

BAYARD RUSTIN FUND, INC.
218 East 18th Street
New York, N.Y. 10003

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Introduction

The Bayard Rustin Fund, Inc. was established to commemorate and extend the life work of its namesake through programs and activities which would educate and inspire people, especially youngsters, to work for a more equitable and just society. The values that were the bedrock of Bayard's life - a belief in the unity of all people, respect for human personality, nonviolence - and his conviction that democratic processes and constitutional means are the most highly developed political expressions of these values are also our criteria for program development. During the last year we have continued to work on several of our own programs, and worked cooperatively with other organizations on joint projects.

BAYARD RUSTIN FELLOWS PROGRAM

The Bayard Rustin Fellows Program continues to be our most significant activity. It is also our major budgetary item, at a cost of up to \$25,000 per Fellow. There were four 1990-91 Rustin Fellows, three of whom were placed with organizations, and one who was pursuing doctoral studies. Our initial host agencies for the year were Frontlash (the youth arm of the AFL-CIO), the National Coalition for Haitian Refugees and the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights. Two of these placements proved to be problematic and after negotiations, it was decided that the Fellow placed at the Lawyers Committee would be moved to the Center for Immigrants Rights. The other Fellow, partly due to familial financial pressures, decided to secure private employment, although she continued to attend Fellow's meetings and was a vital member of the group. The doctoral student, who had completed course work requirements at the City University of New York, engaged in research for his dissertation on the community social welfare programs of a small church in Harlem. He is hopeful that his research will be of use to church groups around the country who wish to engage in community social welfare programs.

The educational element of the program was expanded this year. In addition to the required monthly sessions, Fellows were invited to attend forums and seminars, both as individuals and as a group. Our two Fellows concerned with refugee affairs also attended a two-day session on immigrants' rights.