

Finding aid for the Needlework Guild records Collection 030

Finding aid prepared by Wendy K. Walker

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

September 13, 2013

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
1987
111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49503
616-988-5400
localhis@grpl.org

Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u>	4
<u>Scope and Contents note</u>	4
<u>Administrative Information</u>	4
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	5
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	6

Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title	Needlework Guild records
Date [inclusive]	1924-1968
Extent	0.5 Linear feet One box
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The Needlework Guild of America collected and distributed clothing through charitable agencies. The Grand Rapids Branch was organized in 1921 and disbanded in 1968. This collection includes the club's minutes for most years, membership lists, reports, correspondence and a substantial group of newspaper clippings from a scrapbook.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

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 Contents note

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 a 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.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department 1987

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Accession Number: 1986.036; Donor: Anonymous

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Needlework Guild of America. Grand Rapids Branch.

Genre(s)

- records (documents)

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Subject(s)

- Charities -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

Collection Inventory

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