

Collection #
M 0715
BV 1971

EMERGENCY CLUB (INDIANAPOLIS, IND.) RECORDS, 1915–1997

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Processed by

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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 manuscript box; 1 bound volume; 2 folders of visual material
COLLECTION DATES:	1915–97
PROVENANCE:	Mrs. Richard T. Hill, 7328 Lions Head Drive, Indianapolis, IN

46260, 27 October 1997

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1998.0041

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Emergency Club was founded in 1898 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Its purpose was "to assist indigent mothers, by furnishing them layettes, and rendering such further assistance as seems advisable; also to assist in civic welfare work as occasion demands." Charter members included Mrs. Homer Price, Miss Jennie Rafert, Mrs. William Schomberg, Mrs. Thomas McDonald, Mrs. Sam Faber, and Mrs. Wallace Allison-Stanton.

By 1911, the club had a limited membership of twelve with dues of 25 cents. All sewing was done by hand, and the layettes were passed on from one meeting to another until they were completed. At this time, cases came from the Mother's Aid Society. Besides layettes, members often made donations of money, coal, bedding, and groceries to those families in need.

During World War I, members sewed or rolled bandages once a week. By the end of the war, membership had been increased to sixteen. A material cutting meeting was held each October, and some of the sewing was now done by machine.

The office of Social Worker was established and cases were obtained through the Welfare Society, the Public Health Nurses Association, and school nurses. Members delivered layettes directly to the mothers and reported upon the cases at the next meeting. A loan scholarship was established at the Central Business College (a branch of the Indiana Business College), and two loan scholarships were established at Butler University. Contributions were also made to charitable projects such as the Penny Ice Fund, Nutrition Camp, Flower and Fruit Mission, and the Public School Milk Fund.

The Emergency Club has continued their charity and scholarship work up to the present day.

Source: Material in the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of the records (1915–97) of the Emergency Club, a charitable organization located in Indianapolis. Early minutes (October 1915 to May 1935) are contained in two bound minute books. The material in folders 3–12 was formerly contained in two binders; the first contained records from October 1925 to May 1942, and the second from October 1942 to June 1949. The records for these years contain minutes, treasurer reports, and roll

calls.

Folders 13–21 contain records from a third binder, which was divided into seven sections with a table of contents (located in the front of folder 13). The material includes the club's constitution and by-laws, an early club history, photographs, correspondence (mostly thank-you letters), and information regarding the Visiting Nurses Association of Indianapolis (See also: M 0071, Flower Mission Records, and M 0675, Mary Black Collection) and Stopover, Inc., a shelter for runaway teenagers. Loose material found in the binder includes newspaper clippings, presidents' reports, a list of layette material, an Emergency Club yearbook, and an Indiana Business College Bulletin.

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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://157.91.92.2/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0715).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.