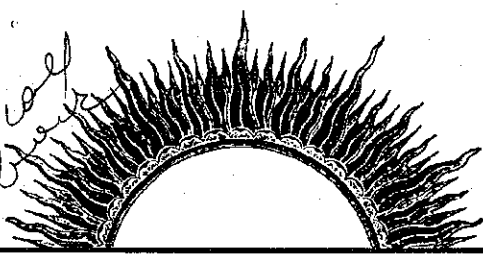


Talked
2/12/96
w/ Mr. C. about
will [unclear]



See bus

RECEIVED
2/9/96

ARTISTS FOR RECOVERY

by and for Creative & Performing Artists in Recovery from Emotional Hurts and/or Addictions

Scholarship
letter has
been sent
2-5-96

February 5, 1996

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to request a scholarship for the conference in St. Louis in March. My registration form is enclosed.

I am requesting a scholarship because my income is very low. At present my only income is from our budget at Artists for Recovery, which is only funded for four hours per day, at \$8.00/hr., out of a total budget of only \$25,000./yr. I probably won't be able to attend the conference unless it is possible to get scholarship funds that would cover both registration and bus travel.

I very much want to be present at the conference. Judging from the list of attendees, there will not be anyone else at the conference who will offer alternative views on issues relating to mental health and psychiatric treatment. Our issues are not just about "stigma," but include concerns of human rights and iatrogenic treatment. These are issues rarely discussed in the mainstream media; it is rarer still to hear the voices of people who have been long-term clients in the psychiatric system, or the voices of those who are critical of that system.

If there is any way I can volunteer to help with the work to defray scholarship costs, please let me know.

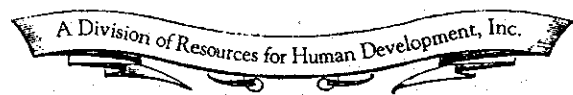
I endorse your efforts, and want to be involved, although I cannot afford to give financial support.

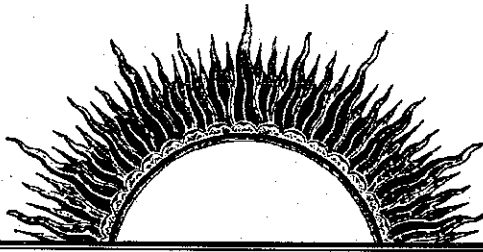
Thank you for your consideration. I can be reached at the following numbers in the 215 area code: 951-0330 (daytime), 951-0332 (after five p.m.), or 844-6225 (home). My fax number is 951-0342. I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Connie Schuster
Director

3721 Midvale Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19129 • (215) 951-0332





ARTISTS FOR RECOVERY

by and for Creative & Performing Artists in Recovery from Emotional Hurts and/or Addictions

Dear Dr. Gerbner,

I am enclosing this second note to make an additional request of you. I would like to ask if there is any way that I might be able to be included on the Steering Committee, although I was not nominated. I understand that it was a mistake not to nominate myself at the conference. I would like to see some representation of people who have been labelled "mentally ill"; our people need a voice. There should be representation of our human rights movement (that is never talked about in the media) within CEM's Steering Committee. I know you understand the importance of our issues.

Please let me know if there is any way this could happen, or refer my request to the appropriate person(s).

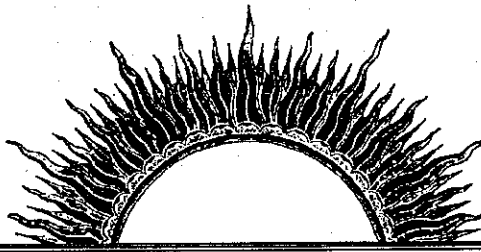
Whether or not this is a possibility, please let me know if there is anything I can do to help with the work of CEM.

Sincerely,

Connie Schuster

Placed on SC
4/22/98

2 pages
Sheila



ARTISTS FOR RECOVERY

by and for Creative & Performing Artists in Recovery from Emotional Hurts and/or Addictions

Dear Dr. Gerbner,

Congratulations on the success of the founding conference of the Cultural Environment Movement! This letter is to express our gratitude to you for allowing us to be part of it.

I am enclosing the receipts for reimbursement for travel expenses: \$400. for bus travel for Arthur Ward and myself; and \$200. (out of a total of \$271.) for airfare for Art Leibowitz.

I am also enclosing a suggested amended version of the health draft policy statement. Leonard Rifas, who was the official minute-taker, asked me to help him on the draft, but the computers at the hotel weren't working well, so I waited until now to type this. I took very thorough notes myself. I am also sending copies of these suggested amendments to Leonard and Alex; I don't have the addresses of the other participants. I hope to get the other addresses, and stay in touch with the other members of this small working group.

Thank you again for allowing us to attend, as representatives of the consumer/survivor/ex-patient movement. I know you understand the importance of inviting the participation of the most voiceless, those without representation in the media. Ours is a liberation movement that gets virtually no press attention, so we belong in the Cultural Environment Movement.

I know that there is much work to be done. Please keep in mind that I am willing and able to help.

Sincerely,

Connie Schuster

RESOURCES FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
3721 MIDVALE AVE.
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19129

(215) 951-0330
FAX (215) 951-0342

FAX TRANSMITTAL

Date: 2-15-96
To: George Gerbner, PhD
Company: Annenberg, VofP, Cultural Environment Movement
Fax No.: 387-5202

From: C. Schuster, Artists for Recovery

No. of Pages: (including cover) 3

Comments: Thank you!

Artists for Recovery was founded by and for people with psychiatric or addiction histories. Our mission is to build community by offering opportunities for creative expression and emotional support, and to educate and build alliances for advocacy, change, and development of alternatives. Activities include regular open microphone performances, theater workshops, and support groups; our members have also produced journals, art exhibits, and performances at conferences. **Artists for Recovery** is part of informal and formal networks of organizations and individuals working for the human rights of people who have been psychiatrically labelled. This human rights movement gets almost no coverage by the mainstream movement. We are working to build awareness of our issues, which include the abuse of human rights within the psychiatric system, iatrogenic treatment, lack of advocacy, and the need for holistic alternatives for people in crisis.

Presentation:

The presentation will include original poetry by Art Liebowitz, and music by Art Leibowitz on harmonica, and Martin Coverdale on acoustic guitar.

Presenters:

Art Liebowitz is a poet who writes ab out his experience as a steelworker in Pittsburgh, the hardships of the closing of the mills, and his subsequent encounter with the psychiatric system. He runs a drop-in center for people with psychiatric or addiction histories. He is also the founder of **Artists against Stigma**, and a long-time activist.

Martin Coverdale is chairman of the advisory board of **Artists for Recovery**, and is the drummer for the world famous Delfonics. He is also founder of the Philadelphia chapter of the Black Music Association, producer of major musical events for the Family Shabazz. He is the emcee for **Artists for Recovery's** performances, and also has performed and emceed at many conferences.

Connie Schuster is the founder and director of **Artists for Recovery**. She was a client in the psychiatric system, and was fortunate to find a good therapist, and to avoid (narrowly) psychiatric institutionalization.

15-20

Info -
Bio

MC



*Schedule of
Artists
Shows somebody
else*

ARTISTS FOR RECOVERY

by and for Creative & Performing Artists in Recovery from Emotional Hurts and/or Addictions

Dear Dr. Gerbner,

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to have an artistic presentation dealing with the issues of psychiatric survivors at the Cultural Environment Movement conference. Attached you will find a description of the presentation, along with biographical notes on the performers. I have included some biographical information on myself, if needed.

Please let me know if this is satisfactory, or if there is anything else you need.

I hope that I am correct in understanding that all expenses will be covered for the performers, including hotel and transportation. Also, I will be bringing literature for the display table that we mentioned yesterday.

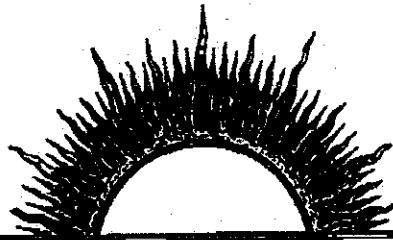
Sincerely,

Connie Schuster
Connie Schuster

Fri 9 pm

15-20 min

*Share
Dfir*



ARTISTS FOR RECOVERY

by and for Creative & Performing Artists in Recovery from Emotional Hurts and/or Addictions

TO: GEORGE GERBNER, Ph.D
FROM: CONNIE SCHUSTER
DATE: MAY 6, 1996
RE: VIEWERS' DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Thanks to you and to everyone who has worked on this document. It says so much that needs to be said. It is an example of what is absent from the mainstream media, i.e., discussion of real social change.

There are only a few suggestions I can think of. One is that the title seems to limit the area addressed to media that is "viewed." This would indicate television. If we are talking about all the media, maybe some other title would better represent the subject matter. For example, A Call for Reclamation of Media by and for All People.

Because of time constraints, I can't take time to really think about this enough to construct amendments or revisions. But except for the section in the beginning that starts "We hold these truths..." most of the document is a description of the problem. So, I'm not sure that either title is ideal.

I have seen similar documents called "draft policy statements," keeping revision of the draft a permanent option. "Policy Statement" is also a possibility. In the Health workgroup, I suggested separating policy from strategy. It seemed realistic, considering time limitations, to do this. But it also seems to make sense to separate these in other documents, e.g., the Health Workgroup statement.

I hope that the Health workgroup will stay in touch with one another. I sent copies of my suggestions to Alex and Leonard Rifas, but I don't have the addresses of the others who were in the group, which was very small.

Thank you and your staff again for all your efforts.

3721 Midvale Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19129 • (215) 951-0332

A Division of Resources for Human Development, Inc.