

Collection #
M 1228
OMB 0016

**PLEASANT RUN CHILDREN'S HOME, INDIANAPOLIS,
INDIANA RECORDS ADDITION, 1974–2001**

[Collection Information](#)

[Historical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Series Contents](#)

Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 16 manuscript boxes, 1 half manuscript box, 1 OMB folder, 2 artifacts, 1 large framed item

COLLECTION DATES: 1974–2001

PROVENANCE: Pleasant Run Children's Home, 1835 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis IN 46202, April 2001

RESTRICTIONS: Box 1, Folder 5 closed until the year 2077
Box 14, Folder 9 closed until the year 2067

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: Pleasant Run Children's Home Records, M0227

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2001.0443

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Pleasant Run Children's Home got its start in the later 1860s as one of several attempts to help children orphaned by the Civil War. A German fraternal society in Indianapolis, inspired by a similar group in Cincinnati, founded a home for orphans in 1867 under the name Deutschen Allgemeinen Protestantischen Waisenvereins (German General Protestant Orphan Association). In 1871 the association opened a permanent home for the orphanage on State Street near Pleasant Run; it was used for over a century, and is still standing. The building usually accommodated about fifty children. In 1918 the association changed its official language from German to English, and its name to the General Protestant Orphan Association.

Between 1918 and 1971 the focus of the association altered, so that by the 1960s the home was serving as a treatment center for neglected and pre-delinquent children, mainly wards of the court, most of whom stayed at the home for only a few years. To reflect the change in emphasis, the association changed its name in 1971 to the Pleasant Run Children's Home. There was a sizeable fire in the building in 1979.

Changes in circumstances and philosophy brought further modifications to the organization in the 1980s. Group homes housing from five to ten boys or girls were developed in different parts of the city, sometimes with considerable resistance from local residents. This group-home phase began in 1981-1982, with homes on Cooper Road and High School Road. Meanwhile the original building on State Street was turned over to the Koala Hospital. In 1989 the Home launched a \$1.2 million capital campaign aimed at doubling the number of children served (from 28 to 63).

On January 23, 1992, Pleasant Run Children's Home incorporated and became Pleasant Run Inc. In 1993 its headquarters were at 1835 North Meridian Street. It operated five group homes located at different points on the city's periphery. Residents were from six to eighteen years of age. Most were wards of the court for various reasons including parental abuse and lack of control. The Home got its funding mainly from the city welfare department, augmented by grants from United Way and by fund-raising efforts. The Home's program had several facets. Younger children were prepared either for reunification with their families or for foster care. Older residents were taught living and work skills in preparation for independent living; many accumulated some savings with which to fund their emerging independence. There was considerable emphasis on counseling-- of residents, of parents, of children under foster care, of recent graduates, and of home-based cases.

In 1996 Pleasant Run Children's Home moved to a complex at 2400 Tibbs Avenue, but closed in February 2001 due to financial difficulties. The Salvation Army's Harbor Light Center moved into the vacant complex in late 2001.

Sources:

Collection guide for Pleasant Run Children's Home (M0227)

Collection material

Indianapolis Star, February 10, page 1

Indianapolis Star, February 13, page 11

The Salvation Army Harbor Light,

<http://corps.salvationarmyindiana.org/harborlight/history/>

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection represents an addition to the original Pleasant Run Children's Home manuscript collection (M0227). It primarily consists of board and committee meeting minutes, correspondence, and related material.

Some folder contents are in reverse chronological order, as this is how they were kept by the organization.

In the "Boards" series, it is unclear if "Operating Board" and "Board of Directors" are interchangeable terms; however, the "Foundation Board" is a separate entity from either of these.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Administration

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Correspondence, 1989–1994	Box 1, Folder 1
Executive Director Correspondence, 1992–1996	Box 1, Folder 2
Forms, 1974–1976	Box 1, Folder 3
Framed list of officers, 1867–1917 (“Beamte des deutschen Algem. Prot. WaisenVereins, Indianapolis, Ind., 1867 bis 1917”)	Hanging Storage, Aisle 14B
Handheld bell	Artifact, 2001.0443
Health Security Act of 1994	Box 1, Folder 4
Operations Director Correspondence, 1992–1995	Box 1, Folder 5
Past Resident File [RESTRICTED until 2077]	Box 1, Folder 6
"Pleasant Run Children's Home" by Ray Enmeier, 1980 (Inscribed: “Remembering Bucky S. Poppleton, February 12, 1997, Lisa Poppleton Memorial Award Luncheon”)	Box 1, Folder 7
Policies and Motions	Box 1, Folder 8
Program Statistics, 1994–1997	Box 1, Folder 9
Stamp embossing press for G.P.O.A., Indianapolis, Ind.	Artifact, 2001.0443
Starr Commonwealth Schools Material, 1987–1990	Box1, Folder 10

Series 2: Boards

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Board of Directors, 1998–2000 (1 of 2)	Box 1, Folder 11
Board of Directors, 1998–2000 (2 of 2)	Box 2, Folder 1
Board of Directors - Annual Report, 1985	Box 2, Folder 2
Board of Directors - Annual Report, 1987	Box 2, Folder 3

Board of Directors - Annual Report, 1988	Box 2, Folder 4
Board of Directors - Annual Report, 1989	Box 2, Folder 5
Board of Directors - Annual Report, 1990	Box 2, Folder 6
Board of Directors - Annual Report, 1991	Box 2, Folder 7
Board of Directors - Annual Report, 1992	Box 2, Folder 8
Board of Directors - Annual Report, 1993	Box 2, Folder 9
Board of Directors - Annual Report, 1994	Box 2, Folder 10
Board of Directors - Annual Report, 1995	Box 2, Folder 11
Board of Directors - Annual Report, 1996	Box 2, Folder 12
Board of Directors - Annual Report, 1997	Box 2, Folder 13
Board of Directors - Annual Report, 1998	Box 2, Folder 14
Board of Directors - Annual Report, 2000	Box 2, Folder 15
Board of Directors - Board Survey, 1990–1991	Box 3, Folder 1
Board of Directors - Board Survey for Staff Members, 1993	Box 3, Folder 2
Board of Directors - Committee Assignments and Volunteer Consultants, 1994–1997	Box 3, Folder 3
Board of Directors - Committee Preference, 1989	Box 3, Folder 4
Board of Directors - Committee Preference, 1995	Box 3, Folder 5
Board of Directors - Correspondence and Reference Material, 1991–1996	Box 3, Folder 6
Board of Directors - Development, 1984–1989	Box 3, Folder 7
Board of Directors - Development, 1990–1992	Box 3, Folder 8
Board of Directors - Development Workshop Series, 1999–2000 - Attendant Lists	Box 3, Folder 9
Board of Directors - Development Workshop Series, 1999–2000 - Boards Lists	Box 3, Folder 10

Board of Directors - Development Workshop Series, 1999–2000 - Brochure, 3 June 1999	Box 3, Folder 11
Board of Directors - Development Workshop Series, 1999–2000 - Carolyn Bailey	Box 3, Folder 12
Board of Directors - Development Workshop Series, 1999–2000 - Caterer (Hoaglin-Marrott)	Box 3, Folder 13
Board of Directors - Development Workshop Series, 1999–2000 - Dr. David Richart	Box 3, Folder 14
Board of Directors - Development Workshop Series, 1999–2000 - Expenses	Box 3, Folder 15
Board of Directors - Development Workshop Series, 1999–2000 - Miscellaneous	Box 4, Folder 1
Board of Directors - Development Workshop Series, 1999–2000 - Pathway Family Center	Box 4, Folder 2
Board of Directors - Development Workshop Series, 1999–2000 - Registration, 1999	Box 4, Folder 3
Board of Directors - Development Workshop Series, 1999–2000 - Survey Results and Attendance	Box 4, Folder 4
Board of Directors - Development Workshop Series, 1999–2000 - Workshop, 14 Sept. 1999	Box 4, Folder 5
Board of Directors - Development Workshop Series, 1999–2000 - Workshop, 2000	Box 4, Folder 6
Board of Directors - John Carver Materials [The Carver Guide Series on Effective Board Governance]	Box 4, Folder 7
Board of Directors - Letters, 1997	Box 4, Folder 8
Board of Directors - Meeting Motions, 1983–1997 (1 of 2)	Box 4, Folder 9
Board of Directors - Meeting Motions, 1983–1997 (2 of 2)	Box 4, Folder 10
Board of Directors - Meeting Reports and Agendas, 1990	Box 4, Folder 11
Board of Directors - Meeting Reports and Agendas, 1991	Box 5, Folder 1

Board of Directors - Minutes, 1988	Box 5, Folder 2
Board of Directors - Minutes, 1989	Box 5, Folder 3
Board of Directors - Minutes, 1990	Box 5, Folder 4
Board of Directors - Minutes, 1991	Box 5, Folder 5
Board of Directors - Minutes, 1992	Box 5, Folder 6
Board of Directors - Minutes, 1993	Box 5, Folder 7
Board of Directors - Minutes, 1994	Box 5, Folder 8
Board of Directors - Minutes, 1995	Box 5, Folder 9
Board of Directors - Minutes, 1996	Box 5, Folder 10
Board of Directors - Minutes, 1997	Box 5, Folder 11
Board of Directors - Minutes, 1999 (1 of 2)	Box 5, Folder 12
Board of Directors - Minutes, 1999 (2 of 2)	Box 6, Folder 1
Board of Directors - Monthly Mailings, 1995	Box 6, Folder 2
Board of Directors - Packet Material, 1990–1991 (1 of 2)	Box 6, Folder 3
Board of Directors - Packet Material, 1990–1991 (2 of 2)	Box 6, Folder 4
Board of Directors - Packet Material, 1992 (1 of 2)	Box 6, Folder 5
Board of Directors - Packet Material, 1992 (2 of 2)	Box 6, Folder 6
Board of Directors - Packet Material, 1993	Box 6, Folder 7
Board of Directors - Packet Material, 1994	Box 7, Folder 1
Board of Directors - Packet Material, 1995	Box 7, Folder 2
Board of Directors - Packet Material, Feb. 1997	Box 7, Folder 3
Board of Directors - Packet Material, Mar. 1997	Box 7, Folder 4
Board of Directors - Packet Material, Apr. 1997	Box 7, Folder 5
Board of Directors - Packet Material, May 1997	Box 7, Folder 6
Board of Directors - Packet Material, June–July 1997	Box 7, Folder 7

Board of Directors - Packet Material, Aug. 1997	Box 7, Folder 8
Board of Directors - Packet Material, Sept.–Oct. 1997	Box 7, Folder 9
Board of Directors Retreat, Oct. 1992	Box 7, Folder 10
Board of Directors Social, Dec. 1992	Box 8, Folder 1
Board of Directors and Volunteer Consultant Retreat, July 1992	Box 8, Folder 2
Foundation Board, 1992–1993	Box 8, Folder 3
Foundation Board, 1993	Box 8, Folder 4
Foundation Board, 1994–1996	Box 8, Folder 5
Foundation Board, 1997	Box 8, Folder 6
Foundation Board, 1999	Box 8, Folder 7
Foundation Board - Articles of Incorporation, 1991–1996	Box 8, Folder 8
Operating Board, 1998–2000	Box 8, Folder 9
Operating Board - Board Survey, 1994	Box 8, Folder 10
Operating Board - Board Survey, 1996	Box 8, Folder 11
PRCH Insider Newsletter, 1992–1993	Box 9, Folder 1
PRCH Insider Newsletter, 1995	Box 9, Folder 2; OMB 0016, Box 1, Folder 22
PRCH Insider Newsletter, 1996	Box 9, Folder 3
Wiersma Event Marketing, 1994–1995	Box 9, Folder 4

Series 3: Committees

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Action Plans and Committee Charges, 1994–1996	Box 9, Folder 5
Advocacy Committee, 1995–1996	Box 9, Folder 6
Advocacy Committee, 1997	Box 9, Folder 7

AIDS Task Force Committee, 1986–1988	Box 9, Folder 8
Auction Committee, 1995–1996	Box 9, Folder 9
Board Development Committee, 1989–1993	Box 9, Folder 10
Board Development Committee, 1995–1999	Box 9, Folder 11
Board Governance Committee, 1996–1997 (1 of 3)	Box 9, Folder 12
Board Governance Committee, 1996–1997 (2 of 3)	Box 10, Folder 1
Board Governance Committee, 1996–1997 (3 of 3)	Box 10, Folder 2
Board Governance Committee, 1998–2000	Box 10, Folder 3
Board Governance Committee - Bailey Associates, 1997	Box 10, Folder 4
Board Governance Committee - Trustee Leadership Development, 1997	Box 10, Folder 5
Building and Grounds Committee, 1981–1992	Box 10, Folder 6
Bylaw Changes, 1992–1994 (1 of 2)	Box 10, Folder 7
Bylaw Changes, 1992–1994 (2 of 2)	Box 10, Folder 8
Committee Attendance and Hours, 1989–1990	Box 10, Folder 9
Committee Charges for Strategic Plan, 1992	Box 10, Folder 10
December Committee Meetings (Mailed), 1997	Box 11, Folder 1
Diversity Committee, 2000–2001	Box 11, Folder 2
Donor Development Committee and Planned Giving Committee, 2000	Box 11, Folder 3
Executive Committee, 1986–1991	Box 11, Folder 4
Executive Committee, 1992	Box 11, Folder 5
Executive Committee, 1993–1994	Box 11, Folder 6
Executive Committee, 1995	Box 11, Folder 7
Executive Committee, 1996	Box 11, Folder 8

Executive Committee, 1997–1999	Box 11, Folder 9
External Developments and Advocacy Committee, 1998	Box 11, Folder 10
External Developments and Advocacy Committee, 1999	Box 12, Folder 1
External Developments and Advocacy Committee, 2000	Box 12, Folder 2
External Developments and Advocacy Committee - Legislation, 1999	Box 12, Folder 3
External Developments and Advocacy Committee – Miscellaneous, 1998–1999	Box 12, Folder 4
Facilities Committee, 1990–1993	Box 12, Folder 5
Facilities Committee, 1995–1996	Box 12, Folder 6
Facilities Committee, 1997	Box 12, Folder 7
Finance Committee, 1984–1990	Box 12, Folder 8
Finance Committee, 1991–1992	Box 12, Folder 9
Finance Committee, 1993–1995	Box 12, Folder 10
Finance Committee, 1996	Box 12, Folder 11
Finance Committee, 1997	Box 12, Folder 12
Financial Security Accounting, 1992–1993	Box 12, Folder 13
Financial Security Task Force, 1990	Box 12, Folder 14
Grants Committee, 1992	Box 13, Folder 1
HCI/PRI Meetings, 1997	Box 13, Folder 2
Long Range Planning Committee, 1985–1991	Box 13, Folder 3
Management Information Systems Committee, 1992–1996	Box 13, Folder 4
Marketing Committee, 1992–1996	Box 13, Folder 5
Nominating Committee, 1992	Box 13, Folder 6
Personnel Committee, 1985–1988	Box 13, Folder 7

Personnel Committee, 1989	Box 13, Folder 8
Personnel Committee, 1990	Box 13, Folder 9
Personnel Committee, 1991–1993	Box 14, Folder 1
Program Cluster Committee, 1989	Box 14, Folder 2
Program Cluster Committee, 1990–1993	Box 14, Folder 3
Program Cluster Committee, 1995	Box 14, Folder 4; OMB 0016, Box 1, Folder 22
Program Cluster Committee and Research and Development Committee, 1992–1994	Box 14, Folder 5
Program Evaluation Committee, 1992–1993	Box 14, Folder 6
Program Evaluation Committee, 1995–1996	Box 14, Folder 7
Program Evaluation Committee, 1997	Box 14, Folder 8
Program Evaluation Committee - Referral Scoring, 1991 [RESTRICTED until 2067]	Box 14, Folder9
Program Planning and Evaluation Material, 1988–1992 (1 of 2)	Box 14, Folder 10
Program Planning and Evaluation Material, 1988–1992 (2 of 2)	Box 15, Folder 1
Public Relations Marketing Committee, 1995	Box 15, Folder 2
Public Support Cluster, 1995–1996	Box 15, Folder 3
Public Support Committee, 1991	Box 15, Folder 4
Public Support Committee and Planned Giving Committee, 1989–1991	Box 15, Folder 5
Referral Marketing Committee, 1995	Box 15, Folder 6
Research and Development Committee, 1993–1994	Box 15, Folder7
Research, Development, and Grants Committee, 1995–1996	Box 15, Folder 8
Risk Monitoring, 1998	Box 15, Folder 9

Schedules and Action Plans, 1992	Box 15, Folder 10
Special Events Committee, 1992–1993	Box 15, Folder 11
Special Events Committee, 1995–1996	Box 15, Folder 12
Special Events Committee - Great Indianapolis Duck Race, 1997–1998	Box 15, Folder 13
Staff Committee, 1986–1993	Box 15, Folder 14
Staff Development Committee, 1989–1991	Box 15, Folder 15
Staff Development Committee, 1992	Box 16, Folder 1
Staff Development Committee, 1993	Box 16, Folder 2
Staff Development Committee, 1997	Box 16, Folder 3
Strategic Steering Committee, 1991–1992 (1 of 2)	Box 16, Folder 4
Strategic Steering Committee, 1991–1992 (2 of 2)	Box 16, Folder 5
Strategic Plan, 1991–1996	Box 16, Folder 6; OMB 0016, Box 1, Folder 22
United Way Evaluation Committee, 1986–1990	Box 16, Folder 7
United Way Executive Steering Committee, 1989–1991	Box 16, Folder 8
United Way Program Evaluation Subcommittee, 1991	Box 17, Folder 1; OMB 0016, Box 1, Folder 22
United Way Task Force Committee, 1986–1989	Box 17, Folder 2
Utilization Review Subcommittee, 1993	Box 17, Folder 3
Volunteer Committee, 1995–1997	Box 17, Folder 4
Volunteer Consultants, 1997	Box 17, Folder 5