

**Collection #**  
**M 1330**

## **ROTARY CLUB OF INDIANAPOLIS RECORDS ADDITION, CA. 1980-1991**

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Processed by

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

<b>VOLUME OF COLLECTION:</b>	3 manuscript boxes, 1 cold storage photograph folder.
<b>COLLECTION DATES:</b>	1982-1991
<b>PROVENANCE:</b>	Todd R. Lugar, Indianapolis, Indiana, 2004.
<b>RESTRICTIONS:</b>	Items listed as being in cold storage need at least four hours to acclimate, so patrons are advised to call ahead of their visit if they wish to view those items to allow for thawing time.
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<b>ALTERNATE FORMATS:</b>	
<b>RELATED HOLDINGS:</b>	<p>Rotary Club of Indianapolis Records, 1913-1998, M0760, BV3378-3421, OMB 0087.</p> <p>Geelhoed, Bruce. The Rotary Club of Indianapolis, 1913–1998: A Club, a Community, and a Century. Carmel: Guild Press, 2000. HF5001 .G43 2000</p> <p>McDowell, John R. From Flood to Fire: the History of the Indianapolis Rotary Club, 1913–1969. Indianapolis: Indianapolis Rotary Club, 1969. HF5001 .M22 1969</p>
<b>ACCESSION NUMBER:</b>	2004.0349
<b>NOTES:</b>	

## **HISTORICAL SKETCH**

The Rotary Club of Indianapolis was founded on 17 February 1913. Founded on the principles of Paul Harris's Rotary Club in Chicago, clubs were initially created to form a community of the most prominent businessmen. The first meetings in Chicago rotated between the members' place of business, hence the name "Rotary." The Rotary Club of Indianapolis was the 58th club chartered. The Indianapolis club's first home was in the Claypool Hotel. Tuesday meetings at noon became the custom, with different speakers each week. Weekly luncheons, social outings, and sports, were and still are a key component in the recreational activities of the Rotary Club.

With the beginning of the First World War, the club changed its focus to community service. Today their motto is "Service Above Self." During the war the club maintained a place for the soldiers to relax. In the 1920s it supplied needy children with toys and musical instruments, and as the Depression came, offered clothes and food. One of the most famous members was the poet James Whitcomb Riley. The club raised money to build the Riley Convalescent Home for Children in his memory. The Riley Convalescent Center was completed in the 1930s. In the 1940s the club started programs to council youth on future career paths, and worked with Purdue University to sponsor 4-H leadership workshops. During World War II the club operated career centers to help returning soldiers with career centers. In 1946 Clarabelle Holycross donated \$25,000 in memory of her late husband to "aid the physically, mentally, and materially handicapped residents of Marion County."

The donation was the financial basis for the Rotary Foundation of Indianapolis. The Rotary Foundation is a separate organization, but run by members of the Rotary Club. The Foundation has its own board of directors and president. The philanthropic group awards grants throughout Marion County.

In the 1950s the Rotary Club helped the Southwest Social Center construct a new building, and also became a partner in Junior Achievement. During the 1960s the club sent educational aid to schools in El Salvador and helped the funding for the Junior Achievement headquarters. On 23 June 1967 the Claypool Hotel burned. It was later demolished and club headquarters moved to the Indianapolis Athletic Club. In the 1970s the club began its association with the Central Indiana Regional Blood Center. The 1980s brought new changes. The club allowed its first female members in 1987. In the 1990s Indiana Rotary Clubs joined together to win a bid to host the annual convention. In 1998, Indianapolis was home for the Rotary International Annual Convention.

Club officials are chosen by election. Elections are held each year for the offices of president, 1st vice-president, 2nd vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and sergeant at arms. Officers meet with the directors at the monthly Board of Directors meetings. The directors are also elected. Among the paid staff of Rotary are an executive director and office secretary. The executive director position had the original title of assistant secretary, which was later changed to executive secretary, and finally to executive director. The large committees that meet are the Board of Directors and Membership and Classification Committee. Other committees meet individually, and send reports to the board of directors.

These committees include Attendance, Beautification, Membership and Classification, Officer Nominating, New Members Information, Sergeant at Arms, and others.

Even with community service a key part of Rotary, the social aspects of the club are also important. Tuesday meetings are the main gathering of the club. Attendance is determined through Tuesday meetings. Attendance can be maintained by going to other cities' Rotary Club meetings. Each week a different speaker addresses the club followed with a luncheon. The club's newsletter Link keeps members up to date, and includes the week's Tuesday guest speaker. There are numerous programs, committees, and sports in which to participate. Bowling, softball, and plays have long been a part of the Rotary tradition.

#### Sources:

Caldwell, Betsy, Tranfield, Pamela, and Walker, Teresa. "Collection Guide for Rotary Club of Indianapolis Records, 1913-1988. M0760, Indiana Historical Society.

Geelhoed, E. Bruce. The Rotary Club of Indianapolis: a Club, a Community, and a Century, 1913–1998. Carmel, Ind.: Guild Press of Indiana, 2000. HF5001 .G43 2000

McDowell, John. From Flood to Fire: The History of the Indianapolis Rotary Club, 1913–1969. Indianapolis: Indianapolis Rotary Club, 1969. HF5001 .M22 1969

Materials found in the collection.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collections contains financial records from the Rotary Club of Indianapolis that includes asset reports (1954, 1964, 1971,1973), check deposit slips (December 1990-April 1991), and grant funding correspondence (1986-1988). This collection also contains materials from the Central State Youth Exchange program. The Central State Youth Exchange materials include blank applications, host family brochures, posters, student applications, letters from youth exchange students, and miscellaneous international correspondence related to the Youth Exchange Program from 1982-1986.

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Rotary Youth Exchange District 656 Correspondence with Daniel Everts, 1980-1985.

Rotary Club of Indianapolis Youth Exchange correspondence, 1980s.

Rotary International correspondence with Dan Everts of Rotary Club of Indianapolis, 1982.

Rotary Youth Exchange Program Information for Host Families, 1984.

Grand Rapids Summer Conference Rotary Report, July 1983

Rotary International District 656 Directory and materials, 1981-1983.

Central State Rotary Club of Indianapolis, Youth Exchange Program applications, 1982-1985.

Letters of Interest to Rotary Club of Indianapolis Youth Exchange Program, 1982-1986.

Indianapolis Short-Term Exchange Hosting Families applications, 1983.

Central Youth Exchange Program brochures and materials, 1983-1984.

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