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Mr. Albert T. Primo
Education Television Fund
182 Sound Beach Avenue
P.O. Box 116
Old Greenwich, CT 06870

Dear Mr. Primo:

I applaud your efforts to make available the images and messages from the Willow Brook story. This critical piece of history is instructive as a historical document and as a framework to understanding today's socially constructed realities. It is a highly relevant and powerful tool to be used as part of a quality educational experience.

One of the significant failures of public and private P – 12 education is the profound lack of student voice and representation. A decrease in student and institutional capacity is evident as educational structures increasingly rely on what the Brazilian educator Paulo Freire termed "The Banking Style" of education. The Education Television Fund can, with programs such as Willow Brook accompanied by critical thinking tools of analysis, be a beginning of reestablishing student voice, personal responsibility and life skills. Myles Horton, a civil rights educator, proclaimed that learning can only start from the perspective of the student. A video program that represents issues of the age from people of the age shifts both the power of learning and the motivation of learning. In order to expand on this admirable start, I encourage you to assure a diversity of issues and reporters. Students with disabilities have perspective and capacity that is available to educators. Their voices as analyzers of historic documents as represented in the Willow Brook series will do much to reverse the current failures of public and private education. Under your direction, I have distributed over 50 copies of the Willow Brook series. The increase interest speaks to the relevance of visual media and the timeliness of the issues. The series is a center piece in the teacher preparation courses I teach each semester.

Thank you again for your public service in creating this learning tool. I look forward to my children reporting to me what they learned from the efforts of the Education Television Fund.

Very Truly Yours,

Thomas J. Neuville

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