

# NORTHERN STUDENT MOVEMENT

Detroit Project

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**Mrs. Bernard Rapoport**  
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**Fr. Joseph Walsh**

Dear Friend:

The death of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner has focused the nation's attention on the American South as never before. Many Negroes have fled the peculiar apartheid of the South to take advantage of the "opportunities" of the North. They escaped, however, to enter a trap no less confining and degrading than the one they left. That trap is the urban ghetto. Its existence is increasingly difficult to ignore.

--In the Detroit area, median family incomes for Negroes average less than half those for whites.

--Detroit Ghetto schools produce graduates who can barely read and write, much less compete for jobs. A recent survey of one Negro high school showed that over 70% of the graduates were unemployed six months after their graduation. The average white high school dropout makes almost as much money as the average Negro college graduate; the white high school graduate makes more.

--Unemployment for Negroes is high even in boom times; it is consistently three times that for whites. For young people it is nearly five times higher.

--Three times as many Negroes live in dilapidated or deteriorating housing than whites, and they pay higher rents.

--The infant mortality and disease rates are significantly higher in the Negro community than in the white.

Neither statistics nor words nor senseless rioting is sufficient to convey accurately the despair and defeat caused by such conditions. These subtle and complex forces perpetuate a vicious cycle. Its tragic and unnecessary result is not just physical pain and discomfort; it is a degradation with which the individual is powerless to cope.

The Northern Student Movement (NSM) is the only national organization devoting its attention exclusively to the unique problems of Northern urban areas. NSM's work is concentrated in the most economically depressed Negro areas of Boston, Harlem, Hartford, and Philadelphia, in addition to Detroit.

NSM believes that those most qualified to break the cycle are its victims. We are working to create constructive vehicles of expression which reflect the needs and desires of the presently voiceless segment of Detroit's Negro community. Our constituency consists primarily of those untouched and uninvolved in Negro action organizations. We believe that democracy will become a reality only when all people are allowed to participate in the decisions which affect their lives. Community groups, indigenously led, provide an important means for such participation as well as a powerful device for change.

In addition to "community action organizing", NSM attempts to equip future leaders with skills through a tutorial program conducted by the Detroit Education Project. During the last year nearly 500 volunteers have provided academic assistance, cultural enrichment, and a close personal relationship for almost 1000 junior high school and senior high school students.

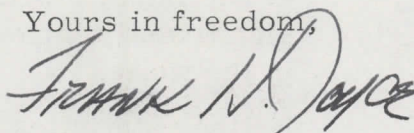
As a member of the Detroit area community, your support is needed to continue the Detroit project. NSM is not a membership organization. As such it has no regular source of income. We rely solely on contributions from individuals and organizations.

Like the areas we work in, the project itself is economically depressed. Its needs are limitless. Donations are needed for staff salaries (maximum \$35.00 per week when available), office rent, supplies, and operating expenses. Contributions of office supplies, good books for the DEP library, food, filing cabinets, typewriters, desks, book shelves, cars (presently there is only one nine year old car available for the whole staff), remedial reading equipment, adding machine, and photographic equipment are also needed.

Donations to NSM are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to NSM-Detroit Project. Contributions intended for the tutorial project should be made to the Detroit Education Project-NSM. Monthly pledges would be particularly appreciated.

If you wish additional information about NSM, please contact me at the NSM office.

Yours in freedom,



Frank H. Joyce  
Project Coordinator