

the mental patients association

by Jon York

The Mental Patients' Association was formed one year ago on these statistics.

Emotional illness is the nation's number one health problem.

One out of three nuclear families will have at least one member hospitalized in a mental institution.

50% of suicides are committed within three months of a release from an institution.

Since its formation one year ago, M.P.A. has progressed to the point where we now have two centres in Vancouver and a farm in Matsqui. The west end center is equipped as a home for releases from hospitals for a period of one month. At the end of this period, employment and suitable housing arrangements are made for them in the community. It is also a (drop-in have coffee center) during the day. Crisis telephone lines are day and night for lonely and disturbed people.

The East end center is designed for slightly more restive activities. Sensitivity and therapy sessions are conducted and the one month stay for ex-patients still applies.

wooded land is utilized for one month stays in the country as well as week-end excursions.

In other parts of the world, halfway programs have proven advantageous from both psychiatric and financial points of view. It has been demonstrated that fewer people return to hospital - more are able to secure employment - and that the savings on public funds are considerable. In conclusion, there is a pressing need in society for an association such as ours. The issues around which we are organizing are literally those of life and death.

If you feel you'd like to be involved with M.P.A., you will enable us to:-

Prevent needless hospitalization of the emotionally disturbed. Help place ex-patients back into society. Broaden our knowledge in the field of mental health. Cut down the colossal toll of human suffering.

We need volunteers!

A Volunteer Training Course will be started April 11th.

The course consists of crisis training. Other activities needed are people to give emotional support for residences.

For information phone Terry at 738-3325 April 5,6,7, before 6 ----- after 6 phone Avi at 733-2375

THE MENTAL PATIENTS' ASSOCIATION

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Other activities needed are people to give emotional support for residences, chatting with people, playing guitar, etc., and just being friendly.

If you are interested phone:

Terry before 6 pm - April 5,6,7 - 738-3325

Avi after 6 pm - April 5,6,7 - 733-2375

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