BE AN ORGANIZER.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

The basic qualities that we look for in potential organizers are:

NATIVE INTELLIGENCE – NOT NECESSARILY DEGREES, BUT THE ABILITY TO THINK, REFLECT, COMMUNICATE, CHALLENGE THE CONVENTIONAL WISDOM, MAKE JUDGMENTS IN COMPLICATED SITUATIONS, AND SHOW FLEXIBILITY.

ANGER AND EDGE – NOT TEMPER, NOT IDEOLOGICAL FERVOR, NOT AN ABSTRACT COMMITMENT TO "THE PEOPLE," BUT A CLEAR SENSE OF WHAT'S WRONG, IMPATIENCE IN THE FACE OF THAT WRONG, AND A DRIVE TO ADDRESS IT.

A WILLINGNESS TO CROSS RACE AND CULTURE – TO BE WILLING TO WORK WITH PEOPLE UNLIKE ONESELF, PEOPLE OF OTHER RACES, CLASSES, ORIENTATIONS, FAITHS.

A TRACK RECORD – SOME EVIDENCE, IN HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE, THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, THE WORKPLACE OF ATTEMPTING TO RELATE TO PEOPLE AND TO RESPOND TO SITUATIONS THAT SEEMED TO DEMAND RESPONSES; AND SOME SUCCESS IN WHATEVER FIELD OR CAREER OR ENDEAVOR HAS OCCUPIED THE INDIVIDUAL’S TIME.

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

HERE ARE SOME POSSIBLE STEPS

1. SUMMER INTERNSHIPS: METRO IAF ALSO SPONSORS SUMMER INTERNSHIPS FOR AS MANY AS 3-4 INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS.
   - LOCATIONS: CHICAGO, BOSTON, NEW YORK CITY, BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA.
   - STIPEND: METRO IAF WILL PROVIDE A STIPEND TO THOSE PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE NOT SUPPORTED BY OTHER INSTITUTIONS (MANY COLLEGES AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS UNDERWRITE SUCH ACTIVITIES). PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE NO AFFILIATION WITH AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION, WHO ARE WORKING AND SUPPORTING FAMILIES, ARE VERY MUCH ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.

2. NINETY-DAY PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZER TRY-OUTS (YEAR-ROUND): METRO IAF OFFERS PAID, 90-DAY TRY-OUTS TO INTERESTED MEN AND WOMEN AT ONE OF ITS ORGANIZATIONS IN THE NORTHEAST, SOUTHEAST, AND MID-WEST ANY TIME OF THE YEAR. ORGANIZER CANDIDATES ARE ASSIGNED TO A SPONSORING METRO IAF ORGANIZATION, ARE GIVEN AN ORGANIZING ASSIGNMENT TO TEST THEIR CAPACITY, AND RECEIVE EXTENSIVE TRAINING AND SUPERVISION FROM A SENIOR METRO IAF ORGANIZER. THESE TRY-OUTS ARE OFFERED AFTER A PROCESS THAT INCLUDES:
   - AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BY AN INDIVIDUAL THAT WOULD INCLUDE A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION, A RESUME, AND SOME REFERENCES;
   - AN INDIVIDUAL MEETING, OR SERIES OF INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS, HELD WITH THE CANDIDATE;
   - THEN THE 90-DAY TRY-OUT ITSELF.

SUCCESSFUL TRYOUTS LEAD TO FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZER POSITIONS WITH AN IAF-EAST ORGANIZATION.