

LACK OF FUNDING MAY CRIPPLE F.A.P.O.

CASE STUDY #1

Name: Jane Doe
Marital Status: Single Parent
Income: Welfare

Jane Doe lives in a small run down apartment. She has a three year old daughter, a puppy, sparse furniture, and some clothes. The majority of her monthly welfare cheque goes towards paying rent, leaving the rest to buy food and clothing for herself and her child. She does not own a refrigerator and must resort to keeping items in the trunk of a disabled car outside her house, in order to keep them refrigerated. She does not have a chesterfield, so she keeps their clothes in boxes in the bedroom. (that has no bed) FAPO delivered: a T.V., a bed, a table, a chesterfield, pots, pans, knives, forks, spoons, plates, cooking utensils, and lamps, free of charge!

CASE STUDY # ±

Name: Brian Doe
Marital Status; Married parent (6 children)
Income: Welfare

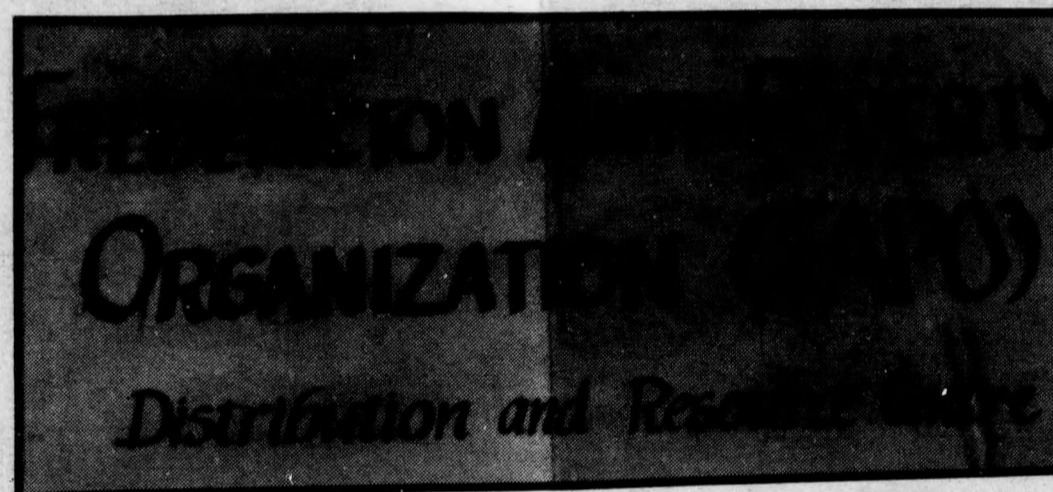
For the last three months, Brian has been living in a shell of a house, provided by the New Brunswick Housing Corporation. The house needs: internal doors, crack filler, flooring, window trim, and painting. All of Brian's welfare cheques go toward paying off the mortgage and providing food and clothes for his family. In the last three months, Brian has been able to save up enough money to buy one gallon of paint, which has given his kitchen wall one coat of paint. According to Brian, when he agreed to purchase the house from NBHC, they told him it would cost \$33,500; however when he received the house, he was told that the cost was now \$41,000. Brian had no choice but to accept it. Brian's father had recently received a house from NBHC that was structurally completed. It had cost his father the same \$41,000.

"The Fredericton Anti-Poverty Organization (FAPO) is a voluntary, non-profit, democratic peoples organization unaffiliated with any political party..."
FAPO is comprised of four paid employees, a volunteer executive, and volunteer helpers.
FAPO has the following aims and objectives:

- To offer assistance and support to those in economic or social need;
 - To conduct educational and motivational programs internally for the benefit of the membership; and
 - To contact and work with like minded organizations to advance the interests of the poor and the marginalized in our society.
- This gives a general outline of the services FAPO offers, as well as the goals it wishes to attain.



FAPO office on King St



FAPO making a pickup



John Strzenchowshi and Greg Lund FAPO Helpers

FAPO was founded in March 1983. In May 1983, its Distribution Resource Center was opened, and FAPO began to fulfill the needs of the poor. In a newsletter, Dan Weston - one of the original founding members of FAPO (volunteer) stated that, "...FAPO believes that Community Based Services are a 'band-aid' approach to the growing problem of poverty. FAPO is involved in the distribution of household items because the poverty situation is acute for many people and, in the short run it can be of some help..." During the first six months of operation, the DRC distributed about \$15,000 worth of donated, second hand items free of charge.

FAPO is presently in a predicament. The provincial Govt. has cut off financial aid to FAPO on

the grounds that there is "simply no more money available to support their anti-poverty program."

According to FAPO representatives, the government initially guaranteed to foot the bill for warehouse space and a truck for the DRC. But unfortunately the government has not been forthcoming with the money. So FAPO are hoping to operate a fund raising exercise whereby excess furniture not immediately required by needy families, could be stored in a warehouse shared with, and run by Transition House - a home for battered women. Recently, the Kiwanis Club and Riverview Mercury have assisted FAPO with the purchase of a truck. The initial downpayment was met by the Kiwanis Club, and a payment scheme was arranged through Riverview Mercury. FAPO

owes nine thousand dollars for the payment of the truck.

If the Govt. does not continue to aid FAPO, the DRC will fold, the truck will be repossessed, the store front warehouse will have to be cleared out, and FAPO will have to move out of the office they are presently renting. Once again, it is the poor who will be at a disadvantage.

In an interview with the Brunswickan, Larry Fyffe - another original founding member of FAPO (volunteer) said that "FAPO predicted this (Govt. aid) problem since its formation in '83. The Govt. was going to use Community Based Services as a means of cutting services to the poor, instead of making them better. A form of restraint. This does not mean that community based services are a bad concept, it is just that they should be adequately funded as are other services."

"Some university students may consider themselves poor, and indeed they might be, but it is an entirely different type of poverty that FAPO deals with every day. Until you experience poverty at first hand, you always believe that it is an unimportant issue and that it will go away if you ignore it."

In 1985, the provincial Govt. forwarded a proposal that FAPO take over Special needs Services for the Capital Region, and that they submit a proposal that would involve developing the DRC to handle the project. The 85-86 'Special Needs' budget for the Capital region was \$240,000. FAPO asked for \$101,000, 30% of which was for wages, leaving the rest to run their projects. In response to this proposal, Social Services stated that FAPO would now only serve the Fredericton region, instead of the Capital region, with an increased staff and a budget of \$60,000. 30% of which was to facilitate the project. There was a great amount of negotiating going on between FAPO and Social Services, (Govt.) but as Dan Weston told the Brunswickan, "...they (the Govt.) definitely refused to sign any papers." Through negotiations FAPO received a verbal agreement from the Govt. that a budget of \$74,000 would be granted. However once the project was under way, FAPO did not receive any money from the Govt., rather promissory notes, which they passed on to the Credit Union. When FAPO was three months into the project and \$16,000 overdrawn at the credit union, the Govt. then told FAPO that they would only be granted \$60,000; the original proposal made by Social Services. FAPO had no choice but to accept the money, as they were overdrawn and desperately in need of cash.

What this all boils down to is that if the Govt. pulls the plug on FAPO, then the two hundred and fifty-odd families on FAPO's needy list will have a deadly cold winter. FAPO is presently out of funds, and operating in the red. Unless they receive \$30,000, to tide them over until Aug '87 (when they can re-apply for a Govt. grant), the DRC will be forced to close them, and hundreds of people will suffer because of the lack of Govt. funding.

Feature and Photos
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