The Erickson Educational Foundation

The Erickson Educational Foundation was established in 1964 in the United States of America to provide assistance and support in areas where human potential was limited by adverse physical, mental or social conditions, or where the scope of research was too new, controversial or imaginative to receive more traditionally oriented support.
An early activity of the Foundation was supporting the work of William Gutman, M.D., a leader in the field of homeopathic medicine, in research on an oral vaccine to counteract the effect of air pollution on the body. The vaccine was developed, but in the sixties there was no interest in Dr. Gutman's achievement. Dr. Gutman dedicated his latest book to Mr. Reed Erickson, founder and director of the Erickson Educational Foundation.

Long before the present interest in acupuncture was generated in the West, the Foundation assisted in the publication of the first modern, direct Chinese-to-English translation of an authoritative textbook on this now widely studied technique of the ancient healing art. Better ones are now available directly from the People's Republic of China.

The Foundation a decade and a half ago helped to establish the Foundation for Mind Research, underwriting its first studies of non-drug induced altered states of consciousness for problem solving and creativity.

In the area of spiritual studies, the Erickson Foundation funded the publication of A Course in Miracles, which has become internationally utilized in the field of re-orienting human perception and thought. The Foundation also translated into Spanish and published the inspirational book, The Infinite Way by Joel S. Goldsmith. Other studies of mystical states, religious experience and spiritual healing were studied and supported, as well as extensive research into alternative, unorthodox and native methods of healing in different parts of the world, as well as research in Eastern and Chinese sacred literature.

Support was also given to research in parapsychology and the exploration of dream content. In 1971 the Foundation funded an international conference on parapsychology in Moscow and also an international conference held in Monte Carlo in 1975 and assistance was given for the presentation of programs on parapsychology at other scientific meetings in various parts of the world.

The circular two-story public library was gifted to the City of Mazatlan by the Erickson Educational Foundation. It is located in Plaza Hidalgo and combines the under-housed American Library with the Municipal Library, formerly lodged in the City Hall, and is named Biblioteca Hidalgo by contract with the city government.

Responding to a specific need in Arizona, assistance was given to Project Baby Buggy, a delivery room on wheels, developed to aid in-home births and away-from-hospital births. In the same geographical area, the Erickson Educational Foundation helped to fund the Well Spring Pharmacy and the Life Guidance, Inc., which provide alternative curative remedies, offering freedom of choice to those who desire it.

The Foundation produced and distributed posters on anti-vivisection of helpless animals and child guidance for new mothers. For a period of time the latter poster was given to every family of a baby born in and around Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Assistance was given by the Foundation to various social agencies in the field of drug abuse.

Over a period of years, the Erickson Educational Foundation supported the research and publications of the historian, Vern Bullough Ph.D., in his comprehensive studies of sex in history.

A major concern of the Erickson Educational Foundation has been the problematic field of sex and gender orientation. The Foundation sponsored and supports the Los Angeles-based Institute for the Study of Human Resources, which conducts a continuing research, education (including a state qualified graduate school) and counseling program in the area of homosexuality. One outstanding achievement of the Institute has been the compilation and publication of a comprehensive, annotated biblio-
graphy on homosexuality.

Too long neglected by the scientific and helping professions, the problem of gender dysphoria (transsexualism) became a focal point for Foundation endeavors. It began with the establishment of the John Hopkins Gender Identity Clinic in 1965 and The Harry Benjamin Foundation. In further support of this work, the Foundation funded a wide program of research, publishing and distributing information. This included sponsorship of two major scientific medical texts on the subject. It also co-sponsored with the U.S. Government agencies research studies and publication in the field of medical psychology and surgery, as well as donating support to doctoral studies at various medical schools.

During the years of its work in the field of gender dysphoria, the Erickson Educational Foundation became a unique resource factor for individuals and professionals. Quarterly newsletters and pamphlets containing supportive guidelines and information were supplied to individuals and families needing help, as well as referral to a professional network for treatment. Specialized pamphlets were produced for the medical, legal, law enforcement, administrative and helping professions, as well as for the clergy. Hundreds of thousands of requests for information, cooperation or counselling were individually fulfilled.

Various qualifying and self-help groups were given supportive grants for a period of years. The Foundation presented educational programs at a large number of colleges, nursing and medical schools, as well as participating at scientific meetings here and abroad. A number of international scientific conferences on gender identity were sponsored by the Foundation in the United States and European countries, with worldwide representation. Finally the medical profession integrated the accumulated knowledge into its load.

The Erickson Educational Foundation has been called upon on many occasions to assist in critical legal situations, within and outside the United States, helping to achieve a satisfactory resolution of human problems.

The Erickson Educational Foundation is currently continuing to support various ongoing programs:

Project No. 1300: The Keys to the Kingdom
Project No. 1400: Interplast
Project No. 1500: Scholarship Programs