expenses.

It will take \$150 to support one student for a summer's work. That is \$15 a week, or a little more than \$2.00 a day. Donations toward fellowships are being sought for those who cannot pay their own way. Here is a description of the students who need help to work in the white communities:

BOB BAILEY, 20, Raleigh, N. C., North Carolina State University; all education in South Carolina and North Carolina; civil rights experience in N. C. and in Cleveland where he worked for CORE.

ERIC ZEMP FARNUM, 19, Gainesville, Ga; student at University of South; son of Episcopalian minister; all education in Georgia and Tennessee.

CHARLIE SMITH, graduate student at University of Texas; very active in civil rights there, where student movement has been one of strongest in South.

ANNE STRICKLAND, now of New York City, formerly of Mississippi; graduate of Duke University; now doing graduate work at Union Theological Seminary; leadership qualities - was class president, etc. at Duke.

If you would like to help, - send your contribution to:

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE EDUCATIONAL FUND
822 Perdido Street, New Orleans, La. 70112

Make check payable to: SCEF, earmarked "Student Fellowships"