

Newsletter March 1972

“WHAT DOES 20 YEARS MEAN IN THE LIFE OF THE RETARDED?”

Dear Friends,

Twenty years has meant the difference in being always in the shadows and in finally coming into the sun light of life. Twenty years has meant that no longer need we be housed in basement rooms of schools, using different exits and stairways and lunch hours and recess periods. It has meant that we are no longer relegated to the more undesirable aspect of our community.

Twenty years has proven to our legislators that we can be educated and that we have the “Right to Education.” But hopefully, twenty years has shown that we are not beasts, that we are not insane, and that we are not beyond hope. Most importantly, those years have revealed that we do have a contribution of unbounded love and compassion for our fellow man and that our love and compassion is probably more apparent and open in us than it is in those considered to be more fortunate.

Twenty years has shown that our parents and our brothers and sisters do not need to feel ashamed of us because we take our rightful place in our community.

Twenty years has meant that we are now full citizens with the right to vote and the right to care for our own property, and to be endowed with all of the rights with which Americans are endowed.

We salute you for the accomplishments and ask you to continue to strive for the retarded so that, as we, like you, watch the years pass by, may come to know and love each other as one true brotherhood of man.

**Gertrude A. Barber, Ed. D.**

**President – Founder**