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Finding Aid for the

Kent County Family Life Council Records

Collection # 045

June 2007 version

Abstract

The Kent County Family Life Council Records contains correspondences, brochures, bulletins, catalogs, certificates, financial records, journal and magazine articles, manuals, memoranda, minutes, news releases, newsletters, newspaper clippings, notes, pamphlets, papers, reports, scrapbook, speeches, yearbooks, miscellaneous material, and photographs of the organization. The Family Life Council of Kent County was organized in 1947 as the Marriage Education Council, the name was changed to Kent County Family Life Council in 1955. Its purpose was to bring together organizations and individuals interested in promoting strong family life. The Family Life Council organization closed on May 13, 1983, due to declining participation. Holdings document the history and activities of the Council and provide data about social issues or topics such as divorce and services for youth.

Collection #: 045

Accession #: 1986.159

Donor: Robert Blett & Kent County Family Life Council

Span dates: 1948-1983

Original processing date: Bruce Lee Siebers, April 1987; revised R. Mayne

Size: 2 cu.ft. ; x linear ft.

Box Summary

Box No.	Description of Contents	Box Description
1	correspondence/financial records	standard
2	minutes/newsletters	standard
3	notes/speeches/photos	standard
4	yearbooks	clam 3x15.5x10.5
5	scrapbook	gray lidded 4x12.5x15.5

Processing Note

The papers, records, and photographs were contained in folders in record center boxes. The papers and records are arranged chronologically, and the photographs are arranged numerically. Preservation steps included: removal of paper clips and staples, photocopying some correspondences onto acid-free paper, sleeving photographs, and foldering into acid free folders and boxes.

History

The Kent County Family Life Council was organized in 1947 as the Marriage Education Council, as part of a nationwide movement to teach family living skills to adolescents. A group of interested citizens in cooperation with the Home Economics department of the Grand Rapids Board of Education began the local movements with membership from social and health agencies, churches, parent and teacher organizations, and the home economics teachers. The Council's initial purpose was exploring the need for and implementing a home and family life course in the local high schools.

Council bylaws were adopted March 20, 1950, with the stated purpose of, "To make available educational opportunities for youth, young adults and others in the field of marriage preparation, marital and family adjustments; to provide better education for home and family living." Membership was to be on either an individual or organizational basis.

In 1955, Home and Family Living classes were included in the school curricula as a result. In 1955, a reorganization of the council resulted in a new name the Family Life Council of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Still later it was renamed the Kent County Family Life Council. The Council was discontinued after the luncheon meeting on May 13, 1983.

Scope and Content

Papers, records, photographs, and scrapbooks covering the period 1948-1983. The group's various interest areas included divorce, community services for youth, anti social gangs and juvenile delinquency.

Series Descriptions

The collection consists of 23 series Correspondences, Brochures, Bulletins, Catalog, Certificates, Financial Records, Journal and Magazine Articles, Manuals, Memoranda, Minutes, News Releases, Newsletters, Newspaper Clippings, Notes, Pamphlets, Papers, Reports, Scrapbook, Speeches, Yearbooks, Miscellaneous Material, and Photographs. Correspondences, notes, bulletins, manuals, minutes, news releases, scrapbooks and yearbooks regarding the history and activities of the Family Life Council. Brochures, catalogs, journal and magazine articles, newspaper clippings, speeches and reports containing information on social issues or topics such as divorce, community services for youth, services for senior citizens, cancer, crime, child care and etc.. Financial records consist of budget and treasurer filed for 1968-1977.

Series I. Correspondence, 1959-1979.

Arranged Chronologically.

Includes letters regarding the activities of the organization and dealing with social problems. Some of the correspondents are: Wilhelmina Wright, Bob Blett (Kent County Health Department), Daniel J. Day, Alan Snider, Rick Brichen (Urban Concern Inc.), Ruth M. Jubb, Sister M. Columkille, Ray Ritsema, Ebronix Learning Centers, University of Michigan Extension Service, Junior League of Grand Rapids, Inc., American National Red Cross, The Salvation Army, World Affairs Council, The Wolverine Council of N.M.A., Grand Rapids Art Museum, Dick Richards (WZZM-TV), Joyce Kortman and Mrs. Carl Nelson.

Series II. Brochures

Provides detailed information on several topics including: services for senior citizens, family and the law, working with kids, Baxter Community Center, service and rehabilitation for cancer patients, Michigan Council on Family Relations, citizens against crime, volunteerism, and community coordinated child care.

Series III. Bulletins

Arranged Chronologically

Bulletins RE Council luncheon meetings from 1970 to May 1983. In addition, there are a few bulletins from the US Food & Drug Administration.

Series IV. Catalog

Public Education Film Catalog containing an annotated bibliography of films regarding cancer.

Series V. Certificates

Blank award certificates.

Series VI. Documents

Bylaws, and proclamations of the Council.

Series VII. Financial Records

Arranged Chronologically.

Budget sheets and treasurer's report from 1968-1977.

Series VIII. Journal and Magazine Articles

“Helping the Panic Neighborhood,” “7 Myths That Cause Unhappy Family Life,” “Teaching Children About Money,” “What Do You Like Most About Yourself,” “Assertiveness Training for your Child,” and “Atom-Age Trash.”

Series IX. Manuals

Arranged Chronologically.

Procedure Manuals (1974-1977) containing a compilation of committees' or officers' activities and records.

Series X. Memoranda

Programs, and a completed list of board members 1970-1971.

Series XI. Minutes

Arranged Chronologically.

Minutes and notes, 1972-1983.

Series XII. News Releases

Arranged Chronologically.

Topics discussed at luncheon meetings of the council, 1975-1978.

Series XIII. Newsletters

Arranged Chronologically.

Newsletters from the Michigan Council on Family Relations, 1974-5.

Series XIV. Newspaper Clippings

Contains the following: "Making Good Citizens out of Potential Criminals," "Awareness of social problems isn't getting to solutions," "Money Didn't Help Police-School Liaison," "Foundation's New Chief Pledges Active Policy," "The Grand Rapids Foundation," "How to get your Child to Behave," and "Tips On Getting Along With People."

Series XV. Notes

Arranged Chronologically.

Information on the activities of the Council, including some historical documentation on its organization. In addition, has notes regarding the attendance record of meetings, award winners, and the nominating committee, a few notes on SCAN (Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect) program.

Series XVI. Pamphlets

You And The Law, The Des Moines, Community Corrections Project .. and alternative to jail, Policies and Background Information, Things to THINK About, and A Guide for Establishing Effective Helping Relationships.

Series XVII. Papers

Deal with the following topics: "The Hyperactive Child Adaptive Reactions Of The Adolescent," "Community Housing Improvement Program-Chest Area City of Grand Rapids and Chest Improvement Club," "Training and Supervision of Homemakers," and "Me Family Life Council of Kent County."

Series XVIII. Reports

Reports on the nursing home residents, rehabilitation programs, pollution and our environment, and Inland Lakes And Streams Bill, H.B. 4948. In addition, there is a nominating committee report of April 7, 1975.

Series XIX. Scrapbook

Historical information about the Council, ca. 1947-1972.

Series XX. Speeches

Consisting of a speeches presented to the Council: "Problems of Divorce As Seen By The Lawyer and Prosecutor," "A Child--separated from his family--What Happens to Him," and "The Role of the Gang--Why Gangs, Where Gangs, and Consequences of them."

Series XXI. Yearbooks

Arranged Chronologically.

Information regarding the organization and its programs, 1959-1982.

Series XXII. Miscellaneous

A leaflet on a short course on Human Relations.

Series XXIII. Photographs

Arranged Numerically.

19 Photographs of members and officers of Council, speakers, and award winners. See an index at the end of this finding aid.

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
1		Series I. Correspondence, 1959-1979.
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	4	June 13, 1978-April 25, 1979
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		Series III. Bulletins.
1	8	1970-1983.
	9	1970-1983
1	10	Food and Drug Administration.
1	11	Series IV. Catalog- Public Education Film Catalog.
1	12	Series V. Certificates.
		Series VI. Documents
1	13	Bylaws.
	14	Proclamation.
1	15	Series VII. Financial Records, 1968-1977.
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1	19	Series X. Memorandums.
		Series XI. Minutes.
1	20	1972-1979.
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3	49	Attendance Record, 1969-1978.
3	50	Award Winners, 1961-1982.

- 3 51 Nominating Committee, 1971-1981.
- 3 52 SCAN. (Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect)
- Series XVI. Pamphlets.**
- 2 53 Policies & Background Information
You and the Law
The Des Moines Community Project
Things to THINK about
- 2 54 A GUIDE FOR ESTABLISHING EFFECTIVE RELATIONSHIPS
- Series XVII. Papers.**
- 3 55
3 56 “The Family Life Council Of Kent County.”
- Series XVIII. Reports.**
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- Series XIX. Scrapbooks.**
1947-1972
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- 3 58 **Series XX. Speeches.**
- Series XXI. Yearbooks.**
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- 3 59 **Series XXII. Miscellaneous.**
- Series XXIII. Photographs**
3 60 Photographs (19 fnd. 8/2005 & 7/8/2007).
See Index below.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

- 1 "Starts New Season"; Promoting happy harmonious family life is the work of these four people, all officers of Kent County Family Life Council. Left to right: Mrs. Edward A. Benson, Secretary; Theodore B. Lascari, a director; Ruth M. Jubb, president; and Mrs. James D. Wells, treasurer.
- 2 1976, FLC April Speaker. (Color; turning)
- 3 FLC April Speaker, 1976.
- 4 Myrtle Reul, Asst. Professor at Michigan State University, College of Business & Public Service, Addressed the Council, 1961.
- 5 Left to Right: Mrs. Herman Beute, Mrs. Carol Nelson, Dr. James Bunnell, Sheriff Arnold Pigorsh, February 1963. Map Family Life Program.
- 6-7 Left to Right: Mark White, Joan Hoekstra, Rev. ? ? O'Connor?.
- 8 Left to Right: Carol Krammer, Mark White.
- 9 Left to Right: ?, Carolyn Ritsema, Carol Kramer.
- 10 Left to Right: ?, Carolyn Ritsema, Carol Kramer
- 11 Left to Right: Carolyn Ritsema, Ray Ritsema.
- 12 Left to Right: Emery Freeman presenting award to Rev. O'Connor?
- 13 Crowd in forground with Freeman & O'Connor getting their picture taken in the background. Mrs. Herman Beute(Mildred) facing the camera with the visible photographer behind her.
- 14 Group image, with crowd in foreground, speaker at microphone, at man standing behind the head table.
- 15 President 1961-1962, Donald Smallagan; President Elect, Mrs. Vernon Bull
- 16 President John G. Starr, second from right, attorney and past president of the Family Life Council, receives a special award for service to the community. Tim Johnson Jr., Awards Chairman for the Council, presents Starr a certificate similar to those received by Miss Ruth M. Jubb, Coordinator for health education for the Grand Rapids Board of Education and also a past president and right, Mrs. Hugh Brown Jr., secretary, 1961.
- 17 Mrs. John H. Hess, left, Mrs. James C. Parker, president of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, and Mrs. George Meyer, retiring president of the Council, receive congratulations from Timothy Johnson, chairman of the Councils Awards Committee, April 18, 1961.
- 18 Mark White, Joan Hoekstra, Rev. O'Connor? (color snapshot)
- 19 Unidentified African American woman standing in front of Alexander Calder lithograph of La Grande Vitesse.

Picture Index. People. 045-3-60

Bull, Vernon
Hess, Mrs. Otto
Hoekstra, Joan
Johnson, Timothy Jr.
Jubb, Ruth M.
Meyer, Mrs. George
Parker, Mrs. James C.
Ruel, Myrtle
Ritsema, Carolyn
Starr, John G.
White, Mark F.