agree with us that they should be ended. But most people still remain in the dark about the realities of the psychiatric system.

Since 1976, one of the Alliance's most important services has been public education. Via literature, our phone line, magazine and news articles, open forums, radio and TV interviews, speaking programs, demonstrations, and personal contacts we have been highly successful in exposing the destructiveness of psychiatry and unraveling myths about "mental patients." We have provided valuable information about the legal rights of psychiatric "patients" and the effects of psychiatric drugs and "treatments"--information which is usually withheld by shrinks themselves. This service continues today.

Another major function of ALMP is to provide assistance and support to presently incarcerated people who wish to resist psychiatric assault and protect their rights while locked up. Nowhere is there a greater need for ALMP resources than among sisters and brothers living in psychiatric prisons such as Philadelphia and Haverford state "hospitals." Yet nowhere is it harder for us to make our assistance available.

As of this writing, as you may know, Alliance members have been subjected to a total of eight charges of "defiant criminal trespass" for our attempts to visit with inmates of Haverford State and distribute literature on the grounds of that institution. We have been successful in court on every occasion so far, but we still face the threat of arrest (with the ensuing legal fees) each time we attempt to communicate with the inmates of Haverford.

We will return to Haverford any day now to give out our fall Newsletter. We also plan to visit Byberry and perhaps other institutions. Whatever the official response may be, the ability of outside support organizations such as ALMP to communicate with current inmates is vital, and in the coming year we will continue to regard this struggle as one of our highest priorities.

However, the success of these and other Alliance projects ultimately depends on our ability to meet the ever-growing costs of rent, phone service, literature, office supplies, postage, legal representation, and the like. Last year we were able for the first time to provide free legal services with funds obtained from the National Institute for Mental Health; our other expenses were largely covered by a grant from the Youth Project. This year we can expect little or no such outside funding. Our refusal to shuffle and play bureaucratic games with NIMH led to the withdrawal of our funds from them, and no new grants are in sight. We are <u>on our</u> own in 1980 more than ever before!

Independence from the whims of government and private funding sources can be valuable to an organization such as ALMP. But true economic independence depends on our ability to raise substantial funds in other ways. And a vital part of the Alliance's funding over the years has always been made up of contributions from concerned and aware people such as yourself.

So it is at this time, dear friend, that we ask you to send a donation to ALMP today. Be it $50 or $5, your contribution will go a long way in helping the continuing struggle of psychiatric inmates for freedom and control over our own lives. A pre-addressed envelope is enclosed.

We thank you in advance for your support.

In struggle,

Bob Harris

Bob Harris

for the Alliance

P.S. All donors will receive a free four-issue subscription to the ALMP Newsletter and the enduring gratitude of Alliance members and those to whom we provide assistance.