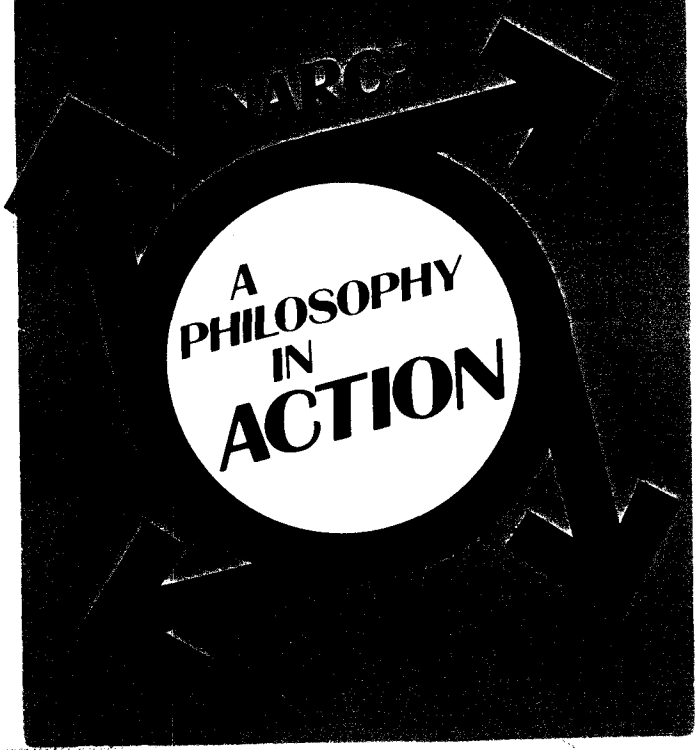
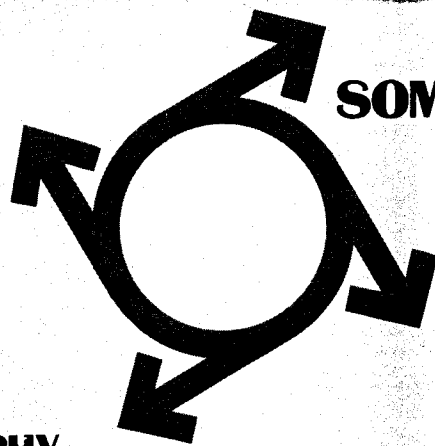


ational Association for Retarded Children
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SOME NATIONAL PRIORITIES

PHILOSOPHY

NARC BELIEVES that retarded children are entitled to all services essential to a more normal style of living so that they can achieve their fullest development and grow up as contributing citizens.

NARC BELIEVES that every mentally retarded child and adult has the right to be understood, respected and helped, regardless of age, degree of retardation, economic status or ethnic background.

NARC BELIEVES that every community should provide for its retarded population—under appropriate public and private auspices:

- specialized diagnostic facilities
- public health nursing and homemaking
- public school programs
- employment and placement services
- sheltered employment opportunities for those not yet capable of entering the competitive employment market.
- protective services
- religious nurture
- recreational outlets
- day care and habilitation services
- residential facilities close to the main stream of community life with professional service adaptable to the individual needs of those requiring this type of care.
- focal points for information and counseling.
- effective planning and coordination of programs at all levels.
- public education programs to spread the new understanding that *the retarded can be helped to help themselves*.

In fact, they yearn to find their place in family, community and nation!

IMPROVEMENT IN RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

More than 200,000 citizens of the United States who are mentally retarded are now living in public residential facilities. The cost of operation of these facilities each day is in excess of \$2.3 million, which amounts to more than \$1 billion a year for direct services alone. Far too many of these facilities consist of an impoverished living environment that is not distinctly different from the environment experienced by prisoners of war during the past decades.

In each of our 50 states, we must begin, continue and intensify a movement to improve our residential services for the mentally retarded. We must make residential facilities and their programs effective not only in terms of cost, but in terms of human lives salvaged from the limbo of neglect and given, to the fullest individual degree possible, the dignity of place and value in daily life and work.

The trend is toward normalization, a principle emerging as a significant new approach to management and programming for the retarded. The normalization principle refers to allowing the retarded individual to obtain an existence as close to the normal way of life as possible in a residential setting . . . to serve all degrees of retardation in helping the individual reach his optimal level of development.

POVERTY

The "facts of life" in poverty—among them, lack of pre-natal care, lead poisoning, accidents, malnutrition—produce a large percentage of the nation's six million retarded individuals.

So serious is the problem that the National Association has designated a two-pronged attack against poverty as it relates to mental retardation.

Through its Committee on Poverty and Mental Retardation, ten project proposals have been formulated, based on the premise that the incidence of mental retardation among the disadvantaged mem-

bers of our society *can be reduced*. They have been passed on to the Association's state and local member units with the recommendation that: 1) each assess its resources in terms of that portion of the total problem to which it can address itself effectively and that 2) a choice be made as to which one of the projects it can undertake in the interest of the many children and adults who need help.

Target areas covered in the proposals include:

- Comprehensive health services
- Malnutrition
- Inadequate Welfare Programs
- Family Planning
- Early Childhood Education Services
- Environmental Hazards
- Child Abuse
- Identification Systems & Procedures
- Social Attitudes
- Lead Poisoning

RESEARCH & PREVENTION

From the outset, NARC made the support of research one of its basic aims.

A Research Advisory Board was established in 1952. A Research Fund was set up to support worthwhile endeavors, especially ones not readily fundable from other private or public sources.

Well over one million dollars has been disbursed by NARC in long-term sustaining grants to investigators and in various special project grants. Each year, \$100,000 or more is budgeted for research. While these sums are not large by Federal standards, the availability of funds that can be used flexibly and as "seed" money has proved to be of signal value.

As a result of on-going research it is now possible to catalog many elements of a comprehensive preventive program, including better maternity care, genetic counseling, case finding, early diagnosis and treatment, detection and treatment of inborn errors of metabolism, prevention of accidents, poisonings, child abuse, radiation control, surgical procedures, family planning, improvement of socio-economic conditions and overcoming the effects of cultural deprivation.

Increasing knowledge of the causes of mental retardation is a continuing "must." Equally essential is increasing emphasis on the application of knowledge already at hand in establishing coordinated community efforts to reduce the incidence of retardation.

EDUCATION FOR THE RETARDED

Education at the most elementary level in self-care and expression and directed activity is the prime requisite even for the more severely retarded in our institutions. The manifold opportunities of education for enabling the growing child to make the most of himself increase markedly in their range at each succeeding higher level of potential capacity.

No children should ever be written off as "uneducable." All children share the same basic right to education in relation to their abilities and aptitudes. They deserve—and must have—the opportunity to develop to the full extent of their potential even when this is limited by nature.

The National Association for Retarded Children asserts that school programs and services for the retarded will improve only as general programs for all children are improved. Long study of school systems makes clear that, in general, pupil personnel and special education services are only as good as the rest of the general school programs. The Association feels that the school will achieve its goal of the best educational program for each child only when it provides an individually-tailored educational program based upon a careful analysis of the child's development, best style of learning and needs.

The National Association is in the process of developing an education policy statement which intends to focus in on many of the critical areas, such as evaluation techniques, pre-school programs, day care centers, integration as opposed to segregation of retarded children, adult education, curriculum materials, teacher training, education of the severely and profoundly retarded, education in institutions and education legislation.

NARC: A BRIEF BUT ENCOURAGING HISTORY

The basic belief that the retarded can be helped was fostered by small clusters of parents as early as 1930. After World War II, many more groups formed with the simple but urgent desire to establish relationships with others who were facing the heartaches and problems of retardation.

In 1950, 42 parent representatives met in Minneapolis and united their efforts under the banner of "Parents and Friends of Mentally Retarded Children."

Significant achievements were apparent during the first years with the business of the Association carried on solely by volunteers. Resources, though meager, were found in a national office in 1954 with a small professional staff added.

Since that time — and a name change to "National Association for Retarded Children" — effective local associations representing retarded persons have organized in every corner of the land and 50 vigorous State Associations constantly press for public awareness and programs on a statewide basis. Working as a team — local, state and national Associations have accumulated strength to combine with the initiative of the organization's founders. The impact is unmistakably encouraging . . . in securing new legislation, comprehensive planning, public information programs, and in obtaining funds for residential care, buildings, special education and a whole range of community and national programs.

NARC's past and current effort demonstrates the constructive role that citizen action has played in the mental retardation movement. Voluntary efforts are needed even more in the future if further advances are to be assured.

Twenty years after its small but meaningful beginning, NARC comprises 1,473 local units and 38 State Member Units, well over 145,000 memberships representing an estimated 207,000.

Relocation of its national headquarters from New York City to the Greater Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area was a climax of NARC's 20th anniversary year.

