

National Mental Health
Foundation 1946-50

THE NATIONAL
MENTAL HEALTH
FOUNDATION, INC. ★

1520 RACE STREET, PHILADELPHIA 2, PA.

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hb

March 18, 1947

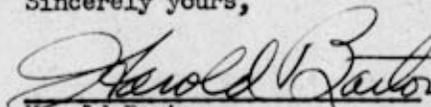
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
29 Washington Square, West
Apartment 15-A
New York 11, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am following our previous correspondence with regard to the alleged abuses at Gulfport, Mississippi Veterans Hospital with the enclosed material which gives more specific data, as requested by General Bradley.

I trust that this material may help in bringing about improvements which seem to be indicated by a long series of letters from the patient in question. We do want to hold the patient's name in confidence.

Sincerely yours,


Harold Barton
Executive Secretary

hb/my
enc -

COPY

Dear Professor

Signature & no stamp to Hospital.

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The National Mental Health Foundation
1520 Race Street
Philadelphia 2, Pennsylvania

March 18, 1947

Omear N. Bradley, General, U.S. Army
Office of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General Bradley:

We are constantly besieged by letters from patients in state and federal mental hospitals which tell of alleged abuses and ask for our assistance.

Because we know that it has not been possible to secure completely adequate staffs, we know that some abuse is bound to continue. We admire the way in which you have attempted to eliminate undesirable practice, and certainly hope that the great strides forward which you have been able to accomplish will be permanent and will continue to bring better care.

I am enclosing a copy of letters received recently from a patient at the Gulfport, Mississippi Hospital, and hope that you can refer this information to the proper source for checking. Frequently, such patients' letters show obvious signs of hostility and prejudice. On the other hand, from a rather long period of ward duty, I know that even these patients with paranoid tendencies usually have some factual basis upon which they base their feelings of dissatisfaction.

I hope that in investigating this particular case, it will not be necessary to refer to the correspondence which reached us lest some sense of security which follows the feeling of confidence in an outside person may be lost to the patient in question. On the other hand, should such a relationship be detrimental to the patient in that his delusions might be bolstered, I would be glad to make any suggestion to him which might be considered desirable by the medical personnel.

Please be assured of our willingness and desire to cooperate in any way possible.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Barton
Executive Secretary

hb/my
cc - Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt

C O P Y

March 7, 1947

Dear Friends:

I am going to ask you to bring criminal charges against Doctor Keefe in charge of D. Ward, of this N.P. Hospital.

Patient Helm a patient on D. ward was kicked in the lower spine by attendant called Con the head attendant on D ward Thursday about 2 p.m. March 6, 1947.

Patient Helm complained of pain.3 hours after being struck, patient was looking out of window by his bed when struck kicked in behind.

This attendant has worked at this N.P. Hospital for many years and has given this kind of treatment a long time.as he is a friend of Dr. Sheffield gets away with it.

By bringing criminal charges against Dr. Keefe, Ward D Doctor, something might be done by law to stop mistreatment in the future.

Respectfully

I am held incommunicado here.

Walter Dunn
C. 308,198
Veterans Hospital
N.P. Hospital
Gulfport
Mississippi

C O P Y

March 9, 1947

Dear Friends:

Being held incommunicado by Dr. Keefe in charge of D. Ward, I have got to listen to Patient Homer Clark, a sex pervert, talking out loud 16 hours a day. Is there anything you can do to stop this disturbance, as there is a limit to what a person can stand by this mistreatment.

Dr/ Sheffield managers don't allow me money from Home Finance office, as I have money in Finance office and \$20000 in Post Office in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Mistreatment that I can't do anything about it. Sadist that do get enjoyment out of mistreating patients because they have the authority to do as they like.

Respectfully

Walter Dunn
C 308,198
Veterans N.P. Hospital
Gulfport, Mississippi

Wanger -

I have become interested
in The National Mental
Health Foundation because
mental health has received so
little attention & concern from
the Amer public. Though
the Foundation is ~~only~~ not
a year old it has gained
the endorsement of progressive
psychiatrists & educators.

Naturally the Foundation
must have financial
support & I wonder if
you are interested if
you could present the

Foundation's work & need
to the Permanent Charles
Com of the Blue Industry
I understand that former
Supreme Ct Justice Owen J
Roberts, Chairman of the
Foundation has written to
the Committee.

see memo.

**THE NATIONAL
MENTAL HEALTH**

FOUNDATION, INC. ★ 1520 RACE STREET, PHILADELPHIA 2, PA.

LOCKET 7-6458

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*All former
letters add'd*

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
29 Washington Square (West)
Apartment 15A
New York 11, N. Y.

*not mental
Health*

March 21, 1947

*to be sent to Mrs. Roosevelt
via the staff person*

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Following my letter of earlier this week I learned that you would not return to New York until this coming Sunday. In the meantime Mr. Mitchell of our Finance Division has taken a plane for California, and will be making direct representations to the Charities Committee on our behalf.

If you feel free to send a letter similar to the one we proposed, to Walter Wanger I would very much appreciate having it go by Air Mail with a copy similarly sent to Mr. Mitchell at his temporary address. I enclose an enveloped addressed to Mr. Mitchell for your convenience.

If you have any advise which may be of help to us in this matter, I would appreciate receiving a phone call from you.

Cordially yours,

Harold Barton
Harold Barton
Executive Secretary

HB/nab
Enc.

THE NATIONAL
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1520 RACE STREET, PHILADELPHIA 2, PA.

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Walter W. Van Kirk
Mary Jane Ward
M. R. Zigler

March 18, 1947

Mr. Walter Wanger, President
Walter Wanger Productions, Inc.
Universal Studios
Universal City, California

Dear Mr. Wanger:

Of all the fields of public health, that which has received the least attention and concern from the American public is the problem of mental illness. For many years this has been a tragic anomaly, since mental illness is the gravest health problem facing the country.

The film industry is justly well-known for its generous giving. Yet in relation to the need, the film industry, along with the general public, has given generously but not too wisely. In philanthropy, the organization as well as the individual usually gives to that group which secures its attention, and not in relation to the actual need. This is particularly true in the field of mental illness.

I am writing to you because, for the first time, there exists an organization attacking the tremendous task of public education about mental illness. Its personnel are all young men who have worked in mental institutions and have seen the obsolete and callous methods of treatment which have resulted from the public's lethargy and ignorance. These men have dedicated themselves to improving both the type of treatment in mental institutions, and the medieval concepts held by the public-at-large regarding mental disease.

Though not a year old, the National Mental Health Foundation has gained the endorsement of the progressive psychiatrists and educators. It must, however, secure sound financial support, if its program is to succeed.

I understand that the Permanent Charities Committee of the film industry meets March 28 to allocate grants to various applying charitable organizations. Former Supreme Court Justice, Owen J. Roberts, now chairman of the National Mental Health Foundation, wrote to the Committee sometime ago requesting information regarding grants, but has received no response to date.

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L. DONALD PATON

THE NATIONAL
MENTAL HEALTH
FOUNDATION

Mr. Walter Wanger

March 18, 1947

- 2 -

I am concerned that this national problem receive proper recognition of its gravity, and would appreciate whatever you might do to facilitate serious consideration of a grant to the National Mental Health Foundation by the Permanent Charities Committee.

Very sincerely yours,

THE NATIONAL
MENTAL HEALTH
FOUNDATION, INC. ★

1520 RACE STREET, PHILADELPHIA 2, PA.

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Walter Wanger's
letter sent
4-21-47

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Walter W. Van Kirk

Mary Jane Ward

M. R. Zigler

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
342 Madison Avenue, Room 901
New York 17, N.Y.

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My Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Our Board of Directors in regular post-Membership Meeting session today gave special consideration to the possible grant from the Permanent Charities Committee.

As the work of the staff was discussed, the heavy demands for state field workers for organizational activities with mental health groups prompted the following recommendation:

That every possible means be explored to complete the underwriting of the budget already approved for 1947 activities and that an additional \$25,000 be raised and allocated to re-inforce the work of the Foundation's Field Staff.

Particularly, that the primary need in the mental health field at the present time -- the organization of citizens' groups to support existing and expanded mental hygiene facilities -- be brought to the attention of responsible persons connected with the Permanent Charities Committee and that a contribution to the Foundation for this purpose be urged.

I enclose copies of budget information prepared for our Board today and hope that you may find it possible to make representations on our behalf to Walter Wanger.

The Board of Director's Meeting today was an enthusiastic and helpful one and I do feel that we are being strengthened constantly for the work ahead.

Cordially yours,

Harold Barton

Harold Barton
Executive Secretary

cc: Richard Mitchell, Finance Chairman, NMHF
Savoy Hotel, 6th and Grand Ave., Los Angeles (Until 28th)

A NON-PROFIT TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATION

ih

Walter Wanger
you take care

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1947 FINANCIAL RESUME

	<u>Positions</u>		<u>Budget</u>		<u>Expenses</u>
	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>Filled 3.25.47</u>	<u>(exclusive of Salaries & Wages)</u>		<u>Spent -2 mos.</u>
			<u>12 Mos.</u>	<u>2 mos.</u>	
Exec. Sec.	10½	8½	16,600	2,767	2244.08*
Finance Div.	4	3	10,100	1,683	678.74**
Education Div.	16	9	14,000	2,333	267.97
Legal Div.	5	4	4,250	708	110.50
Publishing Div.	5	3	16,300	3,217	1841.31
	<u>40½</u>	<u>27½</u>	<u>61,250</u>	<u>10,708</u>	
Travel-all divisions					<u>772.43</u>
Radio Section					5915.03
Salaries & Wages			111,500	18,583	1936.73**
Total Expenditures -2 mos.			<u>172,750</u>	<u>29,291</u>	<u>17308.68</u>

<u>Income Needed</u>	<u>12 mos.</u>	<u>2 mos.</u>	<u>Actual-2 mos.</u>
1946 Deficit		8,544.88	
1947 Budget	172,750.00		
	<u>181,294.88</u>	35,215.	44,156.83

* Subject to partial re-distribution to Division Expenses

** Includes non-budget items.

GIFTS & CONTRIBUTIONS - 1947

~~CONFIDENTIAL**~~

January receipts	\$28,778.24
February "	16,738.99
March "	<u>3,202.16</u>
	\$48,719.39

Rockefeller Foundation	\$12,500.00
Carnegie Corp. N. Y.	25,000.00
Board of Independent Aid(N.Y)	<u>2,500.00</u>

Philadelphia Campaign

Owen J. Roberts	1,000.00
Robert McLean(Bulletin)**	500.00
Samuel Cooke(Penn Fruit Co)	500.00
Mennonite Central Comm.	<u>250.00</u>
	\$42,250.00
Others	<u>6,469.39</u>
	\$48,719.39

These figures include receipts up to and including March 24, 1947.

E. P. Green

3/25/47:hb

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E. P. Green

3/25/47:hb

**THE NATIONAL
MENTAL HEALTH
FOUNDATION, INC.**

☆ 1520 RACE STREET PHILADELPHIA 2, PA.

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Jim

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
342 Madison Avenue
Room 901
New York 17, N. Y.

September 3, 1947

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Mr. Richard Mitchell of the Foundation's staff is currently developing plans for a fund-raising effort in the New York City area. I thought that you would be interested in having a copy of the prospectus prepared by Mr. Mitchell for this effort, since this outline contains reports of some new developments in our work.

We have under consideration at the present time the organization of a New York State Chapter of the Foundation to co-ordinate and take full advantage of the interest of the hundreds of people in New York who have indicated an interest in our work. I will try to keep you posted on new developments in the formation of this Chapter.

For this Fall our efforts to gain support will be largely centered in Pennsylvania and New York with some rather intensive effort in New Jersey and in Southern California. We do have a tremendous job ahead to complete our budget for this year, but I am certain that the determination of our staff and the good assistance we have been receiving from our sponsors, our advisors, and our Board members will see us over the top.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Barton
Harold Barton
Executive Secretary

HB/nab

THE NATIONAL
MENTAL HEALTH
FOUNDATION, INC. ☆

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July 24, 1947

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Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
29 Washington Square West
Apartment 15-A
New York 11, N. Y.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I want to express my very sincere appreciation for the notice which you have given to Mr. Wright's book, "Out of Sight - Out of Mind".

While we had originally hoped for a cloth-bound edition this Fall, it is now questionable whether we will have one.

Some of our best publishing advisors believe that the present low-cost edition is particularly helpful in furthering the program of the Foundation, and it is their recommendation that we give the intensive promotion to it in its present form.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Barton

Harold Barton
Executive Secretary

HB/nab

Dear Mr Whelnee
I am taking
the liberty of giving
this note of intro
to Mr Richard
Mitchell on
behalf of the
West Mental
Health Assn & I
shall appreciate
you can see him

Make sure & see letter
Mitchell =

I am sure a
letter of intro to
Mr John Henry Whelnee
I do not know him
at all well so I
doubt it will do
you much good

Natl Mental Health

**THE NATIONAL
MENTAL HEALTH
FOUNDATION, INC.** ☆

1528 RACE STREET, PHILADELPHIA 2, PA.

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October 1, 1947

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* Executive Committee

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
342 Madison Avenue - Room 901
New York 17, New York

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Would you be so kind as to write a brief letter of introduction for us to Mr. John Hay Whitney?

Mr. Richard Mitchell of our staff is doing intensive field work in the New York City area and would very much like to meet with him to discuss the work of the Foundation. While in New York Mr. Mitchell is working out of our New York address at 505 W. 23rd St., Chelsea 2-4149.

We have been having an encouraging response from current efforts to raise our budget and we are doing our utmost to prove worthy of the additional \$50,000 which has been granted for 1947 by the two New York Foundations on the condition that we have a successful year in our fund-raising work.

We are all hopeful of your success in the current efforts with the U.N.

Cordially yours,

Harold Barton
Harold Barton
Executive Secretary

HB/nab