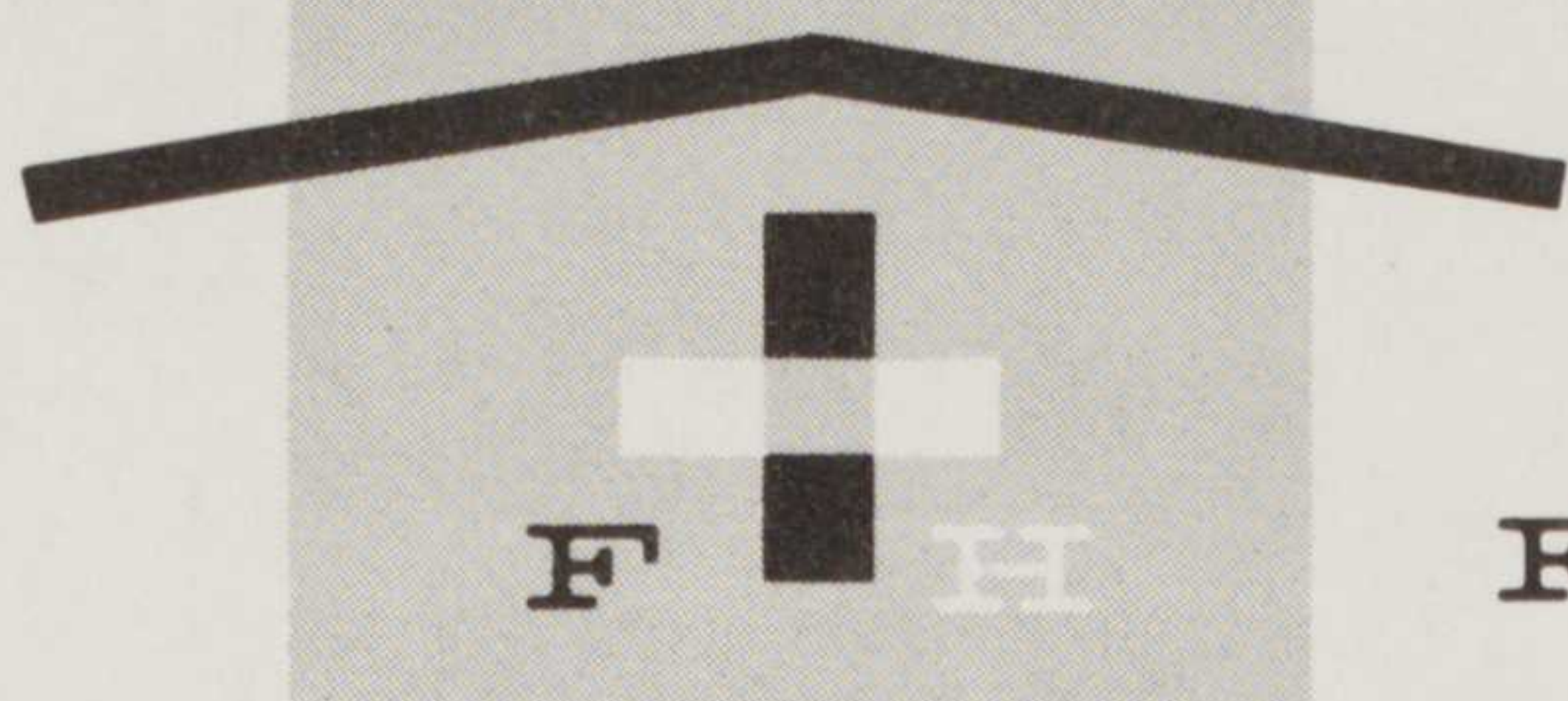




FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

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

Spring 1970

Dear Friend of Friendship House,

You may have heard of our Weekend on Independent Politics, of the work we're doing with "suppressed" prisoners in state prisons, of our Community Development projects in the ghettos, of our work with the Spanish-Speaking Peoples Study Commission, or other Friendship House programs. Life is hectic these days, but it never ceases to be interesting.

When Betty Plank asked me in January to apply to our newly formed Board to come back again as director, my first thought was to say "No". Friendship House was a chapter in my life completed back in 1963 -- or so I thought. Then I began to recall the things I had known personally, heard from others or read in the voluminous files at 43rd and Indiana.

I remember the Baroness's story of the early days in Toronto when an FH staffer made things easier for a wife beaten by her drunk husband; of the beginnings of urban renewal in New York city and how FH staff, with their emphasis on the personal, uniquely documented the cruelties of relocation procedures in land-clearing for the Godfrey Nurse project. I remembered tales of the Shreveport staff struggling to integrate the local high school and organizing the selective-buying campaign.

I remembered when a flurry of fear for the integration of Deerfield, Ill. brought a need for staff to mobilize "right thinking people and opinion" in that suburb and how Mary Dolan of FH answered the call. Home visiting programs, Childerly weekends, freedom riders and many other programs went through my mind. I knew there was much of FH I wanted to be ever a part of me, and for that reason I am back on the staff.

What is Friendship House? It is many things. It's seeing value in personal contact with people and at the same time working for institutional change. It is the "I will" spirit of the amateur coupled with a dash of know-how and professional competence. It's love of God that flows from a deep love of man. Most of all, it is a resolve to do the best we can toward things that should be done without trying to grab glory in the doing. Right now it's a floating coffee house, changing a system of metropolitan transportation and what we mentioned above.

FH is, after all, you -- You who are and will be our sole support. Please use the return envelope, or become a monthly contributor. Friendship House lives because you are alive.

Sincerely,

John Kearney
John Kearney, Director