

Collection #
M 1446
OM 0724
DVD 1875–1876

**HARRIET MILLER AND MONICA WEHRLE
COLLECTION, CA. 1970–2012**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 14 manuscript boxes, 1 half size manuscript box, 9 oversize manuscript folders, 1 half size box cold storage photographs, 1 envelope 35mm acetate negatives, 2 DVDs

COLLECTION DATES: ca. 1970–2012

PROVENANCE: Harriet Miller and Monica Wehrle, Fort Wayne, IN; October 2011, June 2012

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RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2011.0269, 2012.0140

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Harriet Sweedler Miller attended Goucher College, a women's school in Maryland. She earned her B.A. from Goucher in 1958. From 1959 to 1974, Miller worked on and off as a public-school teacher in Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana. She moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana with her husband and children in 1971.

In 1973, Miller became one of the first eight women chosen to serve on the 15-member Indiana Commission on the Status of Women. Each member directed a committee with an individual 20-member advisory board. Miller was in charge of public relations and the speaker's bureau. From 1974 to 1975, Miller served as director of the Weed Control program in Fort Wayne. In 1975, she became one of the founders and first executive director of the Fort Wayne Women's Bureau. Miller continued to serve as executive director of the bureau from 1976 to 1993.

During her tenure at the women's bureau, Miller helped create the annual female athletics competition run, jane, run. She later co-founded and co-directed a national organization which grew from the competition, called run, jane, run, Inc.

In 1994, Miller received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne. That same year, Miller co-founded Harmony Associates with Monica Wehrle, a consulting firm which assisted agencies in need of strategic planning, fundraising, and organization assistance. In 1995, Miller joined Aon Consulting, a pre-employment screening firm, where she worked directly with applicants at job testing sites.

Monica Wehrle, formerly Monica Pugh, began working at the Fort Wayne Women's Bureau in 1977. She served as associate director alongside Harriet Miller. In her time at the bureau, Wehrle helped create the event run, jane, run. She suggested that the original Fort Wayne Daisies, a baseball team in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, hold an exhibition game to close the first run, jane, run competition. The team's reunion was so successful that it became a staple of the event and helped inspire "A League of Their Own."

In 1994, Wehrle co-founded the consulting firm Harmony Associates with Harriet Miller. In 1996, Harmony Associates was engaged to help with the evaluation of a community-based domestic violence project in Allen County, Indiana. As a partner in the consulting firm, Wehrle worked as a field coordinator assisting University Research Associates and the **Allen County Domestic Violence Focus Group** in this project. In addition to evaluating domestic violence services in Allen County, the project also sought guidance on how existing and new services could be coordinated to address domestic violence in the community.

The **Fort Wayne Women's Bureau** (FWWB) was originally created as a city agency in 1975. In 1976, the bureau left the city government and was re-established as an independent, not-for-profit agency. Their mission was "to promote equity and opportunity for women and their families. From 1977, the bureau received funding from government,

foundations, and public support. Over the years, the FWWB provided programs which included job retraining, leadership training, support groups, help with addiction recovery, rape crisis counseling, business development, and civil rights advocacy.

In 1981, the FWWB created run, jane, run, a competitive multi-sport event for amateur adult female athletes. It also served as a way for the bureau to raise money and become more self-sufficient. Initially, the event only included three sports: softball, running, and volleyball. A separate not-for-profit corporation, called **run, jane, run, Inc**, was formed in 1984. By 1989, the event had expanded to include fifteen sports over 10 days and, by 1991, the organization had local affiliates in six other cities.

In 1994, run, jane, run, Inc had insufficient funding to continue operating a national office. Instead, agreements were made between the organization and the local affiliates allowing them to continue conducting the run, jane, run event independently. Run, jane, run, Inc was dissolved in November 2000.

Sources:

Materials in the collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains materials related to the activities of Harriet Miller and Monica Wehrle. Both women were involved with women's organizations in Fort Wayne, Indiana and the women's movement. The records are arranged alphabetically within each series.

Series 1: Allen County Domestic Violence Research Project

This series contains items related to the 1996 Allen County Domestic Violence Research Project. Materials include questionnaires and surveys, agency data, correspondence, planning and funding materials, reports, agreements, invoices, meeting minutes and notices, proposals, resources, and site visit materials.

Series 2: Fort Wayne Women's Bureau

Items in this series are records of the Fort Wayne Women's Bureau, including reports, newsletters, resource booklets and informational pamphlets, event programs, correspondence, workshop materials, inter-agency agreements, news clippings, and policy and training materials.

Series 3: run, jane, run, Inc.

This series contains the records of run, jane, run, Inc, including affiliate contracts, administrative records, reports, articles of incorporation, Board of Directors meeting minutes, correspondence, dissolution records, event programs, financial records, merchandise records, news clippings, notes, informational pamphlets, and Women in Sports week materials. Also included are records of affiliates in the following cities: Oakland, PA, Muskegon, MI, Grand Rapids, MI, South Bend, IN, and Fort Wayne, IN.

Series 4: Miscellaneous

This series contains items related to Miller and Wehrle's activities within the Fort Wayne and national community outside of the women's bureau, run, jane, run, Inc., and the Allen County Domestic Violence Research Project. Materials include educational booklets and resources, program proposals, materials from various conferences and conventions, All American Girls Professional Baseball League materials, newsletters and articles, workshop materials, awards materials, Fort Wayne Weed Program records, Miller's correspondence, records related to the Indiana Commission on the Status of Women, and Wider Opportunities for Women, Inc. materials.

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