

815 N. Abingdon St.
Arlington, Va. 22203
August 30, 1967

Mr. Rufus Mayfield
c/o Pride, Inc.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Mayfield:

Though I am not a resident of Washington (I only work here), I just cannot help but congratulate you on the work PRIDE is doing both for the city and also -- even more especially -- for the boys who are a part of the program. I have not even seen any of the results of their work. But the very idea of the whole program is wonderful and uplifting. I am sure that, if the program lives up to its expectations and if you continue to guide these children along the path of pride, you will do more than all the laws and all the riots and the hate have done heretofore. How good it must feel for them to feel that they really have accomplished something useful, have kept out of mischief, and have earned, but by the sweat of their brow.

I hope, Mr. Mayfield, that you will feel proudest of all because of having helped with this very constructive work. I hope that you will exercise for their benefit the qualities of leadership that you undoubtedly have, and that you will not be deterred or side-tracked by the snide remarks of those who only criticize. The critics we will always have with us and they deserve only to be ignored if they have nothing constructive to offer.

It would probably not make a particle of difference whether I wrote this letter or not, but I just felt I had to put in my two-cents worth, as an interested citizen, and wish you continued good luck, in the hope that a word of encouragement may cancel out a word of criticism.

I hope this experience will rank among the most rewarding of your life and that you will find it desirable and possible to continue working along the same lines.

Good luck to you and to PRIDE. My hat is off to you and to every boy who has participated, but especially to whoever dreamed up the whole idea in the first place.

Sincerely yours,

Frances M. Schimpf
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