

# NEW ENGLAND HOME FOR LITTLE WANDERERS

Records, 1865-1993 (with gaps)

Charities Collection - CC 6

1 manuscript container	Processed November 1996 by Lisa Starzyk-Weldon
5 linear inches	Supervising Archivist: Claire Goodwin
Accession number: 1996.047	

**ACQUISITION:** In 1911 the Boston Children's Aid Society gave its entire library to the Simmons College School of Social Work Library. This library included the annual reports of many local and international welfare and charitable organizations. With the passage of time this collection took on historical significance and in 1991 it was transferred to the Simmons College Archives.

As part of donations in 1988 and 1989, Donald Moreland, a local social worker and collector of social work history, gave the Simmons College Archives a large number of annual reports, pamphlets and other materials related to various welfare and charitable organizations. Because neither of these donations is a discrete collection, the materials transferred in 1991 from the School of Social Work Library and related materials donated by Donald Moreland were combined to form the Charities Collection. The Simmons College Archives Charities Collection consists of numerous small collections. Accession numbers for the individual collections are assigned during processing.

**ACCESS:** Unrestricted.

**COPYRIGHT:** Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the College Archivist.

## ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY:

The Baldwin Place Mission and Home for Little Wanderers (originally called the Union Mission) was established in 1865. Through the efforts of its founder, Reverend Russell G. Toles, and ten prominent Boston businessmen who were "motivated by religious spirit, pragmatism,...outrage at the evils of poverty, by a desire to share the benefits of the thriving postwar economy which lay behind their personal wealth, and by the 'child-saving movement'," donations of \$5000.00 each were made towards the development of a Home for children. A Home that would be representative of a "closely knit family"; an alternative to the late 19th century almshouses, orphanages, indentured apprenticeships, asylums or streets.

"By September of 1865 two hundred children had been gathered up and one hundred of them placed in families." The Home for Little Wanderers (HLW) took on a staff in their North End location and started a publication, *Little Wanderer's Advocate*, which was a vehicle to "spread the news of The Home's work, to find families willing to take in children, and to raise money." From its inception until 1906, HLW utilized the railroad system to take children in "orphan trains" out West to be adopted. This was a common practice ("between 1854 and 1929 eastern social agencies sent as many as 150,000 children to pre-selected towns") and was closely supervised by HLW to insure the safety and well-being of the children.

At the turn of the century the HLW had already undergone changes with a new name (changed to The New England Home for Little Wanderers), and a more modern approach and focus as a social work agency emphasizing psychological evaluation of children and professionalism in the field as opposed to "charity work." In 1913, "branch offices" opened in Pittsfield (MA), Greenfield (MA), Manchester (NH), Waterville (ME), and Bridgeport (CT). A new main location was purchased between the Jamaica Way and South Huntington Avenue, with 15,000 children having been served by 1922. The NEHLW was extremely important to the city's needy children during the Depression and also to 255 British children housed by NEHLW during World War II. New branches were established in Tuftonboro (NH) and Walpole (MA) in the 1940's.

During the 1950's, NEHLW acquired two homes for girls (Orchard Home and Everett House). NEHLW also became well known nationally and internationally with articles about it appearing in magazines, newspapers, and television. A film was produced by the organization to generate interest in it, *Trudy and Her Visit to The New England Home for Little Wanderers*, and was made available to churches, clubs and other organizations. In 1960, The Friends of The New England Home for Little Wanderers was created to "promote the welfare of The Home by a broad variety of means and to interpret the Home to the community."

From the 1940's to the present NEHLW has increased its services, outreach programs, branch offices, methods and programs to care for children in physical, mental, and social crises by following their 1865 mission "providing 'the best' for children in need."

All information taken from: Roberta Star Hirshson with Clifford W. Falby, *"There's Always Someone There..."The History of The New England Home for Little Wanderers* (Roberta Star Hirshson and The New England Home for Little Wanderers, 1989).

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:**

The records of the New England Home for Little Wanderers (NEHLW), 1865-present, constitute 5 linear inches, with the majority of the records falling between September 1935 to April 1956.

The records include publications by and about the NEHLW and annual reports. They are arranged in three series. Series I. contains the organization's publication, *Little Wanderer's Advocate* (1865-1993 with large gaps) arranged chronologically. The

*Advocate* contains current news of the organization, donor lists, Board of Managers lists, and short articles on issues related to social work. Annual Reports are contained within certain issues. Series II. contains individual Annual Reports of the organization (1878-1993 with large gaps) giving statistical, financial, and auditor's information, arranged chronologically. Series III. contains other publications produced by and associated with the organization (1872-1959 with large gaps) arranged chronologically.

**SERIES LISTING:**

I.	Publications (1865-1953, with gaps)
II.	Annual Reports (1878, 1879, 1953-59, 1988-93)
III.	Miscellaneous Publications (1892, 1922, 1933, 1946, 1950, 1955, 1958, 1959)

**SERIES DESCRIPTION:**

**Series I. Publications, (1865-1953, with gaps)**

Arranged chronologically.

The *Little Wanderer's Advocate*, regular publication of the New England Home for Little Wanderers (NEHLW), contains current news of the organization, lists of donors, Board of Managers listings, and short articles relating to social work, adoption, and issues of the day. The Constitution of the organization is contained within the first Union Mission publication and annual appeals for cash or food donations occur annually in the November issues. Also contained within many of the issues are Annual Reports including statistical, financial, expense and auditor's reports. These Annual Reports are noted on the container list with an asterisk.

**Series II. Annual Reports, (1878, 1879, 1953-59, 1988-93)**

Arranged chronologically.

Reports of the NEHLW including statistical, financial, expense and auditor reports.

**Series III. Miscellaneous Publications, (1892, 1922, 1933, 1946, 1950, 1955, 1958, 1959)**

This series contains eight items arranged chronologically:

*An Historical Account of the Origin, Plan, and Success of the Work of the Baldwin Place Home for Little Wanderers, for Seven Years* (1892), a pamphlet describing the Home's work, statistics, constitution and by-laws.

*Frederic Harrison Knight* (1922), a memorial of Knight (1859-1922) who was a social worker, co-developer of the Child Welfare League of America, and superintendent of NEHLW for fifteen years (1907-1922).

*Group Homes* (c1950) an informational brochure on the Orchard, Longview and Everett House group homes.

*90th Anniversary Dinner invitation (1955)* includes program of meeting.

*Advocate-Building Fund Issue (1958)* appeal and prospectus of the organization's building needs.

*They Who Struggle for Survival...impressions of people, countries as observed en route to the International Conference of Social Work, Tokyo, Japan* by Richard L. Rice, executive director (1959) reprint of a series of articles from June 22 -July 4.

Reprints

*What Should Be the Contribution of the Family to Character Development?* (*Advocate* September 1933) delivered by Cheney C. Hones, Superintendent, NEHLW, at the Institute of Character Developing Forces in New England, April 1933.

*Questions and Answers (Advocate June 1946)* an informational pamphlet about NEHLW.

**CONTAINER LIST:**

<b>BOX</b>	<b>FOLDER</b>	<b>CONTENTS</b>	
		<b><u>Series I. Publications, (1865-1953)</u></b>	
1	1	1865-1866, Bound	
	2	1867 January-December, Bound	
	3	1870 August	
	4	1879 January	
	5	1935 September (2 copies)*, November	
	6	1937 June	
	7	1939 June & September*	
	8	1940 November	
	9	1945 March, June, September*, November	
	10	1946 March, June (2 copies), September*, November	
	11	1947 March, June, September*	
	12	1948 September*, November	
	13	1949 March, June, September*	
	14	1950 June, September*, November	
	15	1951 March, June, September*, November	
	16	1952 May	
	17	1953 Fall	
			<b><u>Series II. Annual Reports (1878-1993)</u></b>
	18	1878	
	19	1879	
	20	1953, 1954, 1955	
	21	1959	
22	1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993		

	<b>Series III. Miscellaneous Publications (1878-1959)</b>
23	Pamphlet, "An Historical Account of the Origin, Plan, and Success of the Work of the Baldwin Place Home for Little Wanderers, for Seven Years" 1872
24	Memorial, Frederic Harrison Knight 1922
25	Brochure, Group Homes c. 1950
26	Invitation, 90th Anniversary Dinner 1955
27	<i>Advocate</i> , Building Fund Issue 1958
28	Pamphlet, "They Who Struggle for Survival ...Impressions of people, countries as observed en route to the International Conference of Social Work, Tokyo, Japan" 1959
29	Reprint <i>Advocate</i> , "What Should be the Contribution of the Family to Character Development?" September 1933 Reprint <i>Advocate</i> , "Questions and Answers" June 1946

\* denotes issue containing Annual Report