

Grand Rapids History & Special Collections

Archives

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Finding Aid for the
Needlework Guild Records

Collection # 030

September 2009 version

Abstract

This collection includes the papers of the Grand Rapids Branch of the Needlework Guild of America, 1924-1968. The Club was organized in 1921, and until it disbanded in 1968, collected and distributed clothing to needy people through charitable agencies. The collection includes the Club's minutes for most years, membership lists, reports, correspondence, and a substantial group of newspaper clippings from a scrapbook.

Collection #: 030

Accession #: 1986.036

Donor: Anonymous

Span dates: 1924-1968

Processor: Original processor, Wendy K. Walker, 1987.

Inventory, Andres Stadt, 10/1999.

Box Summary, Marcella Beck, August 25, 2000.

Update & revision, R. Mayne, Sept. 2002

Size: Approx. .5 linear ft. (5 inches)

Box Summary

Box No.	Description of Contents	Box Description
<hr/>		
Box inventory 8/2009		
1	files	standard legal flip

History

The Grand Rapids Branch of the Needlework Guild of America was founded in 1921, as part of the national organization that had been formed in 1885. Throughout its 47 years of service to Grand Rapids and Kent County, the Guild distributed new clothing to needy persons through charitable agencies. These agencies included Mary Free Bed Guild, St. John's Children's Home, D.A. Blodgett Home for Children, the Butterworth Hospital Outpatient Clinic, Community Health Center, GR Association for the Blind, Villa Maria, and Christian Youth Home. At its peak, the Guild distributed 18,000 garments per year. Membership in the Needlework Guild was open to anyone who contributed two new articles of clothing. The Guild disbanded in 1968 when members found that the operation required more effort than they could give.

Scope and Content

The collection contains the following series: Minutes, Record Book, Correspondence, Scrapbook and Miscellaneous. The primary aspect of the material is the nearly complete run of the Guild's minutes during its existence. Other records include membership lists, financial reports and national reports. The collection also contains a scrapbook of newspaper clippings and correspondence.

The Correspondence Series (1940, 1960-1968, n.d.) contains primarily thank you letters from agencies and individuals that the Guild assisted. It also includes the letter from the national organization when the Grand Rapids branch disbanded. The scrapbooks contain newspaper clippings concerning the Guild's activities and yearly reports of numbers of people helped and the Guild's officers. The materials were once in scrapbook form. It also contains two photographs from 1960 that appear to be of Guild members.

Contents

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	Minutes, 1924-6, 1956-60.
1	2	Record Book, 1939, 1951-68.
1	3	Correspondence, 1940, 1960-8, n.d.
1	4	Scrapbook, 1951-68.
1	5	Miscellaneous, 1948, 1958, 1965, n.d.