

note change of address

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

21 EAST VAN BUREN STREET • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60605 • 939-3347

Winter, 1970-71

Friends, hello...

Why are we here, and where are we going? Especially today we ask that question, don't we? We think Friendship House is here and keeps going for two reasons--to give ourselves to involvement here on the scene, but even more widely, to share ourselves with you out there--to be part of your hopes for a better life, a better land for everyone.

Do you wonder where FH is going--what we've done lately? To commit to paper what has happened sounds like too much--yet not enough. But we can list successes and failures and know that love went out from ALL of it. If we failed, it was financially. (So what else is new?)

At Childerly, outside Chicago, we've had "weekends"--on independent politics, on suburban politics, on migrant worker concerns, on black-white confrontation; and we helped host days and weeks for black independents, returned volunteers against war, Peace Council session, et al.

Our most ambitious program succeeded for 80 ghetto youngsters in an 8-week summer program at FH, "the House on Indiana". Financially, it failed though (and still has us strapped), because Model Cities money we counted on didn't come through.

Our Prisons Committee struggles against odds, valiantly, seeking jobs and housing for would-be parolees from Stateville Prison in Joliet.

A large part of Director John Kearney's time is spent serving a state-appointed Spanish-Speaking People's Commission, investigating migrant worker problems. Weeks and months of blood, sweat and tears have poured from John in arranging and conducting hearings throughout the state--pointing up appalling conditions in those migrant labor camps. The State Commission has now approved a legislative program drawn up by John, which will be battled out next legislative session. FH is proud that--through John--we've had an important role in the first real move to improve social conditions for migrant workers in Illinois. Legislation-influencing is John's bag, and we hope to continue working behind and in front of the scene on other FH causes in the future.

We hope our long-time loyalists and new-found friends see in all this reasons for FH to continue. If we can't relate to you and your hopes, we have no reason for being. Financially we're hurting badly, and without shame we seek your support. Oh, how we hope we can count on you. Without your help, we'll go down for the last time. PEACE!

Gerry Adams

Gerry Adams, Board Chairman