



Northampton Community Chest Records

1922-1969

6 boxes (3 linear ft.)

Call no.: MS52

Collection overview

Community Chest of Northampton, Massachusetts that sought the federation of non-sectarian social service agencies for the raising of funds necessary to carry on the work of several agencies doing welfare work in town. Records include constitution and by-laws, Board of Directors membership lists, minutes, annual reports, campaign reports, ledgers, annual meeting planning documents, scrapbooks, and newsclippings.

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Background on Northampton Community Chest Association (Northampton, Mass.)

In 1922, the Northampton Chamber of Commerce retired from its leadership in the local Community Chest, and a separate Northampton Community Chest Association was established. The Community Chest sought the federation of non-sectarian social service agencies doing welfare work in Northampton, Massachusetts, for the raising of funds necessary to carry on the work of their several agencies.

The Community Chest Association continued its work until 1933 when four of six agencies withdrew from the Chest. The Community Chest Board then recommended that the Council of Social Agencies serve in the Chest's former capacity and it briefly disbanded. In 1936, however, the Community Chest resumed its work.

The Chest frequently did not meet its campaign goals; public apathy and ignorance of the Chest's purpose were reasons often cited for the failures. Public confidence in the Chest was greatly weakened by a theft of funds from the Chest Office in 1957. The Board minutes reflect an interest in joining the United Fund as early as 1955, but that decision was deferred until 1969, when the Northampton Community Chest association reincorporated as the Hampshire United Fund, Inc.

Scope of collection

Records consist of constitution and by-laws, Board of Directors membership lists, minutes, annual reports,

campaign reports, ledgers, annual meeting planning documents, scrapbooks, and newsclippings.

Arrangement

This collection is organized into three series:

- **Series 1. Administration, 1922-1969**
- **Series 2. Reports, 1940-1964**
- **Series 3. Financial Records and Scrapbooks, 1945-1968**

Series descriptions

Series 1. Administration

1922-1969

Includes minutes of the Community Chest Association (1922-1934, 1954-1969). Minutes were kept annually and include some correspondence, campaign reports, and committee reports. Annual Meeting/Dinner materials (1961-1965) include minutes of that meeting, presidents' reports, and correspondence concerning dinner and arrangements. Annual Reports (1949-1967), photocopied, summarize the Chest's activities of the year including campaign results and agency disbursements. Agency Allocations (1967-1969) include agency budgets and requests as well as Budget Committee minutes, notes, and final allocations.

Series 2. Reports

1940-1964

Campaign analyses (1940-1943, 1964) made by outside agencies. The reports include campaign results by committee (residence, mercantile, industry, school, and institution), committee members, campaign expenses, and conclusions and recommendations.

Series 3. Financial Records and Scrapbooks

1945-1968

Arrangement: Divided into two sub-series.

The first sub-series, Financial Records, consists of four scrapbooks (1945, 1956-1962). The scrapbooks contain Community Chest Campaign newspaper clippings. The second sub-series is comprised of ledgers (1958-1968).

Inventory

Series 1. Administration	1922-1969	
Constitution and By-Laws	c.1922-1966	Box 1: 1
Board of Directors	1953-1964	Box 1: 2
Council of Social Agencies	1942-1955	Box 1: 3
Minutes	1922-1934, 1954-1969	Box 1: 4- 11
Annual Meeting/Dinner	1948-1965	Box 2: 12- 14
Annual Meeting/Dinner--Plaque Awards	1961-1965	Box 2: 15
Agency Allocations	1967-1969	Box 2: 16- 19

Series 3. Reports	1940-1964	
Annual Report	1949-1967	Box 3: 1-3
Campaign Report	1940-1943, 1964	Box 3: 4-8
Comparison of Actual Operations with Budgets and Recommended Allocations	1949	Box 3: 9

Series 3. Financial Records and Scrapbooks	1945-1968	
Campaign Records	1966-1968	Box 3: 1
Scrapbook	1945	Box 3: 2
Scrapbooks	1957-1962	Box 4: 3-5
Ledgers	1958-1962	Box 5: 6-9
Ledgers	1963-1968	Box 6: 10- 12

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Processing Information

Processed by Anneliese Ostendarp, June 1985.

Language:

English

Acknowledgments

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Search terms

Subjects

- Charities--Massachusetts--Northampton--History--Sources.
- Federations, Financial (Social service)--History--Sources.
- Human services--Massachusetts--Northampton--History--Sources.
- Northampton (Mass.)--Social conditions--Sources.
- Northampton Community Chest Association (Northampton, Mass.)

Contributors

- Northampton Community Chest Association (Northampton, Mass.) **[main entry]**

Genres and formats

- Account books.
- Scrapbooks.

Link to similar SCUA collections

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