

Young Woman's Home Association Collection

Papers, 1877-2003

**3 linear feet
2 storage boxes, 1 small flat**

Accession #1923

The papers of the Young Woman's Home Association were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in June of 2006 by the Association and opened for research in August of 2006.

In 1877 a group of socially prominent Detroit women organized the Working Woman's Home Association (later, the Young Woman's Home Association—YWHA) and opened the Working Woman's Home in rented facilities on Jefferson Avenue. The Home provided what YWHA members described as a safe, comfortable and respectable Christian residence for women of good moral character, working or seeking employment, who had neither family nor friends in the city.

As Detroit grew, so did the number of applicants to the Home, many of whom had to be turned away for lack of space. So, in 1887 the Association purchased land at the corner of Clifford and Adams and erected its own building, the Young Woman's Home (later called the Young Woman's Club), which opened its doors the following year. The Home was self-supporting, its construction, furnishing and maintenance underwritten by residents' room and board payments, private donations and the proceeds from numerous fund-raising events.

By the 1960's, however, social mores were changing, young women were becoming more independent and the Home was no longer able to attract enough guests to cover its expenses. In 1969 YWHA was forced to close it and sell the property, but it continues to use its endowment to fund a broad range of projects that benefit women and children in Michigan.

The Young Woman's Home Association Collection contains correspondence, annual reports, minutes of board and committee meetings, financial records, newspaper clippings and other ephemera primarily related to the operation of its residence club for working women.

Important subjects in the collection:

Detroit philanthropy
Priscilla Inn
Eliza Seaman Leggett
Residence clubs for working women
Women's voluntary associations

Important correspondents in the collection:

Marjorie Jewell

Non-manuscript material:

Some photographs of YWHA officers, the exterior and interior of the Young Woman's Club, and the dolls dressed by residents for distribution by the Goodfellows have been placed in the Archives Audiovisual Collection.

Box 1

1. Anniversaries
- 2-9. Annual meeting; minutes, reports, audits, 1956, 1966-2003
- 10-18. Annual report, 1889-1920, 1923-25, 1935-54
19. Board of Trustees meetings; attendance record, 1985-96
20. Board of Trustees meetings; minutes, 1897-99
- 21-22. Board of Trustees meetings; President's notes, reports, 1951-55
- 23-24. Board of Trustees meetings; minutes, attachments, 1966-67
- 25-26. Board of Trustees meetings; agendas, 1968-73
- 27-36. Board of Trustees meetings; agendas, minutes, attachments, 1974-83

Box 2

- 1-18. Board of Trustees meetings; agendas, minutes, attachments, 1984-2001
19. Correspondence, invitations, n.d., 1925, 1952-88
20. Eleanor Association (residence clubs for women) brochures, 1940's-1950's
- 21-22. Finances; corres. and reports, 1906-85
23. Goodfellow Doll Tea, 1945-62
24. History
25. Incorporation documents, 1877-1966
26. Officers, board members, committees; lists, directories, corres., 1907-2001
27. Residence; closing and sale of property, 1968-69
28. Residence; ephemera
29. Residence; guest book, 1952-69
- 30-31. Residence; guest book—annual tea, 1950-62
- 32-33. Residence; House and Supply Committee, 1906, 1955, 1960-68
34. Residence; household regulations
35. Residence; informational brochures
36. Residence; mortgage, 1900-37

Box 3

- 2 scrapbooks
newspaper clippings and magazine articles, correspondence, brochures and other ephemera documenting Association members and activities and the development of the Young Woman's Club, 1930's-1960's