

UNITED COMMUNITY SERVICES COLLECTION

Papers, 1878-1945
(Predominantly, 1910-1938)

20.5 linear feet
20 ledger volumes
1 oversize folder

Accession Number 420
L. C. Number MS

The papers of the United Community Services were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in April of 1969 by UCS Budget Director F. N. Woodbury, with the approval of the board of directors. Additional Associated Charities of Detroit files were placed in the Archives in November of 1975 and August of 1987 and were incorporated into the collection in February of 1989.

The United Community Services has operated in Detroit since 1878 under various names. The Associated Charities of Detroit was established in that year by civic leaders to coordinate the work of different charitable institutions in the area and, eventually, to raise funds to meet community welfare needs. Gradually, it became a clearinghouse for the investigation and referral of social service cases as well as an advocate for social and health care reform. Beginning in 1917, its Research Bureau collected data and prepared reports on the various public and private welfare agencies and on social and economic conditions in Detroit generally.

By January, 1918, when the Detroit Community Union was organized to streamline the provision of social, health, and recreational services to the multitude of people migrating to Detroit in search of jobs, its membership had grown to over forty organizations. William J. Norton, one of the early proponents of welfare federation, had successfully launched a similar program in Cincinnati before coming to Detroit to assume leadership of the DCU and its fund-raising arm, the Detroit Community Fund. In 1932, it was reorganized into the Council of Social Agencies of Metropolitan Detroit to reflect the greater role played by individual agencies in planning for Detroit's social welfare needs.

The first attempt at federated fund raising for voluntary agencies in Detroit came during World War I with the creation of the Detroit Patriotic Fund, forerunner to the Detroit Community Fund of the 1920s and '30s, the War Chest of Metropolitan Detroit during World War II, and the independent United Foundation. In addition to raising the money whose distribution among the member agencies was determined by the Associated Charities and its successors, an important aspect of their operations was the investigation and regulation of all charities soliciting in the Detroit area.

The papers of the United Community Services reflect the concerns of professional social workers, the plight of the poor in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Detroit, and the community's attempts to improve their condition through the work of public and private social welfare agencies, including the Detroit Urban League, Bay Court Home, the American Red Cross, the Visiting Housekeeper Association, the Detroit Psychopathic Clinic, and the Detroit Department of Public Welfare.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

American Red Cross	Federated Charitable Fund Raising
Associated Charities of Detroit	Public Health
Community Organizations	Public/Private Welfare Assistance
Council of Social Agencies	Social Dislocation in Detroit
Detroit Community Fund/Union	Social Work
Detroit Urban League	War Relief
Family and Child Welfare	Youth Organizations and Activities

Among the important correspondents are:

Harry L. Lurie	Donald M. D. Thurber
William J. Norton	Forrester B. Washington

An index to subjects and correspondents will be found on p. 18.

NO NAMES APPEARING IN CASE FILES MAY BE CITED. RESEARCHERS USING THE UNITED COMMUNITY SERVICES COLLECTION ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN A RESTRICTED USE STATEMENT.

Contents

32 manuscript boxes
3 oversize flat boxes
20 ledger volumes
1 oversize folder

Series I, Associated Charities of Detroit, 1878-1935, Boxes 1-8; 20 ledger volumes

Correspondence, reports, minutes, financial records, and case investigations relating to the work of the Associated Charities and its member agencies. Included are a number of studies conducted by the Research Bureau.

Series II, Committee on Case Cooperation, 1914-1920, Boxes 9-18

Correspondence, reports, minutes, and case records for a published study called "Trouble Cases."

Series III, City of Detroit Department of Public Welfare, 1919, Box 19

Individual case records of applications for aid.

Series IV, Detroit Community Union and Detroit Community Fund, 1919-1939, Boxes 20-26

Correspondence, reports, minutes, employment applications, and publications documenting the work of the DCU, its member agencies, and professional social workers, and the fund-raising activities of the DCF.

Series V, American Red Cross, 1917-1927, Boxes 26-28

Correspondence, reports, case studies, and miscellaneous material concerning the American Red Cross.

Series VI, Council of Social Agencies of Metropolitan Detroit, 1930-1934, Boxes 29-31

Correspondence, reports, minutes, and committee lists relating to the organization and activities of the Council of Social Agencies. Particularly well represented are the files of the geographic district councils of the CSA.

Series VII, Metropolitan Detroit Youth Council, 1938-1945, Boxes 32-33

Correspondence, reports, minutes, and published material related to the activities of national and local youth groups.

Series VIII, Detroit Commission for Study of Group Work Records, 1938 Boxes 34-35

Narrative and statistical reports of activities of various community organizations in Detroit.

1 oversize folder charts and graphs, 1904-1924, 1943

Series I
Associated Charities of Detroit, 1878-1935
Boxes 1-8; 20 ledger volumes

Correspondence, reports, minutes, financial records, and case investigations related to fund raising for and the provision of social welfare services in Detroit, especially through agencies administered by the Associated Charities, such as Bay Court Home, The Detroit Urban League, the Federated Clinics, and the Visiting Housekeeper Association. The material covers the years 1909-1935, the year in which the Associated Charities was dissolved. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material and then chronologically.

Boxes 6-8 contain Associated Charities district case record books, which supply the same information as indicated for the ledger volumes described below, with the exceptions of race, literacy, and, usually, religious affiliation. The case record book for district 4 is missing.

The Associated Charities of Detroit acted as a screening and referral agency for many of Detroit's needy families. Seventeen volumes of case records document individual applicants for assistance during the years 1878-1897; some investigation updates in volumes 8-17 carry case histories into the first decade of the twentieth century. Volumes 1-7 and volume 14 are not in strict chronological order and may contain only scattered entries for some of the inclusive years. The volume containing case nos. 533-819 (1878-79) appears to be missing. Volumes 18 through 20 contain employment (1884-1887), fuel allotment (1897-1907), and charity application (1917) information for clients served by the Associated Charities.

Each volume gives the following information on applicants, although not all information is supplied in all cases and the format varies slightly between volumes 1-7 and volumes 8-17:

- type of assistance applied for
- referring agency or individual
- race
- residence, both prior to and at time of application
- national origin, and length of time in Detroit and U. S.
- marital status, and number of children and their status
- occupation of applicant and family members, and employment record
- ages of family members
- if woman alone, husband's whereabouts and degree of support
- income from wages and property
- expenses, including rent and debts
- literacy (volumes 8-17)
- religion
- health (volumes 1-7, 12, 14)
- military service (volumes 1-7, 12, 14)
- sources of outside assistance (public and private)

In addition, the application contains the case investigator's comments regarding the applicant's general living arrangements and the circumstances surrounding his or her request for assistance, and a record of the disposition of the case.

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1. Annual report, 1929, 1931-33
- 2-3. Bay Court Home; annual report, 1923, 1929-33
- 4-5. ; contributors, 1914-17
- 6-11. ; corres. & reports, 1910, 1913, 1919, 1929-34
- 12-14. ; financial reports, 1914-16, 1930-34
15. Case investigations; burials, Apr 1919
- 16-19. ; cancellation of taxes, Apr 1919
- 20-21. ; hospital admissions, Apr 1919

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- 1-2. Case investigations; hospital admissions, Apr 1919
- 3-6. ; miscellaneous relief, Apr 1919,
- 7-12. , Feb-Apr 1920
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- 14-15. Children's Bureau of Detroit, 1910, 1912
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- 19-23. ; lists, 1909-12, 1914-16

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- 1-2. Contributors; lists, 1917
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11. Detroit Social Service Club; minutes, Sep 1912 - Feb 1914
12. Detroit Society for the Study & Prevention of TB; corres. & reports, 1911
- 13-15. Detroit Society for the Study & Prevention of TB; minutes, 1910-11
16. Detroit Urban League; annual report, 1930-33
17. ; contributors, 1916-17
18. ; corres. & reports, 1917, 1921, 1934
- 19-21. ; minutes, Oct 1916 - Apr 1917
22. Executive committee; minutes, May 1912 - Jan 1913
23. Federated Clinics; corres. & reports, 1916-17
24. ; financial reports, 1915-16
25. ; minutes, Sep 1916 - Jan 1917
- 26-27. ; Detroit Psychopathic Clinic, 1916 - May 1917

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- 1-2. Financial reports; annual, 1913-17, 1919, 1921
3. ; miscellaneous, 1913-23
- 4-14. ; monthly, 1912-16
- 15-19. ; weekly, 1915-16
20. Incorporation documents, 1909, 1911, 1935
- 21-24. Investigation Bureau; monthly reports, Jun 1916 - Jul 1917
25. Registration Bureau, 1913-17
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27. Research Bureau; Operative Committee minutes, 1921-22
- 28-31. ; progress reports, 1917, 1919, 1921-22, 1929

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1. Research Bureau; reports - "Colored Work on Community Fund Drive," 1921
2. Research Bureau; reports - Detroit Department of Public Welfare, 1919
3. Research Bureau; reports - Detroit Psychopathic Clinic, 1917
4. - "Employment of Women for Day Work," 1917
5. Research Bureau; reports - feeble-minded registration, 1916
6. - handicapped, 1918
7. - juvenile neglect cases, 1916-17
- 8-9. - miscellaneous, 1917
10. - Negro survey, 1919
11. - Registration Bureau, 1917
12. - unit of service costs, 1913-17
13. - United Jewish Charities, 1917
14. - Visiting Housekeeper Association, 1917, 1919
15. Research Bureau; reports - Visiting Nurse Association, 1917
16. ; work assignments, 1917, 1919
- 17-20. ; Work Committee, 1921
21. Visiting Housekeeper Assn.; annual report, 1920, 1929-33
22. ; contributors, 1915-17
23. ; corres. & reports, 1919-20, 1934
24. ; family budgets, 1918, 1921
25. ; financial reports, 1915-16, 1930-31
26. ; solicitation lists, 1916

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Case record books; districts 1-3, 1880-87 (scattered entries)

closed

Box 7

Case record books; districts 5-7, 1880-87 (scattered entries)

closed

Box 8

Case record books; districts 8-10, 1880-87 (scattered entries)

closed

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16	Feb 1894 - Feb 1895	3954-4452
17	Feb 1895 - Mar 1897	4453-4961
18	Labor Bureau Record of Applications Nov 1884 - Mar 1887	
19	Application Bureau journal 1917	
20	Fuel allotments journal 1897-1907	

Series II
Committee on Case Cooperation, 1914-1920
Boxes 9-18

Correspondence, reports, minutes, case records and miscellaneous material concerning families defined as "trouble cases," that is those registered with five or more agencies during the years 1914-1920. Screening and referral of "trouble cases" were coordinated by the Committee on Case Cooperation of the Associated Charities. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject and type of material.

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1. Committee on Case Cooperation; cases for discussion
- 2-3. ; charts & reports, 1915-16
- 4-8. ; correspondence, 1917-18
- 9-16. ; meetings, 1917-20
17. ; organization plan
18. ; Program Comm. meetings, 1917-18
19. ; survey, 1918
- 20-31. Registration Bureau; reports, 1914-20
32. ; sample forms, 1917-18

Box 10

- 1-2. Trouble cases; analysis of, 1916
- 4-16. ; individual case records

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Trouble cases; individual case records

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"Trouble Cases"; published study, 1919

Series III
City of Detroit Department of Public Welfare, 1919
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City of Detroit Department of Public Welfare case studies of applicants for aid during 1919. Information supplied is similar to that described for the Associated Charities case record books in Series I, including rather extensive case worker narratives. Files are arranged numerically.

Box 19

1-19. Individual case records, 1919

Series IV
Detroit Community Union and Detroit Community Fund, 1919-1939
Boxes 20-26

Correspondence, reports, minutes, case investigations, and publicity concerning the work of the Detroit Community Union, its member agencies, and those soliciting money from its fund-raising arm, the Detroit Community Fund. Some material related to the professional concerns of social workers (e.g. a 1929 survey of the education and training of employees of various Detroit social service organizations) is included. Particularly well documented are local and overseas relief efforts in the early 1920s, and the activities of the DCU's Consultation Committee, a group of social workers jointly considering the so-called "trouble cases" studied by the Committee on Case Cooperation. Most of the material dates from the 1920s. Boxes 20-24 comprise the files of the DCU; Boxes 25-26, the DCF. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material and then chronologically.

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1. Advisory Relief Council, 1931-32
- 2-4. Agencies; miscellaneous, 1920-21
5. ; Tau Beta Association, 1921
6. ; Visiting Nurse Association, 1920-21
7. American Association for Community Organization, 1921
8. American Women's Hospitals, 1920
9. Central Budget Committee, 1920
10. Conference on Coordination of National Social Work, 1921
- 11-13. Consultation Committee; corres. & reports, 1919-21
- 14-21. ; minutes, 1919-22
- 22-27. Correspondence & reports; A-K, 1920-21

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- 1-8. Correspondence & reports; L-Y, 1920-21
9. Hospital purchasing, n. d.
10. Junior League of Detroit; Bureau for the Handicapped, 1921
11. Michigan State Conference of Social Work, 1921
- 12-14. National Conference of Social Work; corres. & reports, 1920-21
15. ; financial records, 1920-22
16. National Conference on Community Organizations, 1921
17. Public health, 1920-21
18. Publications; miscellaneous, 1919-21
- 19-20. ; Y.M.C.A. & Y.W.C.A., 1920-21
21. Robert College of Constantinople and American University of Beirut, 1921
22. Social work education, 1921
23. Unemployment, 1920-21

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- 1-18. Applications for employment with DCU, 1926-31

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- 1-48. Survey of education and training of social workers, 1929

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- 1-8. Work reports; family relief agencies - American Red Cross (Detroit), 1921-23, 1925-27
- 9-13. Work reports; family relief agencies - American Red Cross (Hamtramck), 1921-23
- 14-16. Work reports; family relief agencies - American Red Cross (Wayne Co.), 1925, Jan-Mar 1927
17. Work reports; family relief agencies - American Red Cross (Wyandotte), Sep-Dec 1923
18. Work reports; family relief agencies - Servicemen's Central Bureau, Jun-Dec 1923
- 19-25. Work reports; nursing activities - American Red Cross (Detroit), 1922-23, 1925
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- 1-2. American Committee for Relief in Ireland, 1921
3. American Social Hygiene Association, 1920-21
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- 5-16. Correspondence; A-Y, 1920-21
17. ; Kingsley, Sherman C., 1921
18. Endowments, 1925, 1928
19. European Relief Council, 1920-21
20. Financial reports, 1921
- 21-22. Joint Distribution Committee, 1920-21
23. Minneapolis Community Fund, 1921
24. N.A.A.C.P., 1920-21
- 25-26. National Child Labor Committee, 1921

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- 1-5. National Information Bureau, 1920-21
6. Russian relief, 1921
7. Salvation Army, 1921
8. Serbian relief, 1919-21

Series V
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Correspondence, reports, and miscellaneous material concerning the activities of the American Red Cross. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material. Boxes 27-28 contain individual case studies, numerically arranged, of servicemen's families receiving support from the Home Service Section of the Red Cross, organized during World War I to help families maintain a secure standard of living in the absence of the primary breadwinner.

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9. Annual report, 1919-22
10. "Chapter News" (N.Y. Co.), Mar 1921
- 11-14. Correspondence & reports, Dec 1920-Dec 1921
15. Home Service development in various cities - an outline, 1920
16. Home Service Disbursements - servicemen's relief, 1917-23
17. Home Service Section; info on aid to enlistees & families
18. ; misc. sample forms used during WWI
19. ; sample forms
20. ; Statistical Department report, 1920
21. ; "Training for Home Service," [1917]
- 22-24. Nursing activities; clinics reports, 1925, 1927
- 25-26. ; committee reports, 1920-23
27. Organization chart and proposed programs
28. Reports and publications, 1919-21
29. Statement re relations between ARC and American Assn. of Societies for Organizing Charity

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- 1-23. Individual case studies, 1919-20

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- 1-30. Individual case studies, 1919-20

Series VI
Council of Social Agencies of Metropolitan Detroit, 1930-1934
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Correspondence, reports, minutes, and committee membership lists relating to the administration of the Council of Social Agencies, especially the work of its central committees and district councils. One study of family case work services dates from 1945. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material and then chronologically, first for general files and then for district councils.

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1. Background information and organization
2. Case committees; miscellaneous
3. Central Recreation Committee; corres., May-Aug 1932
- 4-5. ; miscellaneous, 1932-33
- 6-7. Committees; miscellaneous lists
- 8-14. Correspondence, Dec 1931 - Jan 1934
15. "District Bulletin" & "Just Among Ourselves," 1932
16. "Family Case Work Services in Metropolitan Detroit," 1945
- 17-20. Health Committee; corres., Sep 1932 - Feb 1933
21. ; membership lists
- 22-23. ; miscellaneous, 1930-33
24. Minutes; miscellaneous committees, Mar-Oct 1932

Box 30

1. Central-Elmwood District Council; committee lists
2. ; corres., 1932
- 3-4. ; minutes, 1932-33
5. Dexter District Council; constitution & members, 1932-33
6. ; corres., Jan-Mar 1932
7. ; minutes, Jun-Dec 1932
8. Grand River District Council; agencies & committees, 1932-33
9. ; constitution
- 10-11. ; corres., Dec 1931 - Apr 1933
- 12-14. ; minutes, Mar 1932, 1933
15. ; organization meeting, Mar 1932
16. ; surveys & reports, 1932-35
17. North Woodward District Council; committee members
18. ; corres., Oct 1932 - Jan 1933
19. ; meetings & constitution, 1932
20. Northeastern District Council; committee lists
21. ; minutes, Jan-Jul 1932
22. ; miscellaneous
23. Northern District Council; agencies & committees
24. ; minutes, Feb-Jun 1932
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27. ; corres., Jan-Oct 1932
- 28-29. ; minutes, Dec 1931 - Feb 1933
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1. Oakland District Council; agencies and committees
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3. ; corres., 1932
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5. ; organization, Mar 1932
6. Piquette District Council; committee lists
7. ; corres., 1932
8. ; minutes, 1932
9. Scotten District Council; agencies and committees
10. ; constitution
11. ; corres. & survey
12. ; minutes, 1932
13. Southeastern District Council; committees
14. ; constitution
- 15-16. ; corres., 1932-33
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19. Southwestern District Council (Hungarian Bureau); agencies & Committees
20. Southwestern District Council (Hungarian Bureau); constitution
- 21-23. ; corres., 1930-33
24. Southwestern District Council (Hungarian Bureau); financial data, 1932-33
- 25-26. Southwestern District Council (Hungarian Bureau); minutes, 1931-34
27. Southwestern District Council (Hungarian Bureau); misc. corres., clippings, minutes notebook, 1932-36
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30. ; constitution
31. ; correspondence, 1932
32. ; minutes, 1932

Series VII
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Correspondence, reports, minutes, and pamphlets relating to the concerns and activities of youth groups during World War II, including the attempt to gain the vote for eighteen-year-olds in 1943. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

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1. American Students Defense League, 1941
2. American Youth Congress; Conference on Youth Leadership, 1938
3. ; miscellaneous, 1940-42
- 4-5. American Youth for Democracy; miscellaneous, Oct 1943-Jan 1944
6. American Youth for a Free World; misc. re nat'l. conf., 1942
- 7-8. ; misc., Mar-Jun 1943, 1944
9. ; newsletters, 1943
10. ; statement of purpose
11. Civil rights, 1943
- 12-13. Committee on Interracial Problems; corres. & minutes, 1943-44
14. Correspondence & orders re pamphlet "Talk Can Kill," 1944
15. Detroit Youth Assembly; conference on "Youth in Defense of America's Future" - misc., Nov 1941
16. Detroit Youth Assembly; conference on "Youth in Defense of America's Future" - proceedings, Nov 1941
- 17-18. Detroit Youth Assembly; corres., 1941
19. ; handbills
20. ; misc. resolutions, memos, clips, 1941
21. ; Policy Board - lists, minutes, 1941-42

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- 1-4. Eighteen-year-old vote; corres., Nov 1942 - Apr 1943
5. ; Mich. Senate & House bills
6. ; misc. lists, petitions, handbills
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- 8-9. Film catalogs, 1943-44
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11. ; misc.
12. International Youth Fellowship project-proposal, n.d.
13. Lists of committees; civic groups, services
14. ; members
15. ; miscellaneous
- 16-17. Lists of youth organizations & officers
18. Mayor's Advisory Committee on Youth Problems; report, 1945
19. Miscellaneous, 1941-44
20. Negro Youth Council for Victory and Democracy, 1943
21. ; misc. re
conference "One World-Our Future War to Win,": Jun 1943

Series VIII
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- 1-6. Brightmoor Community Center, 1938

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- 3-4. Franklin Street Settlement, 1938
5. International Center, 1938
- 6-7. Jewish Community Center, 1938
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1 oversize folder, 1904-1924, 1943

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American Red Cross organization chart, Dec 1922

"Analysis of the Failures" - tabulation of data on juveniles, ages 14-16, 1923

"Babson Chart of American Business Conditions," 1904-22

Caseload graphs, 1921-22

Detroit Community Union - "Attendance Sheet for Settlements"

Detroit Community Union - "Day Sheet for Protective Agencies"

Endowment data, 1915-24 (4 sheets)

List of blacks with tabulated information on housing and employment, 1919 (Negro Survey -- Associated Charities Research Bureau)

List of businesses with tabulated information on black employees (2 sheets)

Photocopy of certificate of welcome to Vice President Henry A. Wallace, 25 Jul 1943, with signatures from Detroit youth organizations

The Yearbook of Philanthropy, 1940

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