

# Hillcrest Home for Boys Directors Seek Financial Answer

Directors of Hillcrest Home for Boys voted to try a dual approach towards solving the financial problems.

Each state or federal agency placing boys at Hillcrest will be billed for a sum closer to the

actual cost of supporting the boys than is presently paid. The increased billing will start March 1, Dr. Jules Cohen, Hillcrest board president, said.

Establishment of a Hillcrest Century Club for 1969 was a-

greed upon as the second part of the financing effort. Each person or organization contributing at least \$100 annually to Hillcrest Home for Boys will be recognized with a suitable plaque.

An annual pledge for \$100 makes the donor eligible for the Century Club.

Decision to seek greater support from both state and local sources was made during the board meeting Thursday in the First United Methodist Church.

"What Hillcrest needs is a steady source of income to meet basic expenses," Dr. Cohen said. "It is not fair to expect Fairbanks businessmen to wait for payment of their bills. Nor is it right that Hillcrest staff and board members have to beg from individuals or organizations for enough money to support boys placed by the state, and sent to Fairbanks from all over the state."

At present Hillcrest receives \$184 each month for each boy placed by a state or federal agency. Actual costs of supporting that boy at Hillcrest is \$280 a month.

If Hillcrest is full and no other home care institution is available, the boy is placed in jail. When the public expresses outrage at putting in jail a boy who has committed no crime, the boy is sent to the lower 48 states. There his care costs Alaska \$400 to \$600 a month.

Starting March 1, agencies placing boys at Hillcrest will be billed \$220 a month per boy. This is the same sum now allotted by the agencies to a similar institution in Fairbanks. Hillcrest directors are considering an increase of the monthly rate to \$250 per boy starting July 1.

"Hillcrest still will not be getting the full cost of supporting these boys who need special guidance not possible in a foster home. However, increased state and federal support will give Hillcrest a more substantial financial base," Cohen said.

As some of the boys are from Fairbanks, Hillcrest directors felt the community will contribute, too. This is where the Hillcrest Century Club comes in, Cohen

said. A pledge of \$100 breaks down to less than \$9 a month. Contributions may be sent to Hillcrest, P.O. Box 915, Fairbanks.

First member of the Hillcrest Century Club for 1969 is an anonymous donor who stopped Mrs. Doris Southall, a board member, one day to hand her a crisp \$100 bill.

Forbes Baker and the Soroptimists, a woman's service organization, are next on the Hillcrest Century Club list.

While not in the Century Club Nerland Hall residents at the University of Alaska gave \$75 to the home. Last year, the university men contributed to an international orphanage program. This year they increased their donation and made it locally, Dave Roger, Nerland Hall president said.

At present there are 12 boys living in Hillcrest, plus a visitor "home" on vacation from the Job Corps. Malcom Potts, resident director, informed the board that he was pressed to find beds for all the boys.

Currently the boys are working on a float for the Winter Carnival parade. Men of the 5010th Security Police Squadron at Eielson Air Force Base have bought all the material and are working with the boys.

Last year the team of Hillcrest boys and Eielson men created prize winning floats for both the

Winter Carnival and Golden Days parades.

Such projects, Potts explained, help the boys to feel part of the community as well as offering a creative outlet for their energies.