



Foundation for Child Development (Guild for Crippled Children of the Poor of New York City) records

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator:	Association for the Aid of Crippled Children
Creator:	Foundation for Child Development
Title:	Foundation for Child Development (Guild for Crippled Children of the Poor of New York City) records
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Preferred Citation note

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Biographical/Historical note

The Foundation for Child Development had its origins in the Guild for the Crippled Children of the Poor of New York City (the Guild), an organization whose mission was to "care for the physical, social, domestic, educational, economic, and spiritual conditions of these unfortunates." It became the Association for the Aid of Crippled Children (AACC) in 1908, when it was established in New York City as a voluntary agency that sought to teach and aid disabled children who were victims of polio.

In the early twentieth century, physically disabled children were often homebound with no access to formal education. Mabel Irving Jones, a concerned citizen and advocate for these youngsters, provided the impetus behind the creation and eventual incorporation of an agency operating under the auspices of the New York City Children's Aid Society. By 1904 nearly 120 disabled school-aged children were attending school outside of the home; in 1906, Public School 104 of the New York City Board of Education operated the first public school class for crippled children. The Guild sought to treat those children neglected by hospitals and clinics and the "hundreds of chronic cases of crippled children

whom these charities do not and cannot reach." The Guild cooperated with churches and other social services organizations including St. John's Guild, the Henrietta Industrial School, and the Hartley House Settlement, to teach children outside of the home, provide a luncheon meal, and return them to their homes. The Guild's second Annual Report in 1898 indicated that this is the "first systematic effort ever made in New York City to give the crippled children out of institutions a helpful education."

Separated from the Children's Aid Society in 1908, the AACC was supported entirely by contributions and employed a staff of ten, led by trained nurses. In addition to providing transportation to school and health clinics and braces and other therapeutic devices, the AACC also established physical rehabilitation facilities. By 1940, over 30,000 children had benefited from these services, including children with cerebral palsy and other disorders of fetal and neonatal origin.

The organization's early focus on the needs of a stranded school-aged population firmly defined its legacy. In later years, similar enterprises supported direct-care and research to benefit adult rehabilitation. The AACC joined with New York University-Bellevue Hospital to establish the Children's Division of the Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, today known as the Rusk Institute. During World War II, their pioneering work helped to rehabilitate injured soldiers.

In 1972 the Association changed its name to the Foundation for Child Development (FCD) to reflect its role as a grant-making organization and in particular its evolved focus on child development. Included within its mission were goals of preventing child poverty and promoting the economic stability of families.

The Foundation for Child Development is a national private philanthropy dedicated to the principle that all families should have the social and material resources to raise their children to be healthy, educated, and productive members of their communities. The Foundation seeks to understand children, particularly the disadvantaged, and to promote their well-being. They believe that families, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and government at all levels share complementary responsibilities in the critical task of raising new generations.

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Scope and Contents

Types of records include: meeting minutes.

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Arrangement

As received.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Existence and Location of Originals

Microfilm Reel 1 is a copy obtained by the Rockefeller Archive Center from the University of Minnesota.

The original Board of Managers's Minutes and Secretary's Book of the Guild for Crippled Children of the Poor of New York City for the years 1904-1915, 1919-1920, 1931-1933, was microfilmed by the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities in 1965.

Requests for copies of the microfilm should be directed to the University of Minnesota.

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Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Related materials may be found in:

The Foundation for Child Development records (RAC); the Leonard Mayo papers, at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities; the New York City Board of Education records, at Teachers College, Columbia University; and in the Russell Sage Foundation records (RAC); the Social Science Research Council records (RAC); and the William T. Grant Foundation records (RAC).

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Controlled Access Headings

- Public policy
- Public health
- Philanthropy
- Social service
- New York (N.Y.)
- Medical care
- Philanthropy -- United States
- Charitable uses, trusts, and foundations
- Child development
- Charities

Collection Inventory

Administration, 1904-1915, 1919-1920, 1931-1933 (1904-1915)

Arrangement note

This material is predominantly arranged chronologically.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note

The archival material has been reformatted and the original records are not available. User copies of the microfilm are available for scholarly access.

Administration - Board of Directors Meetings, 1904-1915, 1919-1920, 1931-1933 (1904-1915)

Title/Description	Instances	
Guild for Crippled Children of the Poor of New York City - 'Secretary's Book', 1904-1914, 1919-1920, 1931-1933	reel 1	frame 1
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Guild for Crippled Children of the Poor of New York City - Board of Managers Meeting - Minutes, January 23, 1905	reel 1	frame 4
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Guild for Crippled Children of the Poor of New York City - Board of Managers Meeting - Minutes, April 25, 1905	reel 1	frame 7
Guild for Crippled Children of the Poor of New York City - Board of Managers Meeting - Minutes, May 15, 1905	reel 1	frame 8
Guild for Crippled Children of the Poor of New York City - Special Board of Managers' Meeting - Minutes, October 2, 1905	reel 1	frame 9
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Scope and Contents note

The year that is written on the page in 1906.

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Scope and Contents note

A Board of Managers Meeting was called for February 24, 1908, but this meeting was not held.

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Scope and Contents note

A Board of Managers Meeting was called for February 24, 1908, but this meeting was not held.

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