

ANNOUNCING: A NEW STAGE IN FOCIS DEVELOPMENT



A PROGRAM operating among Appalachians in six selected areas, planned by FOCIS members from four regions bringing new awareness, new strength to people of Appalachia.

- Creating community in local situations
- encouraging ties among communities
- expressing a culture to a nation.

The program is called:

DISCOVERY, EXPRESSION, COMMUNICATION
An Arts Approach to the Problems of Appalachia

THE PROBLEMS — you see the signs as you drive through the mountains — the gutted hillsides, the unpainted houses, the undernourished children, men in their prime years without means to provide for their families.

AN ARTS APPROACH — a way to start in offering opportunity to a people who, with good reason, have nearly lost hope.

Of course the start of FOCIS' approach was made many years ago, when members decided to live and work among the mountain people. In Virginia and Tennessee, in Cincinnati and Chicago, FOCIS shares the lives, the memories, the hopes and fears of Appalachians.

The ARTS program is designed to help the mountaineer to move toward participation with their local community and in the larger society. It aims to conquer the isolation that often deprives the mountain family of the necessities of life. It builds upon the types of

activity that are natural to the mountain people.

Music is natural — and it will grow from home and fireside, to community sharing, to public programs. Quilting is natural — the old patterns and quilting bees are supplemented by new design and banner-making clubs. Meals are natural — the summer program will bring families together for pot luck and new relationships. New ways of expression will be fostered — drama, painting, pottery making, writing, silk-screening, photography and slide shows.

The hoped-for results: "the personal development of each participant, his discovery of his own inner resources and an increase of his self-worth, so that he may better express himself, learn to communicate as a member of the community and participate in its life. As a byproduct of personal and community development it is anticipated that the program will enhance the opportunities and abilities of the individual Appalachian to become self-sustaining economically." (quoted from the program proposal)

The Irwin, Sweeney, Miller Foundation has made it possible for us to offer the ARTS APPROACH to mountain people in six selected locations this summer.

Our friends, far and near, who give moral and financial support on a continuing basis, make it possible for us to maintain a staff, prepare a program, accumulate the resources necessary to plan and carry out a program that demands both knowledge and trusting relationships with the people. The program was prepared and is being planned with, by and for the mountain people. It will be conducted with, by and for them.

FOCIS invites your support as we undertake the responsibilities and opportunities of a program designed and implemented by our own members. It is a testimony of the value of our common effort and a challenge to do the best job we can. Be sure you will receive a progress report, and information about further developments.

(Contributions to FOCIS, Federation of Communities in Service, are tax-deductible.)

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