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Conard House

hope for the future
...at Conard House

WHAT IS CONARD HOUSE?

Conard House is San Francisco's only psychiatric halfway house. It is located in a comfortable Victorian mansion in Pacific Heights, and is especially designed for the young adult just leaving the hospital.

Conard House serves as a bridge from the hospital to active participation in the community. It is a helpful and necessary bridge in preparing this young person to rediscover a normal life pattern.

WHO COMES TO CONARD HOUSE?

A young woman like Nancy who came three months ago from one of our state mental hospitals. She had been hospitalized for two years. She lived in foster homes during most of her childhood.

When Nancy came to Conard House, she was frightened, withdrawn, spoke in low soft tones and would not accept any help. When in a group, she would sit facing away and cover her face with her hands.

The staff at Conard House encouraged her roommates and the other residents to include her in their conversations and activities. Through the daily patient guidance of the staff, Nancy slowly began to improve.

Her next big step will be to find and hold a job, preferably in the clerical field where she has had some training. If all goes well, Nancy will probably live at Conard House for 7 months before moving to a residence club or apartment with

one or two friends. She will still be welcome to come to Conard House for help from the staff or for evenings of play reading or other activities which form part of the Conard House community rehabilitation program.

DOES CONARD HOUSE DEPEND ON THE COMMUNITY?

Conard House depends on community leaders to serve on its Board of Directors and professional Advisory Board. They are drawn from business, law, medicine, psychiatry and the church.

Conard House depends on the community to cover the deficit between the \$40 a month rent which Nancy pays and the essential psychiatric guidance she needs which costs \$75. This is far less costly than hospitalization, partly because Nancy can do her own cooking and is expected to look after herself and her belongings.

In return for this aid from the community Conard House has made a real contribution to the community by answering, as Karl Menninger puts it, "... a cry for assistance . . . It is not our helplessness which has delayed us so long, but our hopelessness."

Conard House was cited as one of the 10 outstanding charities of 1963 by the S. F. Examiner.

