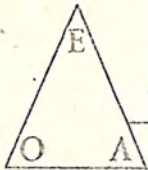


E.O.A.



Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc.

101 Marietta Street Bldg. • Atlanta, Georgia 30303 •

T. M. Parham
Executive Administrator

July 16, 1969

Ivan Allen, Jr., President
Allen Foundation, Inc
29 Pryor Street, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Allen
Fill *Q* *No name*

Dear Mr. Allen:

This is a direct appeal to Atlanta area civic clubs and philanthropic foundation thought to have some concern for the welfare of the young people living in our community. Through my work as EOA consultant in mental retardation and special education I have become aware of the large number of mentally retarded children residing in EOA target areas who are not receiving adequate services from area agencies responsible for the care of these children. Many area children have never received service from any agency. To me, this is an incredible situation. Perhaps as a professional person I have been too far removed from reality to feel the urgency of the need these children have for training in self-care skills. After evaluating the programs and community facilities for the retarded, I am well aware of the desperate situation facing these neglected children. The public schools can care for only a

fraction of our mentally retarded children; private community agencies provide programs for even smaller groups, and this leaves most of our children with no programs of any kind.

I feel that each of the fourteen EOA Neighborhood Service Centers should have at least one program serving from twelve to fifteen neighborhood children. At this time, only four of the Centers have programs and two of those are for the current summer only.

Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc., has no funds for this specific area of need. Their contribution thus far has been in the form of senior Aides, Neighborhood Youth Corps trainees, surplus food commodities and transportation services provided by individual Centers. Each Center probably has sufficient flexible funds to sponsor a neighborhood program for the mentally retarded, however, due to the organization structure of Neighborhood Service Centers too little time is left before the commitment of 1969-70 funds to fully inform each group of the urgency of need for this particular kind of service program. This makes it necessary to seek other sources of funds for staffing to insure the extension of some of our established programs beyond this summer. By budget planning time for 1970-71 all Central Neighborhood Action Committees will be thoroughly familiar with the necessity of establishing

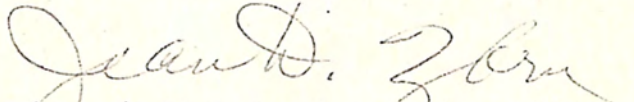
neighborhood programs for their mentally retarded children. An additional source of funds for the coming fiscal year is the Georgia State Department of Public Health - the agency which is legally charged with the responsibility of providing services for these children. In the meantime, if even a few of the many target area children needing services are to be served, civic organizations, church groups, and private foundations need to provide financial support with which to staff neighborhood programs for the current fiscal year. I firmly believe in the concept of local responsibility for local programs and the situation regarding the care of mentally retarded children in this community is a severe local problem.

If I have been emotional I do not apologize. My sense of professional and personal integrity is outraged by such neglect and we simply must not allow this to continue. Please do everything possible to enable the economically deprived areas of Atlanta to staff neighborhood programs for their mentally retarded children.

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal for a small neighborhood program which can be followed by any sponsoring agency with enough concern for mentally retarded children to initiate action to provide them with the services we take for granted for our own children. I will be glad to meet with your group anytime during the week to answer any questions you or they might have about the proposal, and discuss ways in which your group might

make a concrete contribution to the welfare of our grossly neglected mentally retarded children.

Sincerely,


(Mrs.) Jean D. Zorn, Consultant
Mental Retardation
and
Special Education

Enclosure
JDZ/bh