

Finding aid for the Kent County Family Life Council records Collection 045

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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

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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title	Kent County Family Life Council records
Date [inclusive]	1948-1983
Extent	2.42 Linear feet Five boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The Kent County Family Life Council promoted a strong family life by providing education opportunities for youth regarding home and family living. In 1955, home and family living classes were included in the school curricula as a result of their efforts. The 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.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

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 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 Contents note

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 group's various interest areas included divorce, community services for youth, anti social gangs and juvenile delinquency.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

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

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Family Life Council of Grand Rapids.
- Kent County Family Life Council.
- Marriage Education Council.

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Subject(s)

- Family services -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
-

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.

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 foreground 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.

Series I. Correspondence, 1959-1979

Collection Inventory

Series I. Correspondence, 1959-1979

Scope and Contents note

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. Arranged Chronologically.

	Box	Folder
1959-1971	1	1
May-June 1971	1	2
June 14, 1972-April 30, 1978	1	3
June 13, 1978-April 25, 1979	1	4
Series II. Brochures	Box	Folder
	1	5-7

Scope and Contents note

Provides detailed information on several topics including: services for senior citizens, family and the law, working with kids, Baxter Community Center,

Series III. Bulletins

service and rehabilitation for cancer patients, Michigan Council on Family Relations, citizens against crime, volunteerism, and community coordinated child care.

Series III. Bulletins

Scope and Contents note

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

	Box	Folder
1970-1983	1	8
1970-1983	1	9
Food and Drug Administration	1	10

Series IV. Catalog- Public Education Film Catalog

Box	Folder
1	11

Scope and Contents note

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

Series V. Certificates

Box	Folder
1	12

Scope and Contents note

Blank award certificates.

Series VI. Documents**Series VI. Documents****Scope and Contents note**

Bylaws, and proclamations of the Council.

	Box	Folder
Bylaws	1	13
Proclamation	1	14

Series VII. Financial Records, 1968-1977**Scope and Contents note**

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

Series VIII. Journal and Magazine Articles**Scope and Contents note**

“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, 1974-1977**Scope and Contents note**

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

Series X. Memorandums

Series X. Memorandums	Box	Folder
Scope and Contents note	1	19
Programs, and a completed list of board members 1970-1971.		
Series XI. Minutes		
Scope and Contents note		
Minutes and notes, 1972-1983. Arranged Chronologically.		
	Box	Folder
1972-1979	1	20
1969-1983	2	21
1969-1983	2	22
Series XII. News Releases, 1975-1978	Box	Folder
	2	23
Scope and Contents note		
Topics discussed at luncheon meetings of the council, 1975-1978. Arranged Chronologically.		
Series XIII. Newsletters, 1974-1975	Box	Folder
	2	24
Scope and Contents note		

Series XIV. Newspaper Clippings

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

	Box	Folder
Series XIV. Newspaper Clippings	2	25

Scope and Contents note

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**Scope and Contents note**

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. Arranged Chronologically.

	Box	Folder
1948-1959	2	26-35
1958-1981	3	36-48
Attendance Record, 1969-1978	3	49
Award Winners, 1961-1982	3	50

Series XVI. Pamphlets

Nominating Committee, 1971-1981	3	51
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SCAN (Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect)	3	52
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Series XVI. Pamphlets

	Box	Folder
Policies & Background Information	2	53
You and the Law	2	53
The Des Moines Community Project	2	53
Things to THINK about	2	53
A Guide for Establishing Effective Relationship	2	54

Series XVII. Papers**Scope and Contents note**

Deals 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."

	Box	Folder
Papers	3	55

Series XVIII. Reports

“The Family Life Council Of Kent County”

3

56

Series XVIII. Reports**Box****Folder**

3

57

Scope and Contents note

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. Scrapbooks**Scope and Contents note**

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

Box

1947-1972

5

Series XX. Speeches**Box****Folder**

3

58

Scope and Contents note

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**Box**

4

Scope and Contents note

Series XXII. Miscellaneous

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

	Box	Folder
Series XXII. Miscellaneous	3	59

Scope and Contents note

A leaflet on a short course on Human Relations.

Series XXIII. Photographs**Scope and Contents note**

19 Photographs of members and officers of Council, speakers, and award winners. See an index included in this finding aid. Arranged Numerically.

	Box	Folder
Photographs (19 fnd. 8/2005 and 7/8/2007). See Index	3	60