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IN A NUTSHELL
MPA SPECIAL NEWSLETTER #3

June 10, 1971

VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM, LED BY
DR. ALI GHAED. FIRST MEETING, WED
JUNE 16, 7:30 P.M.

The MPA has completed the first stage of its progress. We have finished decorating the house and it is now ready to be lived in for short periods of time by people in emotional crisis situations. It has always been one of the main goals of the MPA to provide a crisis service on a 24 hour basis for people who have nowhere else to turn. Up to now we've been pre-occupied with practical problems of getting the house ready, and now that that's done, we're about to begin the much more important task of helping people who are experiencing the loneliness and depression that we've all felt at one time or another. MPA will work only if our members volunteer some of their time to being with disturbed people and to making them feel at home here.

Dr. Ali Ghaed, a psychiatrist who has supported the goals of MPA from the beginning, has offered his time to running a program to prepare our volunteers. The training course will be run informally, and we will do it as a group. Along with Dr. Ghaed, we will all decide on the planning of the course. There won't be pressure or examinations. The emphasis will be on preparing ourselves as a group to deal responsibly with distressed people. The course will be an opportunity for us to come together and to build a service that is desperately needed in Vancouver.

The first meeting with Dr. Ghaed will be held on Wednesday, June 16th at 7:30 P.M. This session will be a general planning meeting to decide how and when we want the other sessions to be held. It's very important that everyone who might want to volunteer some time attends this meeting. You don't have to commit yourself for the future. Some people may just want to come to the meetings and then decide later whether to volunteer. That's fine. It's up to each person to decide when he or she wants to volunteer.

There will probably be about 6 training sessions over a 2 week period. They will be mostly informal discussion groups where Dr. Ghaed will advise us on how to operate our crisis program.

If you're interested in making MPA an organization that truly helps disturbed people, the most important thing you can do now is to attend the training sessions. If you have any questions, or if you can't attend the first session but want to come to later ones, call the house before the 16th.

Please plan to attend. You'll find it interesting. We need your help.

WED. JUNE 16, 1971, 7:30 P.M.