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## Guide to Community Health and Counseling Services Collection 1883 - 1966

Community Health and Counseling

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# Guide to Community Health and Counseling Services Collection 1883 – 1966



**Community Health and Counseling Services**  
42 Cedar Street  
Bangor, Maine

## Summary Information:

**Collection title:** Community Health and Counseling Services Collection

**Date of Collection:** 1883-1966

**Box Numbers:** 1 & 2

**Quantity:** 2 Boxes, 4 Reels of Microfilm

## Administrative Information:

**Provenance:** Custody Loan, Bangor Public Library, November 7, 2007

**Access Restrictions:** **Restricted** access

**Preferred Citation:** CHCS Historical Collection 1883-1966

**Copyright:** Contact Bangor Public Library for copyright information

## For Additional Information:

Special Collections Department  
Bangor Public Library  
145 Harlow Street  
Bangor ME 04401  
(207) 947-8336

## Biographical Information:

Community Health and Counseling Services (CHCS), founded in 1883 in Bangor, Maine, to unify the charitable work being done by 24 different groups, has hand-written records dating back to its inception.

Community Health and Counseling Services began in 1883 when a group of churchwomen organized *Associated Charities*, a coalition of church and voluntary charitable organizations located in and around Bangor, Maine. The mission of this group was:

- to enlist the services of a friendly visitor for families in need;
- to provide that the case of each applicant be investigated thoroughly;
- to provide the means of confidential exchange of information between charitable societies, churches and benevolent individuals and the overseer of the poor;

- to make all relief conditional upon good conduct and progress by the recipient.

For the next decade, all work of the organization was carried out by a “Board of Lady Visitors”, each of whom was charged with a definite section of the city. This group met twice weekly to consider the needs of families they had visited and to assure that there was no overlap or duplication of assistance given. Detailed, handwritten records were kept.

In 1922, the organization changed its name to *The Bangor Welfare Society* and the mission was expanded:

Where possible, to restore to independence and normal life, disadvantaged families, by means of careful planning and the carrying out of such plans, which may involve relief and employment, medical care, education and the solution of family difficulties of all kinds whether due to internal or external causes.

**Content:**

The collection at CHCS offers a real opportunity to explore the ways in which local community members sought to provide what they considered appropriate help to those in need and how those ways changed over time. The collection reflects an important aspect of the community, and the growth of a national movement on a local scale.

The collection dates from 1883 to 1966. The earliest and most interesting records are in bound book form. The collection is made up of a variety of media, such as handwritten letters, minutes, reports; records that might have been kept in a record book or ledger at one time. Two of the earliest books are still in the original leather spine books. Subsequent records have been gathered together and bound into 16 volumes, which contain records up to 1966. All of the 18 volumes, except for the two original books, are in a library-type binding.

The collection begins with a scant few handwritten pages in the 1880’s and progressively grows in volume. This trend is not surprising as the organization grew from a number of volunteers attempting to coordinate services for the impoverished to a professional health and counseling agency. There appears to be some gaps in the collection, mostly in the 1930’s, during the depression. The reason for the gaps is unknown, at present.

Initially the collection reflected the volunteer organization for dealing with the poor and infirmed and showed how the church groups worked together. As the years progressed the collection reflects the increased activity of the groups and shows the growing trend from a volunteer organization to a professional agency. The monthly reports up through the 1920’s give the best descriptions for work with other agencies, description of care and volunteer work. As the years progressed more people were paid to not only be administrators but also to work with cases. Also reflected is the concern with tuberculosis and fresh air that was the “health fashion” of the early to mid twentieth century. The records as a whole follow the health trends of the country, showing that Bangor was typical. Subsequent records reflect the changes in care standards for patients

and the increased number of “cared for”. This is a story of organizations and agencies working together, and supplementing each other. The collection shows a change in the origins of the cases, from, the City Marshall, the police department, the Board of Health, the Public Welfare Department, and the overseers of the poor to a variety of social organizations. Some of the organizations named are: The American Red Cross, District Nurse, the anti—tuberculosis Society, the Travelers Aid Society, The Mother’s Aid and State Board of Children’s Guardians, the Bangor Family Welfare Society, The Salvation Army, the King’s Daughters, the Saint John’s and Saint Mary’s Charitable Society, the YMCA, the YWCA, the Social Service Exchange, the Good Samaritan Home and the Bangor Family Service Society.

Communities like Bangor were rarely on the cutting edge of developments in what would come to be known as social work. Instead, they met the needs of their growing population of needy residents with traditional and voluntary charitable activities and only slowly adopted the practices of those in large urban centers. There were many cities like Bangor across the nation. The CHCS story can illuminate the ways in which smaller communities, places far from the leadership of institutions like the University of Chicago or settlement houses like Hull House or Henry Street, absorbed the lessons of the reformers and tried to address the problems of their needy more effectively according to changing standards. The story of innovation has been told and retold. The story of the dissemination of innovation, of the ways in which people in smaller and rural places tried to adapt what was being developed in larger cities, remains to be told.

That story has to do with the ways in which first volunteers and later employees of the organization made decisions about how to provide aid to those in need. The early records include reports of inquiries into the circumstances of those requesting aid; the kinds of assistance provided; cases in which aid was or was not provided, with explanations; value judgments made by those deciding on specific cases; how to deal with fraudulent requests; and the like. These issues are rich, because they reflect some of the questions and debates we still have in our culture about how to respond to those in need. They offer a sense of how answers to these questions and the values that inform those answers have -- and have not -- changed in the more than a century since the early records were penned.

The secondary story contained in the collection has to do with how individuals, organizations, and communities respond to perceived needs. CHCS’s shift from a voluntary organization to a professionally organized social service agency is part of a larger story of the professionalization of charity work over the first half of the twentieth century. That story includes the replacement of women volunteer organizers with paid male administrators; women volunteer “friendly visitors” with trained, paid male and female social workers; and informal methods of accounting, record keeping, decision making, and the like with formal policies and procedures. In addition, the focus shifts from helping the worthy poor (and distinguishing them from those deemed unworthy because of bad character, etc.) to a concern with casework, providing a range of services, and avoiding duplication.

**Arrangement:**

Arranged chronologically

**Finding Aid:**

**Box 01**

**Folder 1 Loose papers dated 1885 -1893 (Reel 1)**

**Book1 1885-1910 Friendly Visitor Records (Reel 1)** 2-115

**Book2**  
**August 2, 1920 – May 22, 1922 Friendly Visitor Record (Reel 1)** 3-196

**Book 3 April 1894-December 1905 (Reel 1)**

Incorporation Records April 7, 1894	1
Corporation Meeting	2
April 25, 1894 First Meeting	3
Original by-laws of Associated Charities	4
First elected Officers of Associated Charities	8
First Board of Directors	9
Donation of 1,000 dollars	10
November 17, 1894 Autumn Meeting	11
December 1, 1894 Regular Meeting	14
December 15, 1894 Regular Meeting	16
January 5, 1895 Regular Meeting	18
Amendment to by-laws Article VI	20
January 19, 1895 Regular Meeting	21
February 2, 1895 Regular Meeting	25
February 16, 1895 Regular Meeting	28
March 2, 1895 Regular Meeting	32
March 16, 1895 Regular Meeting	34
ANNUAL MEETING October 19, 1895 (Officers/Directors)	37
November 1, 1895 Regular Meeting	41
November 16, 1895 Regular Meeting	44
December 7, 1895 Regular Meeting	48
December 21, 1895 Regular Meeting	52
January 4, 1896 Regular Meeting	54
January 18, 1896 Regular Meeting	56
February 1, 1896 Regular Meeting	60
February 15, 1896 Regular Meeting	63
March 21, 1896 Regular Meeting voted on Friendly Visiting	67
April 4, 1896 Special Meeting on Friendly Visiting	71
April 11, 1896 Year End Report	73

ANNUAL MEETING October 17, 1896 (Officers/Directors)	79
November 7, 1896 Regular Meeting	84
November 21, 1896 Regular Meeting	88
December 19, 1896 Regular Meeting	91
January 2, 1897 Regular Meeting	95
January 16, 1897 Regular Meeting	98
February 6, 1897 Regular Meeting	103
February 20, 1897 Regular Meeting	106
March 6, 1897 Regular Meeting	109
March 20, 1897 Regular Meeting	111
April 3, 1897 Regular Meeting	113
ANNUAL MEETING November 20, 1897 (Officers/Directors)	116
December 4, 1897 Regular Meeting	119
December 18, 1897 Regular Meeting	120
January 1, 1898 Regular Meeting	122
January 15, 1898 Regular Meeting	123
February 5, 1898 Regular Meeting	125
February 19, 1898 Regular Meeting	129
March 5, 1898 Regular Meeting	130
March 19, 1898 Regular Meeting	133
ANNUAL MEETING November 5, 1898 (Officers/Directors)	135
December 3, 1898 Regular Meeting	139
December 17, 1898 Regular Meeting	141
January 7, 1899 Regular Meeting	143
January 21, 1899 Regular Meeting	145
February 18, 1899 Regular Meeting	149
March 4, 1899 Regular Meeting	151
March 19, 1899 Regular Meeting	153
ANNUAL MEETING November 4, 1899	155
November 18, 1899 Regular Meeting (Officers/Directors)	157
December 2, 1899 Regular Meeting	160
December 16, 1899 Regular Meeting	161
January 6, 1900 Regular Meeting	164
January 20, 1900 Regular Meeting	166
February 3, 1900 Regular Meeting	168
February 17, 1900 Regular Meeting	170
March 3, 1900 Regular Meeting	173
March 17, 1900 Regular Meeting	175
April 7, 1900 Regular Meeting	176
ANNUAL MEETING November 3, 1900 (Officers/Directors)	179
November 17, 1900 Regular Meeting	180
December 1, 1900 Regular Meeting	182
December 15, 1900 Regular Meeting	183
January 5, 1901 Regular Meeting	185
January 19, 1901 Regular Meeting	186
February 2, 1901 Regular Meeting	188

February 16, 1901 Regular Meeting	189
March 2, 1901 Regular Meeting	190
March 16, 1901 Regular Meeting	191
April 6, 1901 Regular Meeting	193
October 19, 1901 Regular Meeting	194
ANNUAL MEETING November 2, 1901 (Officers/Directors)	197
November 16, 1901 Regular Meeting	198
December 21, 1901 Regular Meeting	199
January 4, 1902 Regular Meeting	200
January 18, 1902 Regular Meeting	201
February 1, 1902 Regular Meeting	202
February 15, 1902 Regular Meeting	203
March 1, 1902 Regular Meeting	205
March 15, 1902 Regular Meeting	206
ANNUAL MEETING October 18, 1902 (Officers/Directors)	207
November 1, 1902 Regular Meeting	209
November 15, 1902 Regular Meeting	210
December 6, 1902 Regular Meeting	211
December 20, 1902 Regular Meeting	212
January 17, 1903 Regular Meeting	213
February 7, 1903 Regular Meeting	215
February 21, 1903 Regular Meeting	216
March 7, 1903 Regular Meeting	217
March 21, 1903 Regular Meeting	217
ANNUAL MEETING January 16, 1904 (Officers/Directors)	219
February 6, 1904 Regular Meeting	220
April 6, 1904 Regular Meeting	222
ANNUAL MEETING October 16, 1904 (Officers/Directors)	223
October 22, 1904 Regular Meeting	223
November 5, 1904 Regular Meeting	226
November 19, 1904 Regular Meeting	228
December 3, 1904 Regular Meeting	230
December 17, 1904 Regular Meeting	232
January 14, 1905 Regular Meeting	234
January 21, 1905 Regular Meeting	236
Report of Christmas giving	237
February 4, 1905 Regular Meeting	238
February 18, 1905 Regular Meeting	240
March 4, 1905 Regular Meeting	243
March 18, 1905 Regular Meeting	244
ANNUAL MEETING November 4, 1905 (Officers/Directors)	246
November 18, 1905 Regular Meeting	248
December 2, 1905 Regular Meeting	249
December 16, 1905 Regular Meeting	251

**Book 4 January 1906-November 1915 (Reel 1)**

January 6, 1906 Regular Meeting	1
January 20, 1906 Regular Meeting	3
February 3, 1906 Regular Meeting	5
February 17, 1906 Regular Meeting	7
March 3, 1906 Regular Meeting	9
March 17, 1906 Regular Meeting	10
Newspaper clipping of Officers for 1906-1907	12
ANNUAL MEETING November 17, 1906 (Officers/ Directors)	13
December 1, 1906 Regular Meeting	16
December 15, 1906 Regular Meeting	18
January 5, 1907 Regular Meeting	20
January 19, 1907 Regular Meeting	22
February 9, 1907 Regular Meeting	24
February 16, 1907 Regular Meeting	26
March 2, 1907 Regular Meeting	27
March 16, 1907 Regular Meeting	28
Committee to make registration cards 4/17/07	31
ANNUAL MEETING November 16, 1907 (Officers/Directors)	32
December 7, 1907 Regular Meeting	33
December 21, 1907 Regular Meeting	35
December 23 Special Meeting to Plan	37
December 28, 1907 Regular Meeting	37
January 4, 1908 Regular Meeting	38
January 18, 1908 Regular Meeting	39
Letter received from Charity Building in Boston	41
February 8, 1908 Regular Meeting	42
February 22, 1908 Regular Meeting	43
March 7, 1908 Regular Meeting	45
March 21, 1908 Regular Meeting	47
October 17, 1908 Special Meeting concerning conference	48
ANNUAL MEETING November 21, 1908 (Officers/Directors)	50
December 5, 1908 Regular Meeting	52
December 19, 1908 Regular Meeting	54
January 2, 1909 Regular Meeting	56
January 16, 1909 Regular Meeting	58
February 6, 1909 Regular Meeting	59
February 27, 1909 Regular Meeting	62
March 13, 1909 Regular Meeting	64
March 27, 1909 Regular Meeting	65
September 30, 1909 Special Meeting concerning conference by-laws 1909	67 -70
ANNUAL MEETING December 4, 1909 (Officers/Directors)	76
December 18, 1909 Regular Meeting	76
January 8, 1910 Regular Meeting	77
January 15, 1910 Regular Meeting	79
February 5, 1910 Regular Meeting	80



February 19, 1910 Regular Meeting	81
March 5, 1910 Regular Meeting	82
March 19, 1910 Regular Meeting	83
April 2, 1910 Regular Meeting	84
April 16, 1910 Regular Meeting	85
December 3, 1910 Regular Meeting	89
December 17, 1910 Regular Meeting	90
January 4, 1911 Regular Meeting	92
February 18, 1911 Regular Meeting	94
March 4, 1911 Regular Meeting	95
March 18, 1911 Regular Meeting	97
April 1, 1911 Regular Meeting	98
April 15, 1911 Regular Meeting	99
November 11, 1911 Regular Meeting	101
November 26, 1911 Regular Meeting	103
January 6, 1912 Regular Meeting	105
January 20, 1912 Regular Meeting	106
February 3, 1912 Regular Meeting	108
February 17, 1912 Regular Meeting	110
March 2, 1912 Regular Meeting	111
January 4, 1913 Regular Meeting	113
January 18, 1913 Regular Meeting (Officers)	113
February 1, 1913 Regular Meeting	114
March 15, 1913 Regular Meeting	114
April 5, 1913 Regular Meeting	115
December 6, 1913 Regular Meeting	115
December 20, 1913 Regular Meeting	116
January 4, 1914 Regular Meeting	117
January 17, 1914 Regular Meeting	117
March 7, 1914 Regular Meeting	118
March 21, 1914 Regular Meeting	118
December 5, 1914 Regular Meeting	119
December 19, 1914 Regular Meeting	119
January 2, 1915 Regular Meeting	120
November 6, 1915 Regular Meeting	121

**Book 5 November 1910-December 1921 ( Reel 1)**

General Secretaries Report 1910	1
ANNUAL MEETING November 18, 1910 pamphlet	4
General Secretaries Report 1911	5
General Secretaries Report October 1912	12
General Secretaries Report November 1912	15
Treasurers Report 1912	22
General Secretaries Report November 1913	23
Presidents Report 1914	30

By-laws of Associates Charities	36
October 14, 1914 Special Meeting	40
ANNUAL MEETING November 21, 1914 (Officers/Directors)	41
Presidents Report 1914	44
General Secretaries Report 1914	46
Treasurers Report 1914	54
Classification of cases 1914	55
November 25, 1914 Regular Meeting	56
September 24, 1915 Special Meeting	58
November 15, 1915 Special Meeting	59
ANNUAL MEETING November 27, 1915 (Officers/Directors)	60
Presidents Report 1915	64
General Secretaries Report 1915	68
Treasurers Report 1915	69
Officers of Associated Charities 1915	71
January 26, 1916 Regular Meeting	72
April 28, 1916 Regular Meeting	75
ANNUAL MEETING November 18, 1916 (Officers/Directors)	77
Presidents Report 1916	81
General Secretaries Report November 18, 1916	83
Treasurers Report 1916	87
November 29, 1916 Regular Meeting	89
Letter concerning Financial Committee 1/5/17	91
January 31, 1917 Regular Meeting	92
April 25, 1917 Regular Meeting	95
ANNUAL MEETING November 17, 1917 (Officers/Directors)	96
Presidents Report 1917	101
General Secretaries Report 1917	103
Treasurers Report 1917	106
November 28, 1917 Regular Meeting	108
Resolution concerning death of Rev. H.L. Griffin 9/17/17	111
January 30, 1918 Regular Meeting	112
April 24, 1918 Regular Meeting	114
November 13, 1918 Regular Meeting	115
ANNUAL MEETING November 16, 1918 (Officers/Directors)	116
General Secretaries Report 1918	120
November 27, 1918 Regular Meeting	123
January 29, 1919 Regular Meeting	126
April 30, 1919 Regular Meeting	128
October 29, 1919 Regular Meeting	129
ANNUAL MEETING November 15, 1919 (Officers/Directors)	130
General Secretaries Report 1919	134
Treasurers Report 1919	137
November 26, 1919 Regular Meeting	139
January 28, 1920 Regular Meeting	142
April 28, 1920 Regular Meeting	144

Officers for 1919-1920	145
August 18, 1920 Special Meeting	146
October 7, 1920 Special Meeting	147
Letter concerning failure to repay loan 10/23/20	149
October 27, 1920 Regular Meeting	150
Notice of change of Annual Meeting	152
ANNUAL MEETING November 20, 1920 (Officers/Directors)	153
General Secretaries Report 1920	157
Treasurers Report 1920	159
November 24, 1920 Regular Meeting	160
January 27, 1921 Regular Meeting	162
Officers for 1920-1921	164
February 11, 1921 Special Meeting	165
Letter of Appeal 2/15/21	167
Letter concerning certification of Hill bequest 2/18/21	169
Letter of recognition of Hill bequest 2/21/21	170
Formal recognition of F.W. Hill bequest	171
April 29, 1921 Regular Meeting	172
August 3, 1921 Special Meeting	174
Description of Hill estate	179
November 30, 1921 Regular Meeting	182
December 14, 1921 Special Meeting	183
Letter to Keynee Club concerning donation 12/14/21	188
Letter from President concerning re-election 12/7/22	190
January 4, 1922 Special Meeting	191
Announcement of Annual Meeting	193
ANNUAL MEETING January 14, 1922 (Officers/Directors/By-Laws)	194
Presidents Report 1922	205
Treasurers Report 1922	211

**Book 6 January 1922-February 1924 (Reel 1)**

Letters concerning change of name	1
Letter concerning incorporation of original agency	3
Certificate of change of name February 3, 1922	4
ANNUAL MEETING January 14, 1922 (Officers/Directors/By-Laws)	5
List of Officers for the year 1922	16
Certificate for change of Charter	18
Constitution and By-Laws	19
January 25, 1922 Regular Meeting	24
February 1, 1922 Joint meeting of Executive and Finance Committees	26
February 23, 1922 Regular Meeting	29
March 29, 1922 Regular Meeting	32
Treasurers Report as of March 29, 1922	34
General Secretaries Report March 1922	35
Acting Secretaries Report 1922	39

Presidents Report 1922	41
Treasurers Report with associated bookkeepers page	47
Letter concerning F.W. Hill estate 3/29/22	49
Letter to follow up the letter of appeal	51
April 26, 1922 Regular Meeting	52
General Secretaries Report for April	55
May 17, 1922 Joint meeting of Executive and Finance Committees	59
May 31, 1922 Regular Meeting	61
General Secretaries Report for May	64
July 20, 1922 Special Meeting concerning financial affairs	67
Text of resolution of F.W. Hill estate	68
September 24, 1922 Regular Meeting	71
Sale of land acquired with the Hill estate 9/27/22	72
General Secretaries Report for the summer	73
Certified copy of vote passed regarding loan of \$1000 10/4/22	77
October 22, 1922 Regular Meeting	78
General Secretaries Report for October	81
Letter of resignation, President 11/3/22	86
Letter concerning donation of a bond 11/17/22	88
Letter of resignation, General Secretary 11/27/22	89
November 29, 1922 Regular Meeting	90
December 6, 1922 Regular Meeting	91
Joint meeting of Executive and Finance Committees 12/13/22	94
December 27, 1922 Regular Meeting	96
General Secretaries Report for December	99
Excerpt from the will of F.W. Hill	101
Notice of Annual Meeting	102
Letter listing accounts from Merill Trust 1/15/83	103
Letter concerning F.W. Hill estate	105
ANNUAL MEETING January 31, 1923 (Officers/Directors)	108
Presidents Report 1923	112
General Secretaries Report 1923	114
Treasurers Report 1922	122
Letter from Directors expressing regret on resignations	124
February 28, 1923 Regular Meeting	125
March 15, 1923 Special Meeting: election of President	128
March 28, 1923 Regular Meeting	130
April 25, 1923 Regular Meeting	132
Letter of regret on the death of R.H. Jordan	134
June 6, 1923 Regular Meeting	135
June 27, 1923 Special Meeting to elect a Director	137
September 27, 1923 Regular Meeting	138
Letters concerning the sale of land	141
Notice of Annual Meeting	143
ANNUAL MEETING October 31, 1923 (Officers/Directors)	144
Presidents Report 1923	146

General Secretaries Report 1923	147
October 31, 1923 Regular Meeting	155
November 21, 1923 Regular Meeting	157
December 26, 1923 Regular Meeting	160
Letter of resignation, General Secretary 12/26/23	162
January 7, 1924 Special Meeting to discuss new Secretary	163
January 30, 1923 Regular Meeting	165
February 13, 1924 Special Meeting to elect new Secretary	166

**Book 7 April 1924-April 1930 (Reel 2)**

April 24, 1924 First Meeting	1
May 19, 1924 Monthly Meeting (Officers)	2
June 16, 1924 Monthly Meeting	4
September 15, 1924 Monthly Meeting	5
October 20, 1924 Monthly Meeting	6
November 17, 1924 Monthly Meeting	8
December 15, 1924 Monthly Meeting	10
January 19, 1925 Monthly Meeting	12
February 16, 1925 Monthly Meeting	14
March 16, 1925 Monthly Meeting	15
April 20, 1925 Monthly Meeting	17
May 18, 1925 Monthly Meeting	19
June 15, 1925 Monthly Meeting	21
September 21, 1925 Monthly Meeting	22
October 18, 1925 Monthly Meeting	23
November 16, 1925 Monthly Meeting	25
Letter concerning proposed convalescent home 11/19/25	27
Letter in response to convalescent home 12/4/25	29
Letter concerning inability to attend meeting 12/23/25	31
January 18, 1926 Monthly Meeting	32
Letter concerning inability to attend meeting 2/15/26	33
March 15, Monthly Meeting	34
Letter concerning attendance 3/18/26	36
April 26, 1926 Monthly Meeting	37
Letter from Nomination Committee concerning officers 4/29/26	39
Letter concerning meeting place 9/20/26	41
May 17, 1926 Monthly Meeting (Officers)	42
September 27, 1926 Monthly Meeting	44
October 18, 1926 Monthly Meeting	46
November 15, 1926 Monthly Meeting	47
December 20, 1926 Monthly Meeting	49
January 17, 1927 Monthly Meeting	51
February 22, 1927 Monthly Meeting	53
Newspaper clipping Community Council 1927	55
March 21 Monthly Meeting	56

April 18, 1927 Monthly Meeting	58
May 16, Monthly Meeting (Officers)	61
Third Annual Report for the year ending May 1927	63
Letters to Pastors inviting them to attend meetings 9/9/27	66
Letters to Girl Scouts inviting them to attend meetings 9/8/27	67
Letter concerning attendance at meetings 9/14/27	68
September 19, 1927 Monthly Meeting	69
Newspaper clipping Juvenile police cases	71
Appeal to council to attend state conference 9/19/27	72
October 17, 1927 Monthly Meeting	73
November 21, 1927 Monthly Meeting	75
December 19, 1927 Monthly Meeting	77
January 16, 1928 Monthly Meeting	79
Financial Report January 6, 1928	81
Letter of invitation to attend meeting	82
February 20, 1928 Monthly Meeting	83
March 19, 1928 Monthly Meeting	85
April 16, 1928 Monthly Meeting	87
May 21, 1928 Monthly Meeting (Officers)	89
Newspaper clipping Community Council reviews year; future	91
September 17, 1928 Monthly Meeting	92
Newspaper clipping Community Council hears about Zoning 9/17/28	94
Newspaper Social Problems 10/19/28	95
Newspaper clipping Mayor Wilson sounds warning 10/19/28	97
November 19, 1928 Monthly Meeting	99
Newspaper clipping Community Christmas Tree coming 12/17/28	100
January 25, 1929 Monthly Meeting	101
February 18, 1929 Monthly Meeting	103
March 18, 1929 Monthly Meeting	104
April 15, 1929 Monthly Meeting	106
Newspaper clipping Talk on Family Life 5/9/29	108
May 20, 1929 Monthly Meeting (Officers)	109
Newspaper clipping Annual Meeting May 20, 1929	111
September 16, 1929 Monthly Meeting	112
Newspaper clipping State Conference on Social Welfare 10/17/29	113
October 21, 1929 Monthly Meeting	114
November 18, 1929 Monthly Meeting	116
Letter inviting Opportunity Farm Secretary to attend meeting	117
December 16, 1929 Monthly Meeting	118
February 17, 1930 Monthly Meeting	119
Special Meeting February 24, 1930	120
March 17, 1930 Monthly Meeting	122
April 21, 1930 Monthly Meeting	123
May 19, 1930 Monthly Meeting	124

**Book 8 February 1924-October 1931 (Reel 2)**

February 27, 1924 Regular Meeting	1
Letter concerning the sale of F.W. Hill real estate	3
Notice of special meeting 3/1/24	5
Special Meeting to discuss sale of land 3/5/24	6
Message from the General Secretary concerning her job	8
Report on contributions for 1924	9
Letter of resignation, Director 2/13/224	11
March 26, 1924 Regular Meeting	12
Financial Statement for March	14
Notice of special meeting with newspaper clipping	15
Special Meeting to ratify the action of the Directors 4/9/24	16
April 30, 1924 Regular Meeting	19
Vote of Directors naming trustee of Hill estate	21
General Secretaries Report for April	22
Financial Statement for April	25
May 28, 1924 Regular Meeting	26
General Secretaries Report for May	27
Letter Concerning the future sale of land 8/30/24	30
September 24, 1924 Regular Meeting	32
Memorandum of vote concerning the sale of land	35
Notice of special meeting with newspaper clipping	36
Special Meeting concerning newly acquired land 10/1/24	37
Vote to let Directors sell land 10/1/24	39
Newspaper clipping of Annual Meeting appearing 10/1/24	41
Notice of Annual Meeting	42
ANNUAL MEETING October 29, 1924 (Officers/Directors)	43
October 29, 1924 Regular Meeting (Board of Directors)	45
November 26, 1924 Regular Meeting	46
December 3, 1924 Regular Meeting	47
Letter to President concerning the re-election of the Clerk 12/3/24	49
December 31, 1924 Regular Meeting	50
January 28, 1925 Regular Meeting	52
Letter of resignation, Director 2/10/25	54
February 25, 1925 Regular Meeting	55
Letter accepting resignation 2/26/25	57
Letter of resigning Director from the General Secretary 2/26/25	58
March 25, 1925 Regular Meeting	59
April 29, 1925 Regular Meeting	60
General Secretaries Report for April	62
May 27, 1925 Regular Meeting	64
General Secretaries Report for May	66
June 24, 1925 Regular Meeting	67
September 30, 1925 Regular Meeting	68
October 28, 1925 Regular Meeting	71
ANNUAL MEETING November 25, 1925 (Officers/Directors)	72

November 25, 1925 Regular Meeting (Board of Directors)	74
Newspaper clipping of Annual Meeting 11/25/25	76
Letter accepting position on Board 12/3/25	77
December 30, 1925 Regular Meeting	78
January 27, 1926 Regular Meeting	80
February 24, 1926 Regular Meeting	81
Letter to Fuel Society 2/26/26	83
March 31, 1926 Regular Meeting	85
April 28, 1926 Regular Meeting	86
June 30, 1926 Regular Meeting	87
September 29, 1926 Regular Meeting	88
November 3, 1926 Regular Meeting	89
November 24, 1926 Regular Meeting	90
ANNUAL MEETING December 8, 1926 (Officers/Directors)	91
December 8, 1926 Regular Meeting (Board of Directors)	92
Letters concerning election to the Board 12/9/26	93
December 29, 1926 Regular Meeting	95
January 26, 1927 Regular Meeting	96
February 23, 1927 Regular Meeting	98
Letter of resignation, Director 3/29/27	100
March 30, 1927 Regular Meeting	101
April 27, 1927 Regular Meeting	102
May 25, 1927 Regular Meeting	103
June 29, 1927 Regular Meeting	104
September 28, 1927 Regular Meeting	106
Nominations 10/24/27	107
ANNUAL MEETING October 26, 1927 (Officers/Directors)	108
October 26, 1927 Regular Meeting (Board of Directors)	110
Letters announcing election to Board	112
Newspaper clipping of Annual Meeting 11/30/27	114
November 30, 1927 Regular Meeting	115
December 28, 1927 Regular Meeting	116
January 25, 1928 Regular Meeting	117
February 29, 1928 Regular Meeting	118
March 28, 1928 Regular Meeting	119
April 28, 1928 Regular Meeting	121
Letter concerning the sale of real estate 3/29/28	123
Ratification of Presidents action concerning the sale of land 4/27	124
Letter concerning the dissociation from Red Cross 4/27/28	125
June 6, 1928 Regular Meeting	126
June 27, 1928 Regular Meeting	127
Letter of resignation from General Secretary 8/1/28	128
Special Meeting concerning the moving of a child 8/1/28	129
Special concerning locating a new secretary 1/3/28	130
September 26, 1928 Regular Meeting	131
ANNUAL MEETING October 31, 1928 (Officers/Directors)	132



October 31, 1928 Regular Meeting (Board of Directors)	133
List of Officers and Directors for 1928-1929	134
Newspaper clipping of Annual Meeting 10/31/28	135
Newspaper clipping announcing the new General Secretary 10/31/28	136
November 28, 1928 Regular Meeting	137
December 26, 1928 Regular Meeting	138
January 30, 1929 Regular Meeting	139
February 27, 1929 Regular Meeting	140
March 27, 1929 Regular Meeting	141
April 24, 1929 Regular Meeting	142
May 29, 1929 Regular Meeting	143
June 26, 1929 Regular Meeting	144
September 25, 1929 Regular Meeting	145
List of nominations 10/30/29	146
Notice of Annual Meeting	147
ANNUAL MEETING October 30, 1929 (Officers/Directors)	148
October 30, 1929 Regular Meeting (Board of Directors)	149
Newspaper clipping of Annual Meeting 10/30/29	151
November 27, 1929 Regular Meeting	152
January 29, 1930 Regular Meeting	153
February 26, 1930 Regular Meeting	155
March 26, 1930 Regular Meeting	156
April 30, 1930 Regular Meeting	157
May 28, 1930 Regular Meeting	158
June 25, 1930 Regular Meeting	159
September 24, 1930 Regular Meeting	160
Letter concerning the sale of real estate 10/8/30	162
Notice of Annual Meeting	163
List of nominations 10/29/30	164
Agenda of Annual Meeting	165
ANNUAL MEETING October 29, 1930 (Officers/Directors)	166
October 29, 1930 Regular Meeting (Board of Directors)	167
Newspaper clipping of Annual Meeting	169
November 26, 1930 Regular Meeting	170
December 31, 1930 Regular Meeting	171
February 4, 1931 Regular Meeting	172
February 25, 1931 Regular Meeting	173
March 25, 1931 Regular Meeting	174
April 29, 1931 Regular Meeting	175
May 27, 1931 Regular Meeting	176
Vote of sale old stock	177
Letter to Treasurer concerning the sale of stock 5/28/31	178
June 24, 1931 Regular Meeting	179
Vote on action of trustee of Hill estate 6/24/31	180
Transfer of deed title on Hill estate	181
September 30, 1931 Regular Meeting	182

Vote concerning the sale of land from Hill estate	184
Letters of resignation, Directors	185
Letters accepting resignations	187

**Book 9 October 1939-December 1943 (Reel 2)**

Notes on some cases	1
Letter concerning the estate of L.B. Wilson 9/30/39	2
List of nominations for 1940	4
Agenda for Annual Meeting	5
ANNUAL MEETING October 25, 1939 (Officers/Directors)	6
Annual Report 1938-1939	8
October 25, 1939 Regular Meeting (Board of Directors)	10
Letter concerning L.B. Wilson estate 10/26/39	11
Vote accepting the L.B. Wilson bequest	12
Letter concerning the M.S. Appleton estate 11/25/39	13
Letter concerning the M.S. Appleton bequest; vote accepting	14
November 29, 1939 Regular Meeting	16
Letters concerning the A.M. Wilson estate with excerpt of will	18
December 27, 1939 Regular Meeting	20
Letter concerning A.M. Wilson estate; vote accepting	22
January 31, 1940 Regular Meeting	24
February 28, 1940 Regular Meeting	25
Nomination list 3/26/40	27
March 27, 1940 Regular Meeting	28
April 24, 1940 Regular Meeting	30
May 29, 1940 Regular Meeting	32
Letter approving budget for 1940-1941 5/31/40	34
June 26, 1940 Regular Meeting	35
September 25, 1940 Regular Meeting	36
Nomination list 1940-1941 10/30/40	38
Agenda for Annual Meeting	39
ANNUAL MEETING October 30, 1940 (Officers/Directors)	40
Annual Report October 1939-1940	41
October 30, 1940 Regular Meeting (Board of Directors)	44
Letter announcing election to the Board of Directors	46
November 27, 1940 Regular Meeting	47
Letter concerning the remaining F.W. Hill estate 11/27/40	48
December 27, 1940 Regular Meeting	49
Letter concerning the F.W. Hill estate	51
January 29, 1941 Regular Meeting	52
February 26, 1941 Regular Meeting	53
March 26, 1941 Regular Meeting	54
April 30, 1941 Regular Meeting	55
A study of the service with recommendations	56
Letter concerning recommended changes	65

Resolution concerning the study	66
May 28, 1941 Regular Meeting	67
Letter approving proposed changes 5/22/41	68
Letter concerning employment of new worker 6/4/41	69
June 25, 1941 Regular Meeting	70
September 24, 1941 Regular Meeting	71
Nominations for 1941-1942	73
Agenda for Annual Meeting	74
ANNUAL MEETING October 29, 1941 (Officers/Directors)	75
Annual Report 1940-1941	76
October 29, 1941 Regular Meeting (Board of Directors)	80
November 26, 1941 Regular Meeting	81
December 31, 1941 Regular Meeting	82
January 28, 1942 Regular Meeting	83
Notice of sale of stock 1/28/42	85
February 25, 1942 Regular Meeting	86
March 25, 1942 Regular Meeting	88
April 29, 1942 Regular Meeting	89
Letter concerning merger with other charities 5/21/42	91
Letter stating that merger not possible 5/26/42	92
May 27, 1942 Regular Meeting	93
June 24, 1942 Regular Meeting	95
Executive Committee Meeting 9/17/42	96
Executive Committee Meeting 9/18/42	97
Notice to Board Members concerning changes in By-Laws	98
Letter concerning changes in By-Laws	99
Letter of resignation, Director 9/30/42	101
Agenda for September Meeting	102
September 30, 1942 Regular Meeting	103
Notice concerning new Constitution	105
Letter accepting resignation, Director 10/2/42	106
Special Meeting to adopt new By-Laws 10/28/42	107
October 28, 1942 Regular Meeting	112
Letter of resignation, Director 11/24/42	115
November 25, 1942 Regular Meeting	116
Letter accepting resignation 12/2/42	119
December 30, 1942 Regular Meeting	120
Agenda Annual Meeting	122
ANNUAL MEETING January 27, 1943 (Officers/Directors)	123
January 27, 1943 Regular Meeting (Board of Directors)	125
List of Officers, Directors, and Society Members	127
List of committees	128
February 24, 1943 Regular Meeting	129
March 31, 1943 Regular Meeting	130
April 28, 1943 Regular Meeting	132
May 26, 1943 Regular Meeting	133

Letter of resignation, Director 6/28/43	135
June 30, 1943 Regular Meeting	136
Letter accepting resignation, Director 7/6/43	138
Executive Committee Meeting	140
September 29, 1943 Regular Meeting	141
Letters announcing election to Board of Directors	143
October 27, 1943 Regular Meeting	145
Vote to ask for deferment if General Secretary gets drafted	147
November 24, 1943 Regular Meeting	148
December 29, 1943 Regular Meeting	150
List of attendance at meeting for 1943	152
Financial statement for January 1935 to December 1935	153
Letter concerning national policy on grants and loans	206
Report of Personal Committee 12/29/43	207

**Book 10 December 1950- December 1952 (Reel2)**

ANNUAL MEETING January 17, 1951 (Directors/Society Members)	1
Treasures Report for year ending 12/31/50	3
General Secretaries Report for 1950	9
Nomination Committee Report 1/17/51	21
Special Meeting (Officers/Trustees) January 17, 1951	23
Organization for the year 1951	24
Letter of resignation 1/31/51	26
January 31, 1951 Regular Meeting (Committees)	27
Goal for 1951	29
February 28, 1951 Regular Meeting	30
Adoption program cooperative agreement	31
March 28, 1951 Regular Meeting	34
April 25, 1951 Regular Meeting	36
Resolutions concerning Personnel Training	37
May 29, 1951 Regular Meeting	38
Letters concerning full time Executive Director 6/5/51	40
Letters concerning absence at meetings 6/13/51	42
Letters concerning inability to attend meeting 6/23/51	43
June 27, 1951 Regular Meeting	44
September 26, 1951 Regular Meeting	46
Meeting of Executive Committees of BFSS and Good Samaritan Home	48
October 31, 1951 Regular Meeting	49
Executive Committee Meeting 11/8/51	51
Executive Committee Meeting 11/28/51	53
November 28, 1951 Regular Meeting	54
Personnel Committee Meeting 12/19/51	55
December 26, 1951 Regular Meeting	56
Letter announcing Annual Meeting	58
Agenda for Annual Meeting	59

Nominating Committee Report	60
ANNUAL MEETING January 7, 1952 (Directors/Society Members)	62
Agency Statistics	65
General Secretaries Report for 1951	67
Presidents Report 1951	79
Treasurers Report for year ending 12/31/51	83
Board/Society Members list	88
January 7, 1952 Regular Meeting (Officers)	89
January 30, 1952 Regular Meeting	90
February 27, 1952 Regular Meeting	92
Personal Committee Meeting 3/24/52	94
March 26, 1952 Regular Meeting	95
April 30, 1952 Regular Meeting	98
May 28, 1952 Regular Meeting	100
Letter of resignation, Director 4/4/52	101
June 25, 1952 Regular Meeting	102
Executive Committee Meeting 8/22/52	103
September 24, 1952 Regular Meeting	105
October 29, 1952 Regular Meeting	107
November 26, 1952 Regular Meeting	109
Letter of bequest from A. White	111
December 30, 1952 Regular Meeting	112
Letter accepting A. White bequest 12/31/52	114
Attendance record for 1952	115

**Book 11 January 1957-January 1958 (Reel 3)**

Agenda for Annual Meeting	1
ANNUAL MEETING January 22, 1957 (Directors/Society Members)	2
General Secretaries Report for 1956	4
January 22, 1957 Regular Meeting (Officers/Trustees)	15
Board and Staff organization for 1957	16
January 30, 1957 Regular Meeting	19
February 27, 1957 Regular Meeting	21
Treasurers Report January 1957	23
March 27, 1957 Regular Meeting	24
April 24, 1957 Regular Meeting	26
Treasurers Report March 1957	28
May 29, 1957 Regular Meeting	29
Treasurers Report April 1957	32
Letters concerning co-operation of services 6/4/57	33
June 26, 1957 Regular Meeting	35
Treasurers Report May 1957	37
Projected budget for 1958 and operating budget for 1957	38
Breakdown and explanation of budget for 1958	39
Adoptive home placement agreement	41

Personnel Committee Meeting 8/9/57	42
Letter or resignation, Treasurer 7/23/57	43
Letter of resignation, Director 9/10/57	44
Note from Nominating Committee	45
Agenda for September meeting	46
September 25, 1957 Regular Meeting	47
Treasurers report for August	49
Casework statistics for August 1957	50
Code of Personnel Practices	51
Letter concerning co-operative agreement with Catholic Service	61
Co-operative agreement bequest with Catholic Service Bureau	62
Letter accepting bequest of F. Clifford 9/27/57	64
Letters accepting resignation, Directors 9/30/57	65
October 30, 1957 Regular Meeting	67
Code of Personnel Practices and Policies passed 10/30/57	69
Treasurers Report September 1957	76
Family Case Committee Meeting 1/22/57	77
Publicity and Interpretation Committee Meeting 11/26/57	79
Letter of resignation, Director	80
Agenda November Meeting	81
November 27, 1957 Regular Meeting	82
Treasurers Report October 1957	85
Casework Statistics October 1957	86
Letter accepting resignation, Director 11/29/57	87
Letter of bequest from Susie O. Clifford 12/11/57	88
Agenda December meeting	89
December 30, 1957 Regular Meeting	90
Treasurers Report November 1957	92
Casework statistics November 1957	93
Vote accepting Susie O. Clifford bequest 12/30/57	94
Letter concerning the Susie O. Clifford bequest 1/6/58	95
Letter concerning mentally ill young man 12/24/57	96
Letter concerning the renewal of license 1/6/58	98
Letter concerning Osteopathic physicians	99
Nominating Committee Meeting 1/16/58	107
Agenda Annual Meeting	109
ANNUAL MEETING January 29, 1958 (Directors/Society Members)	110
Fee scales Present and Proposed	113
Nominating Committee Report	114
By-laws for Family and Child Services of Bangor	116
Annual Report of the General Secretary	125
Annual Report 1957	128
Letter rejecting nomination to Board	140
Letters accepting nomination to Board	141
List of attendance for 1957-58	149

**Book 12 January 1958-April 1959 (Reel 3)**

January 29, 1958 Regular Meeting (Officers/Trustees)	1
Personnel Committee meeting 2/18/58	2
Letters concerning change of name 2/19/58	4
February 26, 1958 Special Meeting; Office relocation	6
Report on property for office location	7
Agenda for February meeting	8
February 26, 1958 Regular Meeting	9
Proposed salary schedule	12
Job description for code of Personnel Policies and Practices	13
Operating Account January 1958	23
Casework statistics January 1958	24
Letter announcing special meeting 3/10/58	25
Agenda March meeting	26
March 26, 1958 Regular Meeting	27
Operating account February 1958	30
Fee scales for adoptive placements	31
Report on property for office location	32
Letter of thanks for service 4/17/58	33
Public Relation Committee meeting 4/21/58	34
Letter concerning intendance at meetings 4/29/58	36
Agenda for April meeting	37
April 30, 1958 Regular Meeting	38
Operating Account March 1958	40
Agenda May meeting	41
May 28, 1958 Regular Meeting	42
Operating Account April 1958	44
Letter recording receipt of donation 5/7/58	45
Letter concerning tax deduction 5/9/58	46
Agenda June meeting	47
June 25, 1958 Regular Meeting	48
Salaries for 1958 and proposed for 1959	49
Casework Statistics January-May 1958	50
Proposed Budget for 1959	51
Letter concerning September Meeting 9/19/58	52
Board of Trustees Meeting concerning relocation of offices 9/24	53
Public Relation Committee Meeting 9/24/58	54
Agenda September Meeting	56
September 24, 1958 Regular Meeting	57
September 30, 1958 Continuation of 9/24 meeting	58
Operating Account August 1958	61
Casework Statistics January-August 1958	62
Letters concerning the function of the Community Chest	63
Draft agreement between the Community Chest and Agency	65
Letter concerning recommendations to the agency 10/8/58	68

Letter concerning the relocation of offices 10/21/58	70
Agenda October meeting	73
October 29, 1958 Regular Meeting	74
Operating Account for September 1958	76
Casework Statistics September 1958	77
Report on property for relocation of offices	78
Agenda November Meeting	79
November 26, 1958 Regular Meeting	80
Operating Account October 1958	82
Proposed Budget for 1959, Revised	83
Letters concerning acknowledgement of gift	84
Agenda for December meeting	86
December 29, 1958 Regular Meeting	87
Operating account for November 1958	89
Casework Statistics January-November 1958	90
Proposed budget for 1959, Revised	91
Letter concerning property ownership	92
Letters requesting copies of "Highlights" 1/27/59	93
Agenda for January meeting	94
January 28, 1959 Regular Meeting	95
Operating Account December 1958	97
Agenda February meeting	98
February 25, 1959 Regular Meeting	99
Operating Account January 1959	101
Casework Statistics January 1959	102
Proposed budget for 1959	103
Letter concerning floor coverings 1/24/59	104
Estimate on floor covering	106
Letters concerning property ownership	107
Public Relations Committee meeting 3/25/59	109
Agenda March Meeting	111
March 25, 1959 Regular Meeting	112
Operating Account February 1959	114
Casework Statistics January-February 1959	115
Executive Committee meeting 4/1/59	116
Proposed budget for 1960	118
Salaries and proposed salaries for 1959-1960	119
Special Guests at 75 <sup>TH</sup> Anniversary	120
Nominating Committee Report 1/28/60	121
Nominations for 1960 Directors and Members	122
Agenda for Annual Meeting	123
ANNUAL MEETING April 28, 1960 (Directors/Society Members)	124
April 28, 1960 Board of Directors Meeting (Officers)	126
Casework Statistics January-March 1960	127
Miscellaneous notes concerning changes over the year	128
Attendance for 1959	131



**Book 13 May 1959-March 1961 (Reel 3)**

Casework Statistics January-March 1959	1
Agenda May Meeting	2
May 27, 1959 Regular Meeting	3
Record from the Probate Office, M. Appleton estate	5
Letter concerning telephone listings 6/59	6
Newspaper clipping concerning Bureau of Mental Health	10
Letter to Members-at-large concerning items for new offices	11
Letter to Members-at-large not at the Annual Meeting	12
Agenda June Meeting	13
June 24, 1959 Regular Meeting	14
Letter to donation to office furniture 6/30/59	17
Letter concerning conference 7/30/59	18
Letters concerning the state matching fund	19
Letter to Science Serv. Inc. concerning subscription 9/29/59	21
Agenda September Meeting	22
September 30, 1959 Regular Meeting	23
Operating Account August 1959	26
Social Work Committee Meeting 10/28/59	27
Agenda October Meeting	28
October 28, 1959 Regular Meeting	29
Operating Account September 1959	31
Personnel Committee Meeting 11/23/59	32
Agenda November Meeting	35
November 30, 1959 Regular Meeting	36
Agenda December Meeting	38
December 30, 1959 Regular Meeting	39
Casework Statistics January-November 1959	41
Operating Account November 1959	42
Social Work Committee Meeting 1/26/60	43
Agenda January Meeting	45
January 27, 1960 Regular Meeting	46
Letter concerning the lack of trained social workers in ME.	47
Agenda February Meeting	48
February 24, 1960 Regular Meeting	49
Operating Account January 1960	51
Official salaries policy of Nat. Assoc. Social Workers	52
Letters concerning nomination to the Board of Directors 3/9	53
March 30, 1960 Regular Meeting	55
Operating Account February 1960	57
Letter from speaker at Annual Meeting 4/11/60	58
Announcement of Annual Meeting	61
Letters to Members-at-large concerning Annual Meeting	63
Letter explaining inability to attend Annual Meeting	64

Annual Meeting Package: Agenda, Nominations, Exec. Dir. Report	65
ANNUAL MEETING April 27, 1960 (Officers/Directors)	71
Letters sent to Members at Annual Meeting 5/5/60	74
Agenda May Meeting	75
May 25, 1960 Regular Meeting	76
Agenda June Meeting	78
June 29, 1960 Regular Meeting	79
Outline of proposed Homemaker Service program	80
Summary of survey on need for Homemaker Service	83
Agenda September Meeting	84
September 28, 1960 Regular Meeting	85
Agenda October Meeting	87
October 26, 1960 Regular Meeting	88
Operating Account September 1960	90
Social Work Committee Meeting 11/2/60	91
Social Work Committee Meeting 11/25/60	93
Agenda November Meeting	95
November 30, 1960 Regular Meeting	96
Operating Account October 1960	99
December 28, 1960 Regular Meeting	100
Operating Account November 1960	102
Letters concerning commemorative stamp 1/8/61	103
Letters concerning speaker at Annual Meeting 1/25/61	108
Agenda January 1961	113
January 26, 1961 Regular Meeting	114
Operating Account December 1960	116
Cooperative agreement with Tuberculosis and Health Assoc.	117
Social Work Committee Meeting 2/1/61	120
Homemaker Newsletter	122
Family Life Education Committee Meeting 2/17/61	124
Agenda February Meeting	126
February 26, 1961 Regular Meeting	127
March 29, 1961 Regular Meeting	128
Attendance Records 1959-60	130
Attendance Records 1960-61	131

**Book 14 April 1961-March 1962 (Reel 3)**

Nominating Committee Meeting April 13, 1961	1
Agenda for Annual Meeting	2
ANNUAL MEETING April 26, 1961 (Directors/Society Members)	3
List of Directors and Members	6
Presidents Report 1961	7
Executive Directors Report 1961	9
Operating Account as of December 1960	20
Audit Report dated May 12, 1961	21

April 26, 1961 Board of Directors meeting (Officers/Trustees)	26
Newspaper Release Summary of Annual Meeting 5/12/61	27
Letters to Members not attending to the Annual Meeting 5/12/61	28
Letter concerning re-election of President 5/25/61	29
May 31, 1961 Regular Meeting	30
Operating Account April 1961	31
Homemaker Service Account March 1961	32
Personnel Committee meeting June 8, 1961	33
Employee prospect Social Caseworker, Catholic 6/8/61	34
Employee prospect Social Caseworker 6/8/61	35
Summary of Catholic Casework salary account	36
Employee prospect Supervisor for Homemaker Service 6/8/61	37
Employee prospect Supervisor for Homemaker Service 6/8/61	38
Agenda for September meeting	39
September 17, 1961 Regular Meeting	40
Operating Account May 1961	42
Letter of resignation, Member 10/3/61	43
Letter accepting resignation, Member 10/12/61	44
Letter of thanks for the use of flat bed trailer 10/20/61	45
Letter of resignation, Director 10/21/61	46
Agenda for October meeting	47
October 25, 1961 Regular Meeting	48
November 29, 1961 Regular Meeting	50
Homemaker Service Account January-October 1961	52
Operating Account October 1961	53
Homemaker Service Account October 1961	54
Executive Committee Meeting concerning alterations to offices 12/6	55
December 27, 1961 Regular Meeting	56
Homemaker Service Meeting January 12, 1962	58
Letter of resignation, Director 1/28/62	59
Document from Probate Office concerning L.W. Preble Bequest 1/31/62	60
Executive Committee Meeting 2/12/62	61
Agenda for February Meeting	63
February 28, 1962 Regular Meeting	64
Operating Account December 1961	66
Operating Account January 1962	67
Homemaker Service Account January 1962	68
Letter concerning office space loaned 3/5/62	69
Letter informing of election to Board of Directors 3/5/62	70
Homemaker Service meeting March 5, 1962	71
Poll of Executive Committee concerning legal retainer 3/13/62	73
Letter concerning elimination of Residence Requirements 3/21/62	75
Agenda for March meeting	77
March 28, 1962 Regular Meeting	78
Homemaker Service Account February 1962	81
Family Service Assoc. Am. Newsletter March 1962	82

**Book 15 April 1962-April 1963 (Reel 3)**

Invitation to Annual Meeting	1
Nominating Committee Report 4/2/62	2
Newspaper Release concerning upcoming Annual Meeting	4
Pamphlet program of Annual Meeting	6
ANNUAL MEETING April 11, 1962	7
Nominations Directors, Members 4/11/62	8
Executive Directors Report	9
April 11, 1962 Board of Directors Meeting (Officers/Trustees)	14
Post Annual Meeting news release	15
Letter of Thanks to participants in Annual Meeting	18
Board and Staff Organization for 1962-63	21
Announcement of Homemaker Service Meeting	25
Homemaker Service Meeting 4/30/62	26
Meeting on Aging 4/30/62	28
Joint Executive and Finance Committees Meeting	30
Agenda May Meeting	31
May 29, 1962 Regular Meeting	32
Operating Account May 1962	34
Homemaker Service Account May 1962	35
Letter concerning renewal of scholarship 6/4/62	36
Agenda June Meeting	37
June 28, 1962 Regular Meeting	38
Operating Account August 1962	40
Homemaker Service Account August 1962	41
Agency Statistics June-August 1962	42
Newsletter from Family Service Assoc. of Am.	43
Letter from Regional Consultant concerning agency 6/2/62	46
Report of Regional Consultant	47
Executive Committee Meeting 9/6/62	53
Agenda September meeting	54
September 26, 1962 Regular Meeting	55
Operating Account August 1962	57
Homemaker Service Account August 1962	58
Agency Statistics June-September 1962	59
Letter concerning L.W. Preble bequest 10/11/62	60
Agenda October Meeting	61
October 31, 1962 Regular Meeting	62
Operating Account September 1962	64
Letter concerning L.W. Preble bequest 11/2/62	65
Agenda November Meeting	66
November 28, 1962 Regular Meeting	67
Operating Account October 1962	69
Homemaker Service Account October 1962	70

Agency Statistics as of October 1962	71
Financial Statement as of October 31, 1962	72
Homemaker Service Meeting 11/29/62	74
Membership of Family Life Education Meeting	75
Family Life and Education Committee Meeting 12/5/62	76
Homemaker Service Committee Meeting 12/13/62	78
Letter concerning gift 12/62	80
Agenda December Meeting	81
December 26, 1962 Regular Meeting	82
Operating Account November 1962	84
Homemaker Service Account 1962	85
Letter of resignation, Director 1/9/63	86
Agenda January Meeting	87
January 30, 1963 Regular Meeting	88
Homemaker Service Account December 1962	90
Agency Statistics June-December 1962	91
Nominating Committee Meeting 2/11/63	92
Social Work Committee Meeting 2/13/63	94
Analysis of counseling fee for October 1962	95
Distribution of clients by residence and service 1962	98
Public Relations Committee Meeting 2/15/63	101
Personnel Committee Meeting 2/18/63	102
Agenda February Meeting	104
February 27, 1963 Regular Meeting	105
Operating Account January 1963	108
Homemaker Service Account January 1963	109
Agenda March Meeting	110
March 27, 1963 Regular Meeting	111
Operating Account February 1963	113
Homemaker Service Account March 1963	114
Personnel Committee Meeting 4/18/63	115
Letter concerning transfer of cases to Good Samaritan Home 4/63	120

**Book 16 April 1963-April 1964 (Reel 3)**

By-Laws/Amendments January 29, 1958	1
Pamphlet of Annual Meeting April 25, 1963	11
ANNUAL MEETING April 25, 1963	12
Executive Directors Report	14
April 25, 1962 Board of Directors Meeting (Officers/Trustee)	17
Homemaker Service Account December 1963	18
Executive Committee Meeting concerning Budget 5/10/63	20
Budget 1964	21
Homemaker Service Budget for 1964	24
Agenda May Meeting	25
May 29, 1963 Regular Meeting	26

Operating Account April 1963	28
Agenda June Meeting	29
June 26, 1963 Regular Meeting	30
Operating Account May 1963	31
Homemaker Service Account May 1963	32
Joint Personnel and Homemaker Service Meeting 6/20/63	33
Operating Account June 1963	34
Joint Committee Meeting; Family and Child Service & Good Sam. Home	35
Housing Committee Meeting 9/9/63	36
Agenda September Meeting	38
September 23, 1963 Regular Meeting	39
Operating Account July 1963	41
Homemaker Service Account 1963	42
Operating Account August 1963	43
Homemaker Service Account August 1963	44
Agency Statistics January-July 1963	45
Agenda October Meeting	46
October 30, 1963 Regular Meeting	47
Operating Account September 1963	49
Agency Statistics January-September 1963	50
Agenda November Meeting	51
November 27, 1963 Regular Meeting	52
Operating Account October 1963	53
Homemaker Service Account October 1963	54
Letter concerning change in services 12/2/63	55
Letter concerning membership 12/10/63	56
Letter of resignation, Director 12/16/63	57
Agenda December Meeting	58
December 18, 1963 Regular Meeting	59
Operating Account November 1963	60
Homemaker Service Account November 1963	61
Public Relations Committee Meeting 12/27/63	62
Letter of invitation to play in Portland 1/20/64	64
Letter naming member to Board of Directors 1/22/64	65
Letter accepting resignation, Director	66
Agenda January Meeting	67
January 29, 1964 Regular Meeting	68
Operating Account December 1963	70
Homemaker Service Account December 1963	71
Letter to United Fund concerning change of salary 2/5/64	72
Letters approving raise 3/11/64	74
Letter from United Fund concerning awards night 2/12/64	75
Agenda February Meeting	76
February 26, 1964 Regular Meeting	79
Operating Account January 1964	80
Homemaker Service Account January 1964	81

Executive Board Meeting Concerning budget 2/28/64	82
Letters in response to request for volunteers	84
Casework Committee Meeting 3/23/64	86
Nominating Committee Meeting 3/25/64	88
March 25, 1964 Regular Meeting	90
Operating Account February 1964	91
Homemaker Service Account February 1964	92
Budgets 1962-1965	93
Board Attendance 1964-65	94

**Book 17 April 1964-April 1965 (Reel 4)**

Letter of invitation to Annual Meeting 4/6/64	1
Letters accepting nomination, Members	2
Pamphlet of Annual Meeting	4
ANNUAL MEETING April 16, 1964	5
Agenda April Meeting	6
April 29, 1964 Regular Meeting	7
Standing Committees 1964-65	9
Board and Staff organization 1964-65	11
Operating Account March 1964	12
Homemaker Service Account March 1964	13
Agency interpretation and family life education 1963	14
Agenda May Meeting	16
May 27, 1964 Regular Meeting	17
Budget 1964-65	18
Operating Account April 1964	19
Homemaker Service Account April 1964	20
Invitation to Family Service Association Meeting 6/18/64	21
Agenda September Meeting	22
September 30, 1964 Regular Meeting	23
Homemaker Service Account May 1964	24
Operating Account August 1964	25
Report on the Agency	26
Social Issues Committee Meeting 10/27/64	37
October 28, 1964 Regular Meeting	39
Letter of invitation to Victory Dinner 11/9/64	40
Letter of resignation, Staff 11/17/64	41
House Committee Meeting 11/23/64	42
Agenda November Meeting	44
November 25, 1964 Regular Meeting	45
Operating Account October 1964	47
Public Relations Committee Meeting 12/22/64	48
Social Work Committee Meeting 12/28/64	49
Agenda December Meeting	50
December 30, 1964 Regular Meeting	51

Operating Account November 1964	52
Homemaker Service Account November 1964	53
Casework Statistics July-November 1964	54
Social Work Committee Meeting 1/4/65	55
Intake Policies	58
Personnel Committee Meeting 1/6/65	63
Letters from United Fund approving raise 1/25/65	65
Agenda January Meeting	66
January 27, 1965 Regular Meeting	67
Homemaker Service Account December 1964	70
Income and expenses for Homemaker Service	71
Personnel Committee Meeting 2/15/65	72
Salary Schedule for all positions 2/24/65	74
Nominating Committee Meeting 2/17/65	75
Letter of resignation, Director 2/18/65	79
Agenda February Meeting	80
February 24, 1965 Regular Meeting	81
Operating Account January 1965	83
Letter accepting resignation, Director 3/8/65	84
Executive Committee Meeting 3/12/65	85
Public Issues Committee Meeting 3/16/65	87
Letter of resignation, Director 3/16/65	90
Executive Committee Meeting 3/26/65	91
Agenda March Meeting	93
March 31, 1965 Regular Meeting	94
Operating Account February 1965	98
Homemaker Service Account February 1965	99
Legislative Document; Discrimination in Rental Housing	100
Letter concerning new temporary position	101
Delegates Certification Form	102
Letter of resignation, Member	103
Nominations 1965	104
Letter of resignation Member	105
Letter concerning hiring new employee	106
Amendments to by-laws Article IV Sec. 2	107
Vacation Allowances	108

**Book 18 April 1965-November 1966 (Reel 4)**

Letters accepting nomination to become Members	1
ANNUAL MEETING April 14, 1965 (Officers/Directors/Trustees)	9
Executive Committee Meeting 4/26/65	11
Agenda April Meeting	12
April 28, 1965 Regular Meeting	13
Operating Account March 1965	16
Homemaker Service Account March 1965	17



Attorney's opinion on changes to by-laws	18
Amendment to by-laws	19
Letter of resignation, Director 6/7/65	20
Agenda June Meeting	21
June 7, 1965 Regular Meeting	22
Operating Account April 1965	24
Clients Payments January-June 1965	25
Homemaker Service Account April 1965	26
Revision to Personnel Practices and Policies	27
Staff and Board Organization 1965-1966	30
Budget Material	34
Tentative agreement with EMGC	38
Homemaker Service Meeting 9/20/65	40
Letter concerning Homemaker Service Funds	42
Agenda September Meeting	44
September 29, 1965 Regular Meeting	45
Operating Account August 1965	48
Homemaker Service Account July 1965	49
Homemaker Service Account August 1965	50
Homemaker Service Budget material	51
Agency Statistics January-August 1965	53
Social Work Committee Meeting 10/20/65	54
Adoption cases paid in 1965	56
Geographic area covered by Agency	59
Personnel Committee Meeting	60
Material for report of Personnel Committee	63
Letter refusing Supervisor position	64
Salary and Supervisory time distribution	66
Letter of resignation, Director 10/25/65	67
Agenda October Meeting	68
October 27, 1965 Regular Meeting	69
Operating Account September 1965	72
Homemaker Service Account September 1965	73
Nominating Committee Meeting 10/27/65	74
Homemaker Service Meeting 11/29/65	75
4 year study of Homemaker Service	77
Agenda November Meeting	87
November 30, 1965 Regular Meeting	88
Operating Account October 1965	90
Personnel Committee Meeting 12/28/65	91
Public Relations Committee Meeting	92
Agenda December Meeting	93
December 29, 1965 Regular Meeting	94
Operating Account November 1965	96
Homemaker Service Account November 1965	97
Letter from WABI	98

Letter concerning workmen's compensation	100
Agency Statistics September-November 1965	102
Agenda January Meeting	103
January 26, 1966 Regular Meeting	104
Operating Account for the year 1965	106
Homemaker Service Account December 1965	107
Letter of resignation, Treasurer 1/24/66	108
4 <sup>th</sup> draft of Component Project	109
Social Work Committee Meeting	113
Intake Policies with revision	114
Agenda February Meeting	119
February 28, 1966 Regular Meeting	120
Operating Account January 1966	122
Homemaker Service Account January 1966	123
Personnel Committee Meeting	124
Letter of resignation, Director 3/4/66	125
Nominating Committee Meeting	128
Agenda March Meeting	130
March 30, 1966 Regular Meeting	131
Operating Account February 1966	133
Homemaker Service Account February 1966	134
Personnel Committee Meeting 4/1/66	135
Personnel Committee Meeting 4/6/66	136
Nominating Committee Meeting 4/7/66	137
Nominating Committee Meeting 11/16/66	138