

2000
Part 6.

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL FACULTY AND STAFF
FROM: U.S.A. PROGRAM COMMITTEE
DATE: APRIL 5, 1973
RE: "SECOND MILE" PROGRAM - C O R R E C T I O N

The dates for the "Second Mile" TV viewing and discussion meetings will be on Tuesdays, beginning next week, April 10th, at 3:00 p.m. So join some of your colleagues next Tuesday in the Faculty House in a dialogue on the criminal justice system. Be sure to come a few minutes before 3:00, when the TV documentary on Channel 9 begins. (The notice which you received yesterday was based on earlier information from KCTS, Channel 9, calling for a Wednesday time slot.)



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TO: Emory Bundy
FROM: Jim Hushagen, CHOICE
DATE: May 29, 1973
RE: Second Mile - Southern Region

The most unique aspect of "The Second Mile" project in the southern region is its tri-county orientation. Although the project was administered from Tacoma in Pierce County, Thurston and Kitsap Counties each had their own project office and county coordinator. Recruitment and training of group leaders was handled by the coordinators on the county level. Since each of these county offices was dealing with a relatively small number of groups, they were better able to monitor their activities and provide for their specific needs, even to the extent of putting out a project newsletter for each county. Also, since the circumstances of each county were different, the local offices were very useful in directing the efforts of the "Second Milers" towards the solution of unique local problems. Each of the three counties experienced a high degree of success in working with local law and justice agencies and organizations, and each has planned its own county-wide action fair to culminate the project. In short, the administration of "The Second Mile" on a county basis in the southern region resulted in better recruiting, more thorough group maintenance and more effective cooperation with local authorities.

One of the most successful innovations of "The Second Mile" was the pilot showings. The pilots had two main purposes:

1. To preview both the films and resource materials to a selected public to ascertain what was useful, provocative and stimulating and what was not,
2. To introduce "The Second Mile" to a select few concerned people to enlist their involvement in the project as group leaders and group participants.

In the southern region, many people were introduced to the project through the pilots. In the Tacoma area alone, well over 1,000 citizens viewed one or more of the documentaries in more than 15 pilot showings for such groups as District Court probation, Tacoma Public Schools, the Jaycees, etc. In Kitsap and Thurston Counties, also, pilot showings to churches, civic clubs and private organizations gave the project widespread publicity. Perhaps the most unusual and successful pilot was held March 15 at the Purdy Treatment Center for Women. An audience of over 150 residents, Job Therapy sponsors and institutional personnel give the film on corrections, "Sentenced to Fail", an enthusiastic, if partisan, reception.

Over 100 people expressed a desire to participate in the project as group leaders and members as a result of this pilot. Overall, the pilots were a marked improvement over the "catch-as-catch-can" method of group leader recruitment used in previous projects of this kind and also gave KING-TV some significant feedback on the format and content of the documentaries.

The core of "The Second Mile" in the southern region, the discussion/action groups, exhibited an enviable diversity among their members. Private citizens from all walks of life -- teachers, students, businessmen, housewives, professional people and even a lady cab-driver -- met in homes, churches, and institutions and participated as leaders and members of the groups. In addition, people with a special interest in the criminal justice system - corrections officers, policemen, ex-convicts, parole personnel - were placed into many groups to add their expertise and perspective. In Pierce County, the judicial system, especially Legal Aid and the County Prosecutor, was very cooperative with the result that lawyers were especially well represented in the groups. Kitsap and Thurston Counties had their greatest success in cooperation with the local law enforcement agencies, resulting in significant police participation in the groups. Bremerton, in fact, had one group composed primarily of former and present police officers representing radically different points of view concerning the system.

Statistically, the southern region well exceeded its target goal of 50 groups. Between 700 and 800 residents of the tri-county area were known to be participating fully in "The Second Mile" by watching the documentaries, reading the tabloids, doing task assignments and discussing the issues in the weekly group meetings. The breakdown by counties is as follows:

Pierce County - 54 groups
Thurston County - 8 groups
Kitsap County - 10 groups

Total - 72 groups

Some of the most interesting and educational of these groups were those which met in the Purdy Treatment Center for Women. Composed equally of community people and residents, these groups were the sites of some lively and often heated discussions on various aspects of the criminal justice system and proved to be very worthwhile for all concerned. Western State Hospital and the local V.A. Hospital also opened their doors to allow "Second Mile" groups to meet with their residents.

A notable area of success was in the task assignments done by the members of the groups. Beginning the first week of the project, local law and justice agencies were besieged by a host of eager "Second Milers" asking pointed questions, requesting tours of their facilities and generally opening up the criminal justice system to public view. In the Tacoma area, several agencies complained that the onslaught of inquisitive citizens was taxing their ability to deal with the public in the accustomed way. Many other agencies, however, were pleased with the opportunity to explain their program to the public, despite the oc-

casional inconvenience. In all three counties the judicial system was especially cooperative, to the point of appointing special "Second Mile" liaisons and setting up special office hours for "Second Milers" to meet and talk with judges, prosecutors, etc.

The "Second Milers" themselves also benefitted greatly from doing their task assignments. They found the task assignments especially useful in discovering avenues for deeper involvement in the criminal justice system. One member of a very active group in Tacoma contacted in one week the Police Department, the Bar Association, Superior Court, Legal Aid and the "Second Mile" southern headquarters in search of avenues for involvement. Task assignments in many cases put the participants in contact with professionals who soon became resource persons in the weekly discussions.

As the final event of "The Second Mile", an Action Fair was planned by each county in light of its specific constituency and local needs. These fairs are designed to bring the "Second Milers" together with local law and justice agencies and organizations to present the different opportunities for involvement and begin planning cooperative action for the future. The Kitsap and Thurston Action Fairs are scheduled for later in the year. Pierce County held its Action Fair on Wednesday, May 23rd. Nearly 30 law and justice agencies and organizations, including the Sheriff's Office, the State Patrol, the Pierce County Prosecutor and three Municipal and Superior Court judges, were on hand to meet with the "Second Milers" in attendance. The Assembly of all exhibitors and spectators yielded a number of action ideas which will form the basis of the follow-up activities in Pierce County.

Exciting follow-up plans are in the offing in each county. Steering committees composed of government figures, law and justice personnel and "Second Mile" participants have been working to discover ways to make the system more effective in each county. Task forces have been formed around specific local issues and the ground work is being laid for concerted citizen action. The informed constituency of the "Second Milers" is the core of the task forces and will be the moving force behind whatever social change comes about as a result of the project.