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Collection: Turner, Carlton E.: Files
Folder Title: Jim Allen Meeting – New York Addict
Rehabilitation Center, 04/28/1982 - 11:00 am
Box: 6

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② Harlem = Drug Available on a casual / Available from drug store. OTC for anything.

③ Money = Believes in religious approach. Choir has made 85 R for move. Turns White 500
1th Ave ARC Gaspar

④ Act Hypothesis Calculated Violence when Blacks go to contact Killing "Peaceful" people
Turning Violent

Final check at to see if approval of choir in Sand
and

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
April 28, 1982

11:00 am Meeting

Jim Allen - Addict Rehab Center in NY

Could not meet with Rangle's Group
when you were in NY...is here now.

"Rev" not member

1947 - Involved in Drug
started program in 1957

Four Things

① Addict Rehab - Low Budget
will volume 312 people 900 +
A year - Low Publicity

1145 A90 Building given
1304 more -

> 300 work in community center
2000 + 2000/yr 44/yr/pt.

2 yr. A90 3rd Party INcomp
Against this Welfare
he is against

**ARC
gets
people
together**



Dear Supporter of ARC:

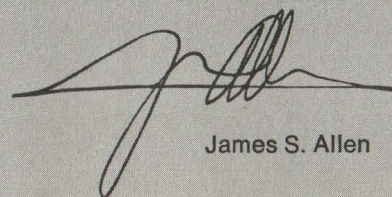
I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who have given moral, physical and dollar support to ARC over the years.

I also want to welcome those of you who are now joining and supporting the ARC family for the first time.

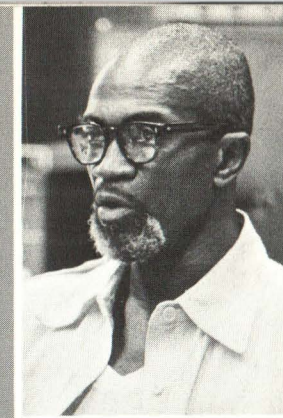
Many important things have happened in the 21 year life and history of ARC as we have dealt with the drug abuse problem in our Harlem community and beyond.

I sincerely hope this folder will inform you of what we have done and of how drug abuse affects us all. There is much that remains to be done in the area of drug abuse treatment and prevention, and with your help, ARC will be able to continue its work.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James S. Allen', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

James S. Allen





A BRIEF HISTORY

The Addicts Rehabilitation Center has been treating drug victims since 1957. Starting as a series of informal meetings held at the Manhattan Christian Reformed Church in central Harlem, neighborhood addicts were invited to meet over a cup of coffee in order to share constructive ideas that might lead to a betterment of their lives.

This handful of persons gravitated toward the leadership of James Allen, himself a recently detoxified heroin addict. Drawn together by common bonds, this small group of "pioneers" developed and organized a system and organization that continues to fulfill the mission of helping addicts today.

ARC serves the Harlem and East Harlem communities today out of its five-story building at 1881 Park Avenue, New York City.

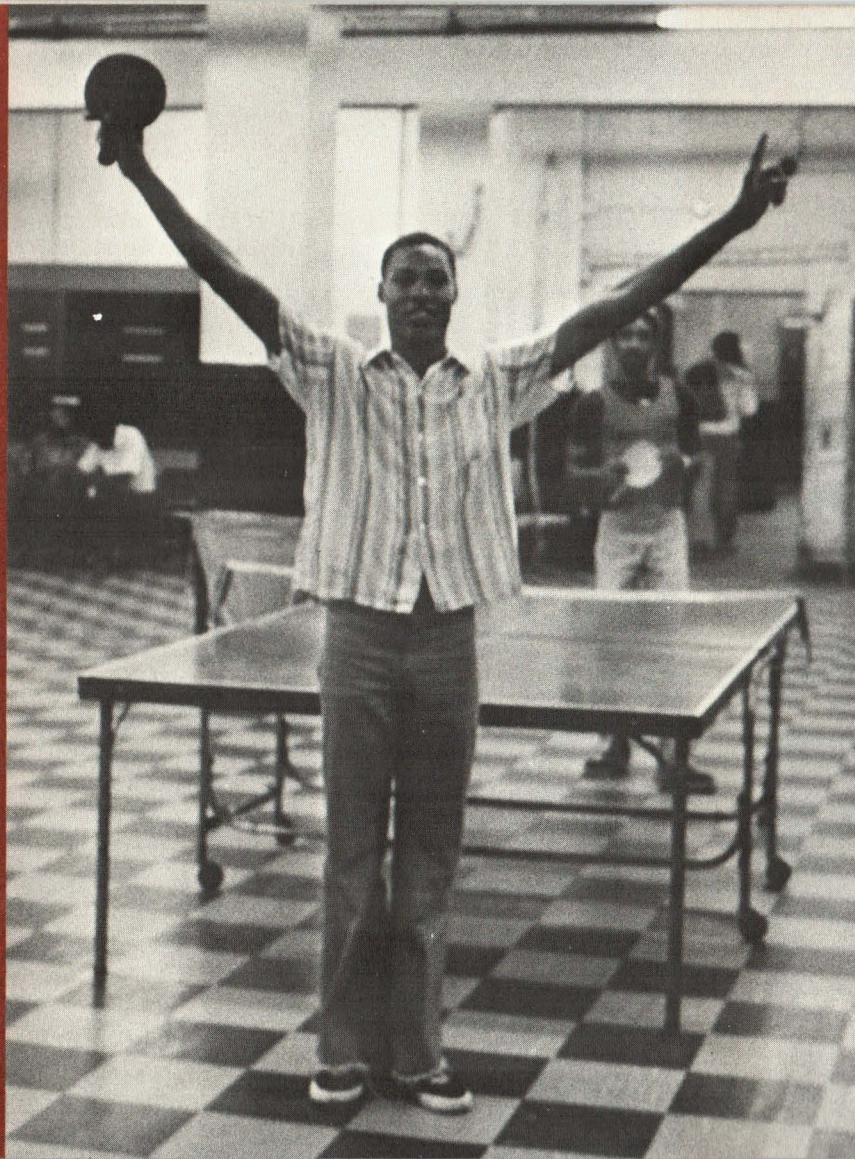
TODAY

ARC operates two formally structured program components: (1) *a residential drug free program*; and (2) *a day care drug free program*.

4,408 persons were served during the current year. Of these, 813 were residential participants, 1,691 were day care participants and 1,904 were active addicts. The residents and day care participants (2,504) who were served represented an increase of approximately 37 times the number of persons served 10 years ago.

THE PROGRAM

The residential drug free program provides a therapeutic experience which allows the participant to gain self-confidence, improve interpersonal relationships, develop positive work attitudes and responsibility for part-time or full-time employment.



Each resident is expected to complete the four levels of the residential program, which are (1) PROBATION; (2) PRE-EMPLOYMENT; (3) PRE-RE-ENTRY; and (4) RE-ENTRY.

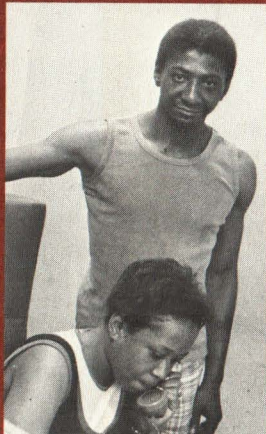
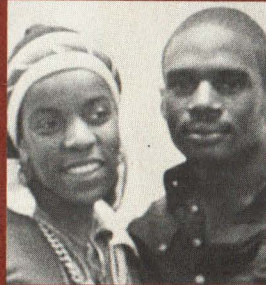
PROBATION consists of a 15-day period when a resident is restricted to the building. During this time, he or she is prepared for life at ARC, which could be a period of six to nine months. Upon the recommendation of the Rules Committee, the participant enters the next phase.

The PRE-EMPLOYMENT phase helps the participant assess his or her educational and work skills. Intensive counseling is provided to help the participant reach a decision regarding school, job training and gainful employment.

At the PRE-RE-ENTRY level, participants are either employed on a part-time or full-time basis, or enrolled in school or job training programs on a regular basis. Each employed resident is required to save at least one-fourth of his or her weekly earnings. During the last program year, employed residents saved more than \$39,000. The gross annual earnings of the 239 employed residents of ARC last year was \$1,075,500.

Once a week counseling sessions are held to give the participants a chance to discuss their jobs, school attitudes and any personal problems. Some PRE-RE-ENTRY enrollees are selected to serve as staff trainees. They do clerical work, assist in the intake process, and help with security and maintenance at ARC.

The final phase, RE-ENTRY, provides recognition of the participant's increased display of responsibility and self-reliance. These residents are given a greater



amount of freedom and are expected to serve as role models to the other residents.

Of the 813 residents served during the current program year, 674 were male and 139 were female.

OTHER SERVICES

In addition to its residential treatment program, ARC runs a **DAY CARE DRUG FREE PROGRAM** and a **REFERRAL SERVICE**, which is a 24-hour "Hot Line" available to active addicts and detoxified former addicts. This service also helps individuals in the community who are not drug-users but who may have social, legal, medical or personal problems.

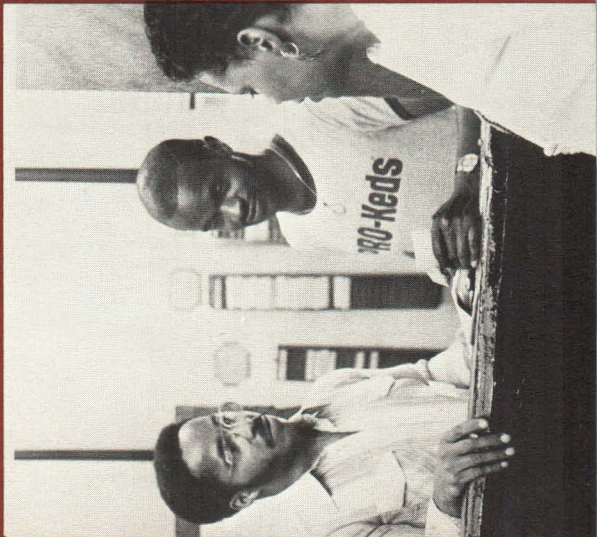
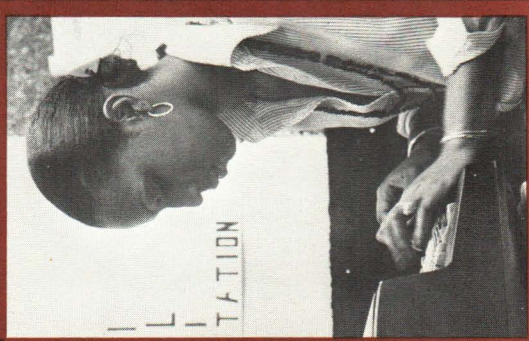
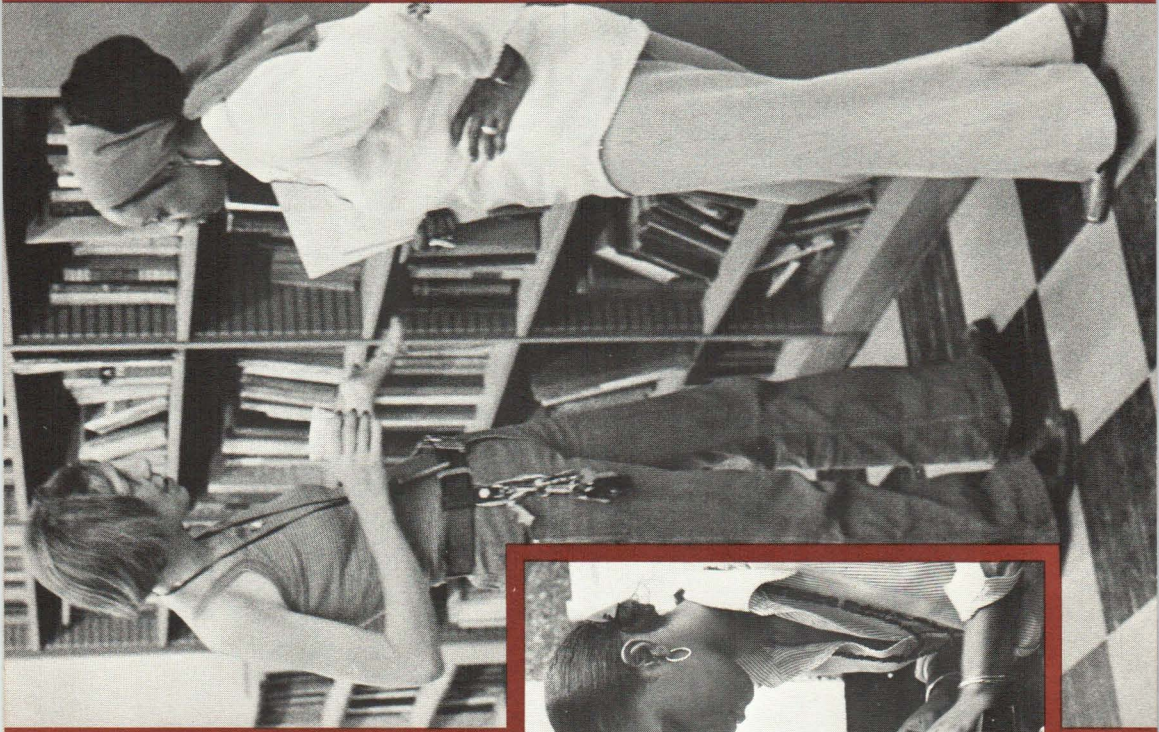
A MAJOR TREND

A gospel choir (Allen's ARC) was formed several years ago. Since its formation the choir has performed for hundreds of churches and community groups in and out of the Harlem community. Audiences have responded favorably to their fine and energetic voices, while choir members have been pleased and proud to present themselves in such a positive way.

ARC SAVES YOU AND SOCIETY DOLLARS

By helping 2,504 former drug addicts and *eliminating* the estimated cost of their drug use to society of \$1,460,463,915, and by enabling 239 residents to obtain gainful employment and earn \$1,075,500 in wages, ARC achieved a net savings to society of approximately one and one-half billion dollars.

In addition to the dollar amounts, the savings in human suffering, destroyed lives and the resulting deterioration of family life and other human and social savings cannot be computed.



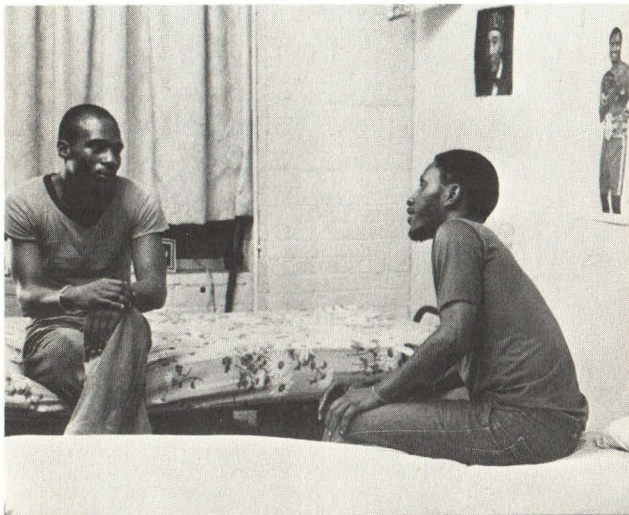
WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP ARC HELP GET PEOPLE TOGETHER

You now have a better idea of what the ARC program is all about and how it works. You also have a better idea of what the costs are in dollars and cents to all of you, your community and to society at large.

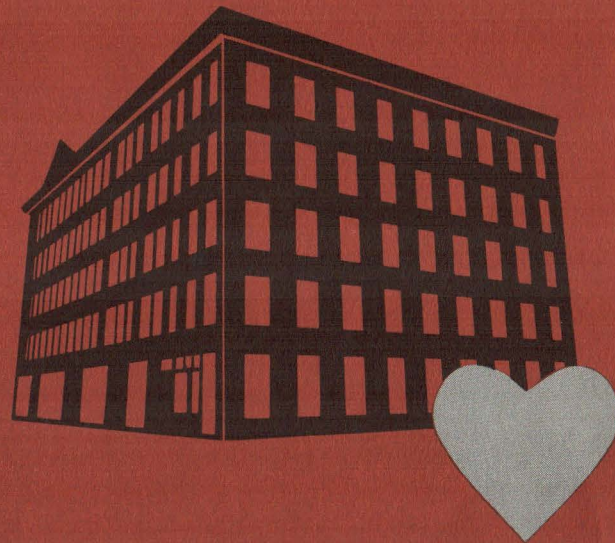
You probably also have an idea of what drug abuse does to families, communities and whole cities based upon first-hand experience or through friends or acquaintances.

The question is—now that you know, will you help ARC continue in its efforts to **HELP GET PEOPLE TOGETHER?**

If the answer is **YES**, will you send your tax deductible contribution to the Addicts Rehabilitation Center, 1881 Park Avenue, New York City 10035?



**ARC—
WHERE
A BUILDING
HAS A HEART**



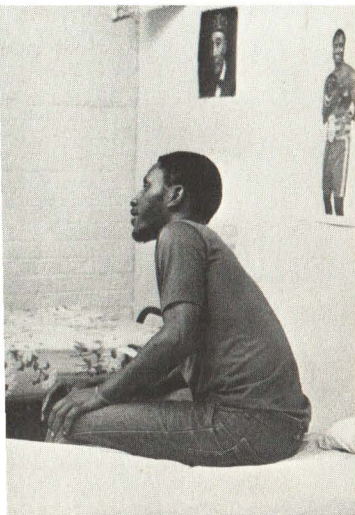
TO HELP ARC HELP GET

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will you send your tax deduct- Addicts Rehabilitation Center, York City 10035?



THE COST OF DRUG ABUSE

The drug addict generally supports himself or herself by theft. An active drug addict usually must steal approximately five times the amount spent on heroin in order to support himself or herself.

The following table is designed to help you understand the enormity of the drug problem and the dollars involved.

Annual street cost of heroin for 813 residents	\$ 9,351,300
Multiply by 9.8 years (= mean length of the residents' heroin use)	× 9.8
	<u>\$ 91,642,740</u>
Multiply by 5 to calculate the amount these addicts must steal to support their drug use	× 5
	<u>\$ 458,213,700</u>
Annual Street cost of heroin for 1,691 non-residents	\$ 19,651,965
Multiply by 10.2 years (= mean length of the non-residents' drug use)	× 10.2
	<u>\$200,450,043</u>
Multiply by 5 to calculate the amount these addicts must steal to support their drug use	× 5
	<u>\$1,002,250,215</u>
GRAND TOTAL COST TO SOCIETY of residents and non-residents if they had not been treated by ARC	\$1,460,463,915

Find my tax deductible contribution to the Addicts Rehabilitation Center in the amount of \$ _____.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ORGANIZATION/CHURCH _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

ADD MY NAME TO YOUR MAILING LIST
 YES NO

**Send Contribution to
 ARC • 1881 Park Ave. • N.Y., N.Y. 10035**



photographs by dick read / booklet prepared for ARC by national media center fdn.



The ARC singers are shown performing at Lincoln Center. Their sole purpose is to return something to The Addicts Rehabilitation Center.

ARC SINGERS Turning Around

GOSPEL singing ex-dope fiends?

That's the self-definition of an exciting, young, 26-voice, New York City Gospel choir. Known as Allen's ARC, they sing "God's truth" and have the added conviction which they explain as coming from truly experiencing God's love. James Allen, the Director of the ARC, a former addict himself explains: "We like to think of ourselves as those rocks where Christ said, 'If ye do not cry out to serve me, the very rocks will.' God has reached and grabbed us up—those of us who have been written off as being dead—and we stand as a challenge to The Church. The Church has a responsibility

to all people, including drug victims. The Church should never believe that any living human being is incurable."

These "being-cured" spiritual voices are united through music, now being heard throughout the country on TK Records' "live" concert LP which was recorded at Lincoln Center with The Dixie Hummingbirds and Inez Andrews. When I visited ARC to investigate the origin of this unique group, each member spoke of his/her own conviction for singing:

"I was a dope fiend for 25 years; I've been free for 6½." admits Harold Wright (called: Singing

Sonny Swift.) "Singing spirituals is my way of saying, 'Thank you, God.' Now you could say I'm gettin' high on life' high on God. I used to sing rock and roll and jazz, but I found the singing of spirituals to me is spiritually uplifting. It's a good feelin' in the mornin'—when I wake up it's a sunny day!"

"In my Gospel singing I'm trying to get my frustrations off—releasing all my tensions and frustrations so I don't have to take it out on somebody else. I work at the facility, and it's a hassle because while you're working you have to deal with your friends as if they're



The Center was founded 22 years ago, by James Allen, third left, who is shown in rehearsal with, left to right, Ellen Allen, Lee Cox, Robert Doxier, Felton Otto and Debara Murphy.

not your friends, and you get frustrated and aggravated. I try to deal with it until Friday. When Friday comes, that's when I just let it all out in my singing at rehearsal," states Melissa Davis.

"There's a song, *My Mother's Eyes*. I lost sight of my mother's eyes, but now since I've been singing Gospel, I can begin to see what my mother sees. I see it—and it scares me sometimes."

Herby Harris, a lawyer, and PR man for the Center, adds, "When the group performs, people listen to this group and get into their energy. Whatever your problems are, they seem minor at that time."

When churches hire the choir, they know that they are former dope users, and their reception as people is "tentative" at best. "People have all kinds of things in their minds as to what's going to happen. We've gone to places where ministers who have invited us have personally decided to be our valet and made sure that our coats were hung up, and that we got them when we were ready to leave, so

that no one steals our coats!" James Allen laughs. "Once my wife was sitting by a lady who was just carried away with the singing. She said the lady suddenly turned around to her and said, 'Them junkies sure can sing!!' We take it all in good spirit because we know God is with us. Most people have come back afterwards and really admitted what their true feelings were, and we really enjoy that."

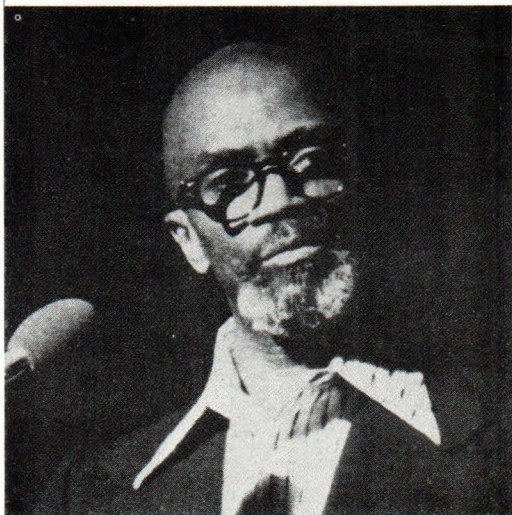
"Gospel gives me a chance to express my feelings—good or bad—in song. I just let it all out," says Perry Burns. "Like The O'Jays say, 'We Got a Message In Our Music.' I believe that the Gospel we sing applies to our life, like 'Jesus is the best thing that ever happened to me.' I don't believe that I would be here to sing it, if it weren't for some of the words that we sing through Gospel. Maybe we can give inspiration to other people; change their lives. I get a better high than from drugs."

"I was born with a voice," adds Eddie Bess, "but I get my most gratification out of the purpose be-

hind why we are singing."

This purpose is the singer's way to return something to The Center. Addicts Rehabilitation Center (ARC) was founded twenty-two years ago by James Allen. When The Center was given a large warehouse building for its facility (roughly 250 adults, some of whom have children, live there) the "gift" brought along a \$130,000 mortgage price tag. Although the rehabilitation program is New York State funded, there is no money for mortgage payments. The program does not receive welfare and no substitute drugs are used in detoxification. The goal is to make each person strong enough to return to society and live a full, healthy, useful and non-dependent life.

Fearing he would lose the building, James Allen prayed for guidance at his wife's suggestion. God answered by having addicts who could sing come to The Center for help. The first group formed consisted of seven singers. The ARC began performing at churches and using the proceeds for payment on



*Left,
James Allen,
founder.*

*Right,
James Gabriel
and
Eddie Bess
perform.*



the mortgage. They have so far raised \$30,000; record royalties will also be used for mortgage payments.

Members of the choir not only give the concert proceeds for the mortgage, but also give up lots of their free time to go to their weekly rehearsals each week end; however, as Veronica Percy sees it, the rewards are worth it. "I came back to the group because it is a good feeling to belong to a Gospel choir of people that come from a background where they were looked down upon. A lot of times the message that we give to other people is a message that they refuse to hear through words. The songs reach out—not only in expressing how we feel and inspiring us, but also, they show that God didn't forget us and that we have something to offer."

Beyond this satisfaction, members are especially pleased to be rid of the negative and violent feelings that drugs brought out in them. "I grew up in the church," Vicky Bray explains, "and it's funny when you stray away from things like that, you have a tendency to have a little bad luck. Now my luck has changed a little, it's gradual, but it's due to the choir and self-rehabilitation. Although the group is not affiliated with a church, it's Gospel music. It's the inspiration, like a hand reaching out and touching you, making you warm, and you get a good feeling from that."

The group is also unique in that they sing a capella, an indication of their musical caliber. Of course, the original Gospel music didn't have musical accompaniment, nor did the old Quartets. In the Quartets' hey-day, a Quartet singer was known as a special person, some-

one who sang serious music—music that moves people! This sound has all but been forgotten. In The ARC, however, singing is serious and fun, as the singers alternate with 4- and 8-bar solos.

"You get good true sounds in a capella singing," James Allen says. "Most of the time when you use instruments to sing you can hide faults behind the loudness of the instruments. I hate loud music—my personal opinion—so I think we can do it softly and it's sort of reminiscent of something that I used to do. At first, people are surprised, and organists and pianists will try and accompany us. But it's very difficult to play in keys like B-natural and E-natural! But the audience goes wild, and that's an experience for some of the singers because they have never experienced people shouting as a result of their music. This inspires the group to sing better. Sometimes, I'm surprised, as it even makes me jump around—and I'm an old man!"

The ARC is especially fortunate to have such a perceptive director as James Allen. He is a rare gem in today's self-focused world, and as he talks about his philosophy of life, it is obvious why his program and singers are successful.

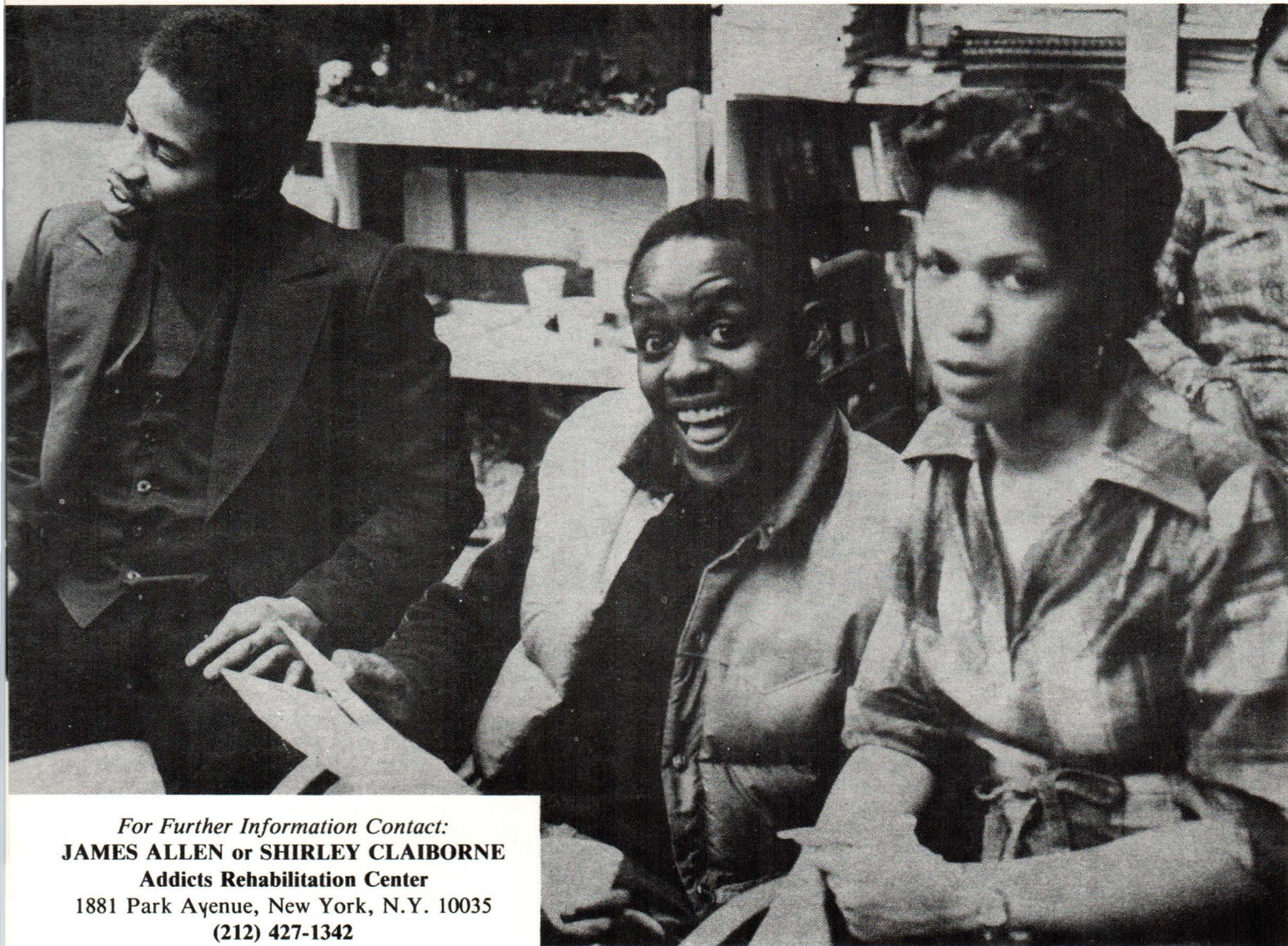
"I don't know whether I decided to help others or just happened to find myself helping others. I think that comes out of love. I think that when people learn to know God, that God also brings out that real inner feeling that a person has buried inside. We can't afford to let that feeling go out when we talk to people, 'cause people will hurt you if you go around feeling sorry for people. But once you know God, he brings out the real inner feel-

ing, so that you begin to love people in spite of whatever weaknesses and faults that they have. I think this is what caused me to be working with people. I began to see people as being different from the way that they were behaving. I began to believe that they would behave differently if someone would try to identify who they were and what they should be doing in life. I have found that a whole lot of drug victims only needed somebody to care, somebody to support them in finding themselves and identify what they should be doing in life. I believe you can't do things for people; you can only support them in doing what they want to do for themselves.

"If you go around doing things for people that they can do for themselves, they will hate you. They won't realize why they are hating you, but if you do things for people that they can do for themselves, they'll hate you. Maybe it's because there is no way that they can pay back that date. People don't like to owe people.

"It's too bad I didn't believe this all of my life, but I believe that a man can do anything in the world that he can conceive of in his mind—if he believes in God and asks his God to help him, and if what he has to do is not an infringement upon other people. That's my formula in life. I don't look at things as being impossible. I don't look at things that happen as being miracles."

Through Gospel music, The Allen ARC Singers are bringing a message that people have forgotten: people are turning around to The Lord at a time when things are bad. That's what this group is about—Turnin' around! ★



For Further Information Contact:
JAMES ALLEN or SHIRLEY CLAIBORNE
Addicts Rehabilitation Center
1881 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10035
(212) 427-1342



*Listening to
Mark Keil
explain new ideas
are, left to right,
Calvin Wright,
Vicky Bray and
Tiesha Briggs,
and below, Perry
Burns coaches a
young fan.*