

Luella Hannan Memorial Foundation Collection

Records, 1927-1988

**19 linear feet
19 storage boxes**

Accession #1926

The records of the Luella Hannan Memorial Foundation were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in July of 2006 by the Foundation Board of Trustees and opened for research in November of 2006.

In 1925, Luella Hannan, widow of Detroit realtor and philanthropist William W. Hannan, set up a five-million-dollar trust fund to build the Luella Hannan Memorial Home for elderly Detroiters "who have been accustomed to enjoying the comforts of life but who, through change of fortune, have come to reduced circumstances." However, Grosse Pointe changed its zoning laws so that property she had purchased for her home could not be used for that purpose. Instead, after her death in 1928, in what was termed a "liberal experiment," the trust fund provided stipends to needy seniors to help them stay in their or relatives' homes or in private boarding homes rather than send them to institutions. Clients, referred by clergy, friends and social service agencies, were selected by a board of trustees based upon the recommendations of social workers investigating the applicant's qualifications. It was not until 1971 that the Foundation constructed a residential home for the aged, but with declining demand for single-room housing, Hannan House was closed in 1993 and converted into a service center for metropolitan Detroit's aging population.

The Luella Hannan Memorial Foundation Collection consists of over 800 client files initiated between 1929 and 1961, including those of the John Scudder Foundation for Old People which, prior to its merger with the Hannan Foundation in 1993, operated with the same board of trustees and staff. The files contain detailed logs prepared by the social worker(s) in charge of the case, applications containing demographic information and supporting references, correspondence, sometimes voluminous, between Hannan Foundation staff and clients and others, physicians' and estate managers' reports and additional material pertaining to the management of the Foundation's client base. The files are arranged in alphabetical order, the case log appearing first within the file.

Important subjects in the collection:

Aged care -- Case studies -- Michigan
Older people -- Services for -- Michigan
Social work with the aged -- Michigan

Important correspondents in the collection:

Leon W. Frost
Anna Wentink

RESEARCHERS USING THE LUELLE HANNAN MEMORIAL FOUNDATION COLLECTION ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN A RESTRICTED USE STATEMENT PROTECTING CLIENT CONFIDENTIALITY.

NO NAMES OR OTHER INFORMATION THAT WOULD IDENTIFY THE CLIENTS OR THEIR RELATIVES AND ACQUAINTANCES MAY APPEAR IN RESEARCH NOTES, WRITTEN OR ORAL PRESENTATIONS OR BE CITED FOR PUBLICATION.

PHOTOCOPYING OF DOCUMENTS IN THIS COLLECTION IS PROHIBITED.