



Rural Mission, Inc. - SOUTH CAROLINA

The roots of the Rural Mission were to initiate a program whereby migrant children could be taken out of the fields in order to have their basic needs met. The board was continually trying to seek avenues to rescue these children from the unhealthy and unsanitary conditions of the fields. As a result of many meetings of various church and government leaders, a program called the South Carolina Commission for Farmworkers was charted and took the major responsibilities of child care to a new and encouraging level; however, all the needs of families were not being addressed. The need for Rural Mission's presence remained.

In 1980, the East Coast Migrant Head Start Project offered some major resources to implement a Migrant Head Start Program on the sea islands of Charleston County. A very powerful and most exciting marriage took place and by the harvest season of May, 1980, a child was born—the Rural Mission Migrant Head Start Project.

This project was begun with \$45,000 and twenty-five children from ages one-week to five-years old. Rural Missions certainly walked by faith and with much compassion from East Coast in the early years. This is our fourteenth year and walk-run is strengthened and empowered by every action taken cooperatively. Rural Missions acknowledges with grateful and since appreciation its most able leaders in the persons of Geraldine O'Brien and JoEllen Shannon as they continue to provide hope for all humankind, especially the Migrant Head Start families.

Today there are three locations on the sea islands, Rural Mission, St. James and Adams run which collectively care for one hundred ninety-four children serving the season.