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# Parents Mississippi Emergency Committee of Los Angeles Area

P.O. Box 2212, Culver City, California 90232

July 24, 1964

Dear friend,

Fifty-seven students from the Los Angeles area are in Mississippi this summer as volunteers in the Negro voter registration drive.

At a time when the word 'juvenile' is often but a modifying adjective for 'delinquent', more than a thousand young men and women from colleges all over the United States are spending their vacations teaching and encouraging the Negro people of Mississippi in basic rights of citizenship. They report an eagerness to learn and progress that exceeds their expectations - despite the frightening and hostile environment.

The students, pledged to non-violence, are giving more than their time. They pay their own transportation and living expenses in most cases. They face harassment, arrest and grave danger. We all know of the three young men who have disappeared in the Mississippi darkness and every day we learn of brutal assaults. Churches and schools in which they teach and work for the law of our land are being burned to the ground.

We, the parents of these students, are proud of them and fearful for their safe return home. Many Congressmen and Senators have appealed to President Johnson and Attorney General Kennedy for the protection they need and deserve.

But more needs to be done if this summer's sacrifices are not to be in vain and if the progress already made is not to be lost. Most of the volunteers will go back to school but over 150 will remain. They need additional funds for subsistence, for training aids, for bail, etc.

To insure that our children's efforts will be fruitful, we urge you to help us in raising funds. You are invited to attend a reception to hear Congressman Phil Burton, one of three California Congressmen who went to Mississippi for a first-hand view, Sunday, August 2nd. (Invitation enclosed.)

If you cannot attend but wish to support our efforts, please send your check payable to Parents Mississippi Emergency Committee in the enclosed envelope. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

*Arthur Carstens*

Arthur Carstens  
Parents Mississippi Emergency Committee