

Children's
Bureau of Indianapolis, Inc.

615 N. Alabama Street, Room 426
Indianapolis, IN 46204

1851-2004
For the Children's Sake

a History of
the Children's Bureau
of Indianapolis, Inc.





Cover: The children from the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum enjoyed an outing sponsored by the B.P.O. Elks at Fairfield Park in 1903.

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1851-2001

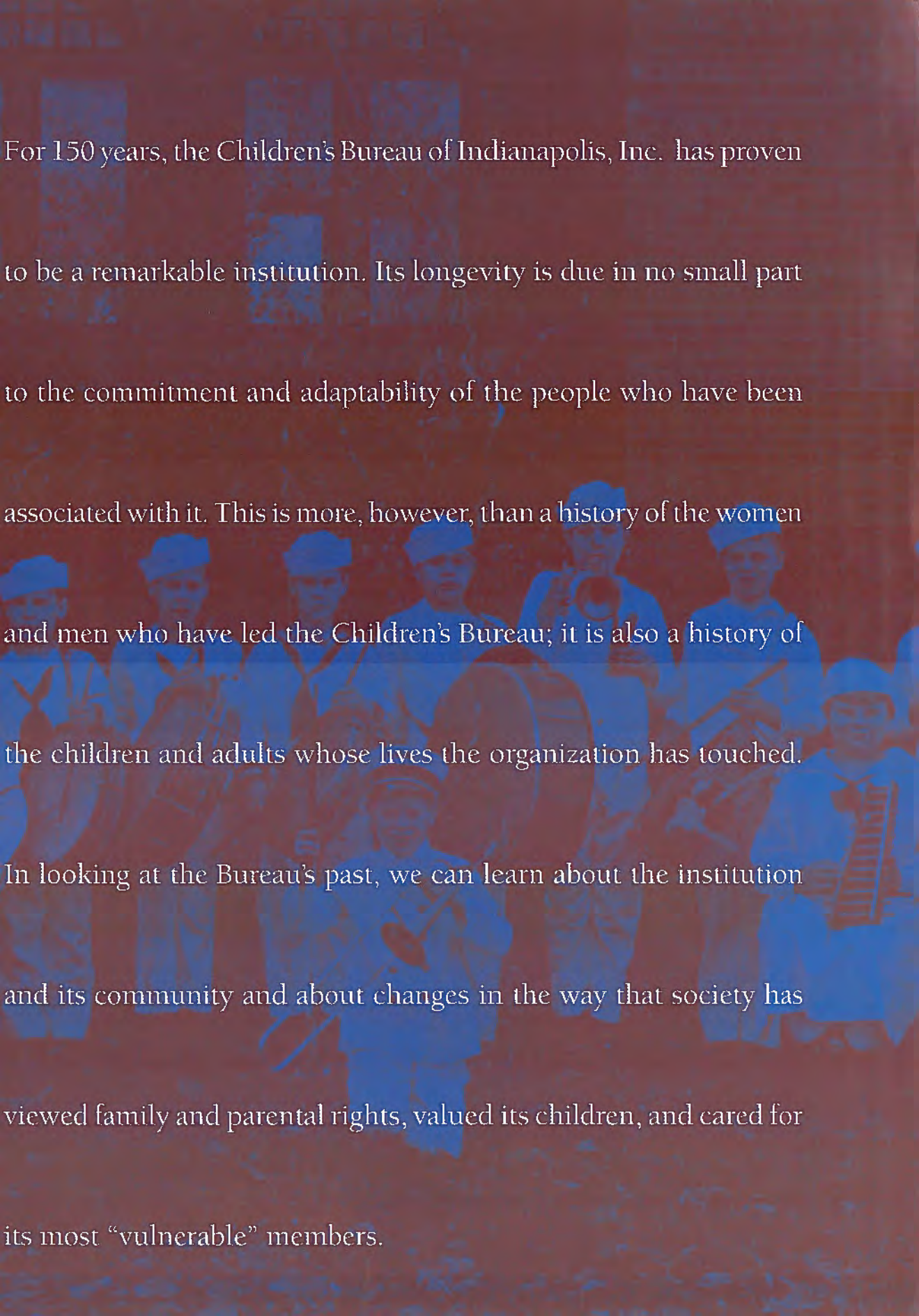
For the Children's Sake

a History of
the Children's Bureau
of Indianapolis, Inc.

Prepared by
Webtraut & Associates Historians, Inc.

Chubby babies posed at the orphanage in the 1920s.

**Unless otherwise credited,
all photographs are from
the Children's Bureau of
Indianapolis, Inc.**



For 150 years, the Children's Bureau of Indianapolis, Inc. has proven to be a remarkable institution. Its longevity is due in no small part to the commitment and adaptability of the people who have been associated with it. This is more, however, than a history of the women and men who have led the Children's Bureau; it is also a history of the children and adults whose lives the organization has touched. In looking at the Bureau's past, we can learn about the institution and its community and about changes in the way that society has viewed family and parental rights, valued its children, and cared for its most "vulnerable" members.

For the Children's Sake

In 1822, shortly after Indianapolis was established, two men were appointed by the Marion County Commissioners to act as overseers of the poor and dispense limited amounts of relief. In addition, the city's leaders personally supplied "outdoor" relief—food, clothing, and sometimes cash—to those in need. This group of city fathers set up the Indianapolis Benevolent Society in 1835 to help the poor.

During this period, reform movements were sweeping through society. Temperance, abolition, and women's rights drew the interest of many. Middle- and upper-class women gained entry into the public sphere of life through voluntary associations. Helping impoverished women and children was compatible with the notion that it was a woman's job to nurture her family and protect it from a cruel and competitive world. This view, as well as the obvious needs of the poor, led the men involved in the Indianapolis Benevolent Society to enlist the help of their wives in forming an organization focused on needy women and children.

The future Children's Bureau of Indianapolis began operations in 1851 as the Indianapolis Widows and Orphans Friends' Society, a designation that reflected its main intent. Both women and children were at risk when the man of the family, the main breadwinner, died, abandoned them, or lost his job. Alone, poor women had few means to provide for their children. In times of depression or economic panic, the plight of these women became even worse. While widows and children were the main focus of the Society at first, concern was soon concentrated on the children, leading the Society to establish an orphanage. The Indiana General Assembly changed the name of the association to the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum in 1875 to reflect this focus.

Through the years, children stayed in the orphanage for varying lengths of time. Full orphans could be adopted. Half-orphans, those with one surviving parent, could not be adopted unless that parent relinquished to the orphanage his or her rights over the child. The orphanage often provided children a place of refuge as they waited for their remaining parent to find the resources to care for them. For some, that time never came. These children eventually were bound out or placed in homes.

In Indianapolis, as elsewhere in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, people wrestled with theories of childhood development and the causes of poverty. Reformers attempted to differentiate between the worthy and the unworthy poor. Ideas about the value of family life and institutional care were evolving. Increasing value was placed on the role that the family, especially the mother, played in a child's development. Children came to be valued less for their ability to work and more for the love and joy they brought to a family.

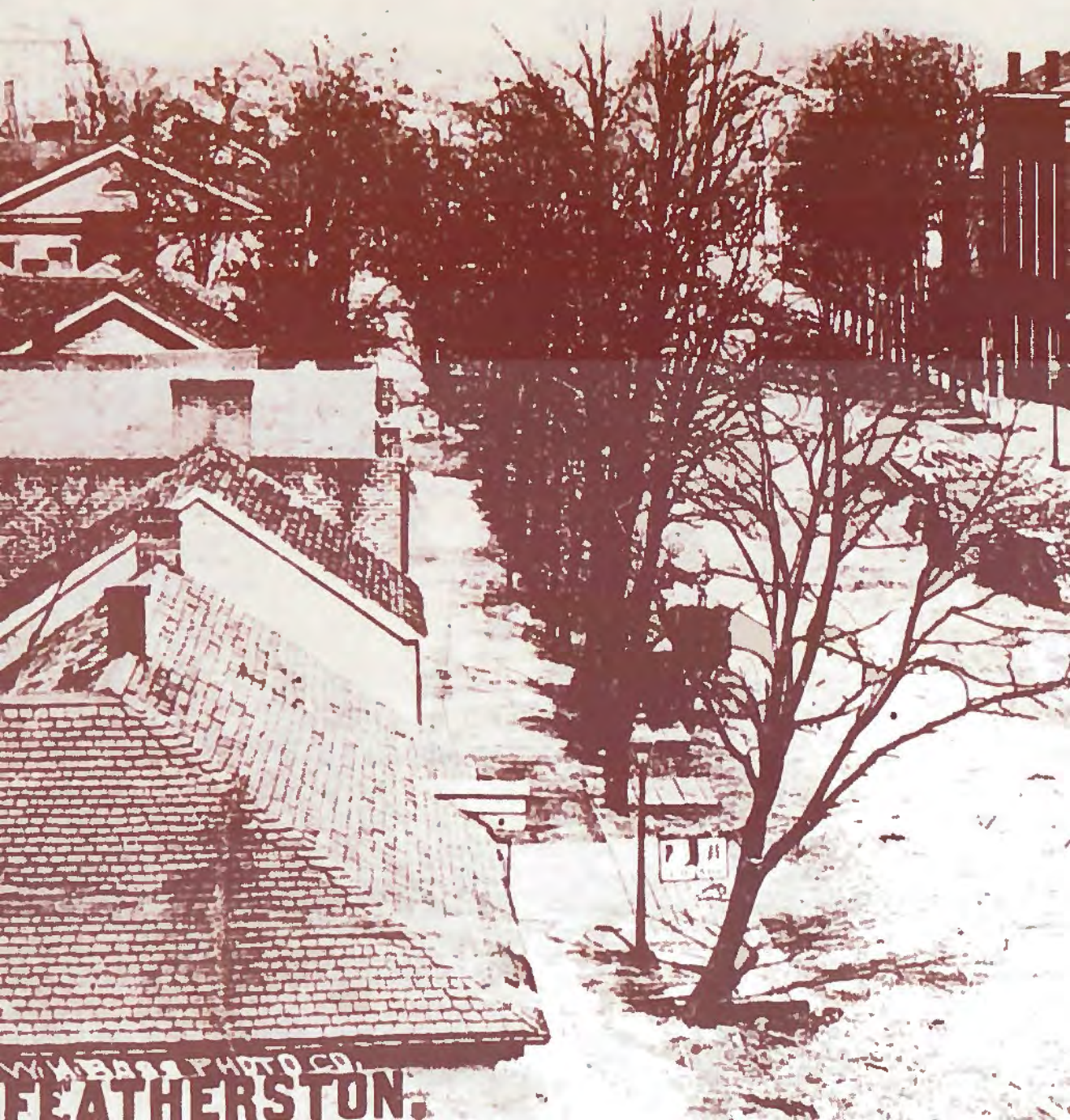
The economic realities of the 1930s spelled the end of the asylum as an institution. As the Great Depression settled on the United States, people turned to public relief when private efforts failed. In 1935 the United States Congress passed the Aid to Dependent Children provision, which provided some money for poor women to help them keep their children at home. This further validated the idea that children needed to live in a family unit; the time of the orphanage had passed.

After the orphanage closed in 1941, the mission of the Children's Bureau expanded. While foster care and adoptive services remained a mainstay, the Bureau sought other ways to provide safe havens for children and adolescents, such as group homes and transitional living experiences. The Bureau aggressively looked for homes for minority youths through the Homes for Black Children program. Today the Children's Bureau continues to extend its services as funding has become available for other programs.

For the Children's Sake focuses on the evolution of an organization. It also reveals how social circumstances and the ideological underpinnings of caring for children have changed over the past 150 years. The story of the Children's Bureau of Indianapolis is a story worth telling, for it provides perspective on the role of "vulnerable" children in society. Within the larger context of political change, it is a story of small successes and sometimes failures. The Children's Bureau has touched the lives of individuals and influenced its community in ways both too small to be clearly seen and too large to be accurately measured.

In 1854, just three years after the incorporation of the Widows and Orphans Friends' Society, Indianapolis still resembled a village. This photo was taken looking north on Pennsylvania from Washington Street.

(Indiana Historical Society Bass Photo Collection, 17804)



W. H. BASS PHOTO CO.
FEATHERSTON.

1851-1873

Widows and Orphans Asylum of Indianapolis

"The great amount of suffering among the poor was considered [at the November 1849 meeting of the Indianapolis Benevolent Society] and more especially the privations of the indigent widows and orphans; for whose relief it was deemed advisable to establish a separate Society." This "separate Society" was the Widows and Orphans Friends' Society, which two years later became the Widows and Orphans Asylum of Indianapolis. At first, the Widows and Orphans Asylum paid private families to care for individual orphans. Managers, who were the wives of prominent local men, carefully screened these homes. In 1855 the first orphanage was built.



The 1851 constitution of the Widows and Orphans Friends' Society specified that its managers "shall be ladies." Among the first 16 managers was Jane Chambers McKenny Graydon.



Prominent men such as Calvin Fletcher established the Indianapolis Benevolent Society to "give temporary aid to meet the needs of individuals and families on a community wide basis without regard to race or creed" on Thanksgiving 1835.

(Indiana Historical Society, Jacob Cox, Artist)

1851 The Widows and Orphans Friends' Society incorporates as the "Widows and Orphans Asylum of Indianapolis" under an act of the Indiana General Assembly on 13 February 1851, amended 7 March 1867 and 11 March 1875. Female members of the Widows and Orphans Friends' Society contribute \$1.00 and male members give \$3.00. The organization's purpose is: "To relieve the physical, intellectual and moral wants of the widows and orphans of the city." It specifies that the officers "shall be ladies," and establishes "an advisory committee of nine gentlemen." The male advisors are "to render such aid by counsel and other services as their wisdom, Christian courtesy, and philanthropy may dictate." The Society holds monthly meetings and an annual meeting in November.

The Widows and Orphans Friends' Society tries to keep dependent children out of local poorhouses and away from adult paupers, a problem with which reform societies across the North are dealing in this era. Originally, the Society provides private home situations for widows and orphans.

23 percent of the workers in Indianapolis are women.

1852 The Indiana General Assembly revises the statutes (Chapter 68) to read: "children may be bound to serve as apprentices for any term not extending beyond the age of 21 for male or 18 for female." If a female marries, the indenture is annulled. Apprentices older than 14 must endorse the indenture agreement. Further, superintendents of county asylums are charged with "bind[ing] out such poor children as fall under their care ... see[ing] that children so bound are properly treated by the person to whom they are bound."

The Civil War brought many changes, including commercial and demographic growth. This photo shows East Washington Street shortly after the war began. (Indiana Historical Society,

Bass Photo Collection, 17806)





With the onset of the Civil War (1861-1865), men joined the army, leaving behind wives and children. At war's end, the number of widows and orphans had swelled.

(Indiana Historical Society; W Frank Jones, C8481)

"children may be bound to serve as apprentices for any term not extending beyond the age of 21 for male or 18 for female."

Early in the 1850s, with the number of Irish immigrants on the rise, the Widows and Orphans Friends' Society entertains "a motion" "to have a meeting called to discuss the expediency of prohibiting Roman Catholics from our Society. A vote was unanimously in the negative."

1854-55 The Widows and Orphans Friends' Society builds its first orphanage at Capitol and 14th Streets for \$1,200.

1857 A nationwide financial panic bankrupts many businesses on the eastern seaboard and abruptly raises the number of needy. The poor in Indianapolis are hit especially hard.

1859 The Society is always looking for money to care for the widows and orphans. The manager of the Metropolitan Theater offers to hold a benefit for the orphanage. According to newspaperman John Holliday, this causes a good bit of discussion among the board. Some members are eager to accept the money, while others are "horrified" at the idea of taking "tainted money" from theater folk. The offer is refused.



In the late 1850s the women of the Widows and Orphans Friends'

Society were reluctant to accept "tainted money" from theater folk, but when management at the Metropolitan set aside a night in 1869 for a benefit for the orphans, the women eagerly accepted the proceeds. They needed the money for the cause.

(Indiana State Library)



The widows and children who passed through the asylum were generally an anonymous lot. Sometimes they needed only temporary shelter and food; at other times, they required help for a longer period of time.

(Joan Hastetter Collection)

“Care for her kindly...”

Many children who entered the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum left its halls by means of indenture. Each year a number of children were bound out through a legal contract between the asylum and outside parties who agreed to take them in and raise, feed, and educate them in return for their labor.

Mary Mahoney was one such child. On 4 August 1859, Jacob Nieman, the Marion County overseer of the poor, bound eight-year-old Mary Mahoney to the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum. Records do not indicate how Mary came to be under the guardianship of Nieman, but it is not surprising that he would have passed her care along to the asylum. One function of orphanages was to keep children out of poorhouses.

Mary's stay at the orphanage was a short one; on September 1 she was indentured to Marcus Moore of Boone County, Indiana. Mrs. M. D. Willard, president of the board of managers of the Widows and Orphans Friends' Society, legally agreed not “to interfere” with Mary in any way as long as Moore complied with the conditions of the indenture contract. These stipulated that he would “care for her kindly ... give her a good English Education,” teach her “domestic economy and industry,” and “bring her up in the fear of the Lord.” When she reached age 18, the age at which the contract terminated, he was to give her 50 dollars.

We can only speculate about Mary's life after she was indentured. Her life was undoubtedly different than it would have been had she grown up in her birth family. However, by indenturing her, the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum provided her a chance to grow up in a private home rather than in an institution.

1860 Indianapolis has grown to a population of 18,611, but it still is considered a frontier town.

1861 The Civil War begins. Demographers estimate that children now constitute one-third of the population in the United States.

In its annual report, the Widows and Orphans Friends' Society reveals that on average, 10 children are living at the asylum or orphanage at any one time. The county commissioners pay the Society \$1.30 a week per child for room and board.

1862 As the harsh realities of the war settle upon the city, Mrs. Benjamin Harrison, who is one of the managers, wonders whether the women should disband the Society because of the "growing population of the city and the effects of the war."

1863 The number of children at the asylum rises to 42; 6 are "bound out" or indentured, 18 are adopted, and 3 die. The board decides to accept half-orphans (children with one living parent) and to hire its first matron to supervise the asylum. Mrs. Jemima Sanders Gatling, whose husband developed the infamous Gatling gun, is a manager.

1864 Tragically, of the 13 infants taken in this year, all are ill and die. Whooping cough, mumps, and chicken pox run rampant in the city.

With the Civil War, "death was so common as to cause little comment" in Indianapolis. According to newspaperman John Holliday, "everyday, corpses were transported through; the express companies left them on the pavements over night."



During the Civil War, Jemima Sanders Gatling served as the first matron of the Indianapolis Widows and Orphans Asylum. This photo was taken on the eve of her wedding in 1854.

(E. Frank Stephenson Collection)

Caroline Scott Harrison began working with the Widows and Orphans Friends' Society in the 1860s. Reportedly, she continued her affiliation with the Society while in the White House.



(Indiana Historical Society C8480)

After the Civil War the Indianapolis Widows and Orphans Friends' Society enlarged its facility as the number of orphans increased. This home was located on North Capitol Avenue.





The German Protestant Orphan Home was established on South State Avenue merely two years after the end of the Civil War to care for veterans' orphaned children. This photo shows the home in 1908. (Indiana Historical Society, C333)

1865 The Civil War ends. The number of widows and orphaned children has increased dramatically over the past four years due to the death of so many men in the war. Newspaperman John Holliday reflects: "The quiet town with its simple life was gone forever.... The war had brought sorrow to many households and broken up many.... The inevitable demoralization of the war had to be reckoned with, and morality and religion were affected. Hundreds of young men had become addicted to intemperance and the general moral tone had been lowered."

1866 The Home for Friendless Women opens in Indianapolis.

The number of orphans rises; the asylum cares for 88 children and makes "provisions for 5 colored children-adopted in colored families." At year's end, 46 children are permanent residents. Participation in the Widows and Orphans Friends' Society returns to prewar levels.

1867 The German Protestant Orphan Home is founded for Civil War orphans.

"The inmates of the asylum come from the streets, from the abodes of poverty and wretchedness."

According to the secretary of the Widows and Orphans Friends' Society, "The inmates of the asylum come from the streets, from the abodes of poverty and wretchedness." In-house school begins at the asylum, with the children having lessons for three hours a day. The asylum cares for 71 children, homes are found for 49, and 1 dies. Both the city council and the county commissioners provide funding for the children at the asylum.

The Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum moved to its new home in the old Northwestern Christian College Building in 1880.





The children and matron gathered in front of the new orphanage at the corner of College Avenue and 13th Street (c. 1880).

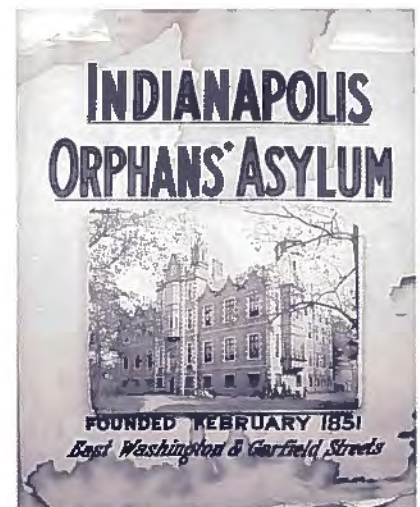
The Indiana General Assembly enacts a statute that forbids the employment of persons younger than 16 years of age in cotton and woolen mills for more than 10 hours per day. It is not strictly enforced.

1869 Faced with the need for additional space, the Widows and Orphans Friends' Society enlarges the orphanage at a cost of \$3,000. This year, 106 children are cared for; 27 are placed in homes, 24 go back to their mothers, 7 die, and 3 run away.

The recently formed Indianapolis Streetcar Company allows orphans to ride for free.

1870 Indianapolis's population is now 48,244. Women account for 7 percent of Indianapolis's manufacturing workers; children make up 6 percent. The Society of Friends (Quakers) establishes the Indianapolis Asylum for Friendless Colored Children, the only orphanage in the state for African American children.

At the time of the annual report, 40 children reside at the Widows and Orphans Asylum. Homes are found for 46, parents reclaim 38, and 6 infants die. The minutes tell the story of a mother who walked 200 miles, carrying an eight-month-old child, in order to give her twins to the asylum because she was unable to care for them.



The focus of the Widows and Orphans Friends' Society had shifted from widows to just orphans by 1875, prompting a name change to the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum.

Children in orphanages were separated by race in the early twentieth century. These girls at the Colored Orphans' Home are showing off their domestic skills. (Indiana State Library)



Girls wearing dresses they made
Colored Orphans Home, Indianapolis

1875-1954

Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum

From the time the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum was established in 1855, the Society's emphasis was on providing a safe haven for children. The focus had shifted away from widows, as the name change reflected. Over the next six decades, Indianapolis grew from a town into an industrialized metropolitan area. The population of the asylum rose and fell with the industrial economy. On a larger scale, an evolution occurred in the way that people viewed children and in the value placed on family life, especially life with mothers. Also in this era, social work and childcare became professions with definable standards.

Children played on the grounds of the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum (c. 1910s).



ade.
s, Indiana.

“A fair education”

Harry Willis's mother left him at the Indianapolis Asylum for Friendless Colored Children in 1875 because her husband had deserted her and she was very sick. The three children of Fannie Merriwether also were left at the orphanage after her husband abandoned his family. The children, a boy, seven, and two girls, six and four, were separated; two of them went to live with two different families. Desertion by a spouse was but one of many circumstances that created orphans. Loss of employment, the death of one or both parents, and mental illness or disease all added to the rolls of orphanages. Race likely intensified the hardships faced by African American children, but the stories of Harry Willis and the children of Fannie Merriwether mirrored those of other orphans of the day, many of whom lived for a while at orphanages.

The Society of Friends (Quakers) founded the Indianapolis Asylum for Friendless Colored Children in 1870. As African Americans migrated north after the Civil War, the needs of orphaned or half-orphaned children strapped the efforts of Indianapolis's small African American community, which numbered only in the hundreds. The orphanage at 317 West Street offered “care and training of dependent colored children.”

In that first year the Friends cared for 18 children. The first home was a large brick building administered by a board of women managers appointed by an all-male board of directors. The first head of women managers was a British woman, Jane Trueblood, a prominent Quaker minister. Along with her other duties, Trueblood oversaw the school in the building and declared that their teacher provided her charges with a “fair education.” She noted that “many [of the children] are quick to learn,” and that they were also “taught in Sunday School, in which their singing and memorizing of texts are very interesting.” By 1900, two thousand children had passed through the orphanage.

Two decades later, increased knowledge of treatment for illnesses and disease and a rising concern over institutionalizing children had raised the standards by which orphanages were evaluated. In 1918 the Board of State Charities (BSC) cited the Home for Friendless Colored Children for keeping seven-year-old Felix Spaulding, who had severe epilepsy, in a cage made of chicken wire. Two years later, the BSC found the home in “deplorable condition” and recommended its closure.

The orphanage continued to operate for several more years under its original name. Then, in 1926, it became the Marion County Orphans Home (Colored). Its functions soon blended with those of other facilities for orphans in the county. By the time it closed, the organization that had begun as the Asylum for Friendless Colored Children had touched the lives of thousands of African American children in this city.



Two of the young charges of the Home for Friendless Colored Children, or as it was commonly known, the Colored Orphans' Home, are shown in this photo taken in the 1910s. (Indiana State Library)

1875 An amendment by the Indiana General Assembly changes the agency name to the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum.

By this year the Depression of 1873 has hit the city with full force. It will last until 1886. Banks fail due to the collapse of the real estate boom in the city, and many of the working class face uncertain employment.

1879 Influential pastor Oscar McCulloch, of the Plymouth Congregational Church, reorganizes the enfeebled Indianapolis Benevolent Society (IBS) to concentrate on the "best means" of aiding persons requesting assistance.

1880 Indianapolis is the nation's 24th largest city and ranks 21st in industrial productivity. Across the state, 700 children are living in county poor asylums, a situation that many recognize as totally unacceptable.

The Reverend Mr. McCulloch brings several charities together to form the Charity Organization Society (COS) of Indianapolis. The COS assumes the administrative and investigative functions of the Indianapolis Benevolent Society. COS and the Benevolent Society function as two arms of the same organization from 1880 to 1923. According to its mission, the COS "must secure relief for all needing it; Must teach habits of thrift and institute provident schemes; Must rescue those who are in danger of falling into vice or crime or pauperism."

The Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum moves to College Avenue and 13th Street and rents the Northwestern Christian College building, a three-story brick structure "totally unsuited" for the purpose. The Society later purchases the building for \$35,000.



The Children's Aid Society and the Free Kindergarten Society asked Eliza Blaker to establish a free kindergarten for poor children in the city. It was the first of many such kindergartens established for poor children. (Indiana Historical Society 1706)

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In the 1910s Boy Scouts posed outside the Colored Orphans' Home. (Indiana State Library)

Boy Scouts of the Colored Orphans' Home
Indianapolis, Ind.



The Lutheran Children's Home, which was founded in 1883, moved into a new building in 1893. Lutherwood on the city's east side is the modern agency that has evolved from the orphanage.

(Indiana State Library)



Most orphanages of the day featured dormitory-style sleeping arrangements. (Indiana State Library)

1882 Eliza A. Blaker establishes the Indianapolis Free Kindergarten Association, "schools for the benefit of the poor children of the City." Mrs. John Holliday is president of the association.

1883 The asylum cares for 252 children; 33 are placed in homes, and 103 return to parents or relatives.

The Flower Mission organizes a training school for nurses; Marion County establishes a workhouse.

1885 The Indianapolis Orphans Aid Society is formed to pay off the debt on the Northwestern Christian College building.

1886 The editor of *Rough Diamond*, a local newspaper, issues a tough indictment of the city's treatment of the poor. "Under the shadows of their church buildings numbers of men, women, and even boys, not yet found to be guilty of any crime, are, while shut up in prison awaiting trial, compelled to sleep on the naked floor, half fed on the coarsest food, are deprived of every comfort, and if they complain of such treatment are often insulted for doing so and abused by their keepers."

The Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum is sending children to families in the West. One little girl, six years old, is sent to Kansas. She is placed with a family who returns her the following year.



By the 1920s playing outdoors was deemed a healthy activity for children. Here the orphans played at the Lutheran Children's Home. (Indiana State Library)

1888 The Indiana General Assembly creates the Board of State Charities to oversee the state's charitable and correctional organizations.

In a lecture, Oscar McCulloch states that self-help disappears when people give to the poor. "What can we do? First, we must close up official out-door relief. Second, we must check private and indiscriminate benevolence, or charity, falsely so called. Third, we must get hold of the children."

1889 The Indiana General Assembly establishes the Board of Children's Guardians to investigate cases of children in danger and seek remedies. Children are returned to parents, adopted, indentured, or placed in orphanages. The Board works with cases involving both white and black orphans.

The Summer Mission for Sick Children is created in response to the large number of infants from poor families who died in the heat of the previous summer. The mission provides health care for babies and children and "[draws] attention to child and maternal health care among the poorer segments of the city's population."

1890 Indianapolis's population has grown to 105,436.

The Indianapolis Orphans Aid Society raises \$4,505, by subscriptions of \$5 per year, to pay off the debt on the Northwestern Christian College building. Mayor Thomas L. Sullivan attends the annual meeting, held at Tabernacle Church. Children from the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum deliver recitations. The annual report states: "the object of the institution [is that] children should be put in good Protestant homes."

"the object of the institution [is that] children should be put in good Protestant homes."

In 1889 the general assembly passed legislation providing that a Board of Children's Guardians could investigate cases of parental cruelty and remove the children from those situations. This photo shows the Children's Guardians Home in 1904. (Indiana Historical

Society, Bass Photo Collection 2735)



At the turn of the century, reformers in Indianapolis establish urban missions, such as the Cosmopolitan Community Center on West Maryland Street, to help the poor.

(Indiana Historical Society, C3163)





In 1903 the orphanage was moved into a new home. This photo, which was taken shortly after construction, shows the main building with the hospital in the right wing and the school in the left wing.



Boys lived in a separate dormitory on the grounds of the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum (1905).



Orphans attended Public School 59 located on the grounds of the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum. (Indiana Historical

Society, Bass Photo Collection, B2512-F)

The "Circle of Charities" is formed in Indianapolis "to draw around the poor, the miserable, the neglected and the forsaken, a circle of sympathy, affection, intelligent thought and resolute will." The Circle of Charities includes 33 charitable organizations active in Indianapolis in 1890.

1891 The Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum establishes a foundling ward. (A foundling is an abandoned infant.)

1894 The Suemna Coleman Home is founded for "erring girls and women who had been living lives of shame and had no homes." (Today, it operates as Coleman Adoption Services.)

1897 With the rapid increase in the number of homeless children, the Board of State Charities begins supervising all orphanages that receive public funds. The Indiana General Assembly passes a law prohibiting children between 3 and 16 years of age from staying more than 10 days in county poor asylums.

1900 Indianapolis's population is 169,164.

A struggle develops between proponents of asylums and advocates of placing children in outside homes, known as foster care. State governments begin to resolve this conflict by choosing a third option—mother's pensions, which provide money to the mother so that she can keep her children with her instead of sending them to an orphanage in times of distress. During the next two decades, people in Indianapolis will debate the validity of mother's pensions.

1903 The Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum acquires a site at 4107 East Washington Street and erects four new buildings. The orphans move to the site on 15 October 1905.

In March the Indiana General Assembly passes an act requiring that "every county with over 100,000 population shall create a juvenile court" that will deal with "all cases relating to children including juvenile delinquents, truants, and all other cases where the custody or legal punishment of children is in question."

1904 The Board of State Charities visits the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum in January; in residence are 108 children. The inspection report notes, "Children with one parent are paid for by the parent."

1905 The Indianapolis Humane Society is established to prevent cruelty to animals and children.

1906 The Indianapolis School Board moves a portable school building to the asylum for additional classroom space.

1909 The Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum holds its second Annual Easter Flower Sale. Br'er Rabbit and the Bunni-mobile travel around Indianapolis to advertise. At the Conference on Infant Mortality at the Academy of Medicine in New Haven, Connecticut, the asylum reports that during the past 10 years, 882 infants have been admitted and 345 have died (39 percent). In pencil, someone notes: "formaldehyde in milk is supposed to have been the cause of high death rate in the early years."

"formaldehyde in milk is supposed to have been the cause of high death rate in the early years."

The White House holds a Conference on Dependent Children. This watershed event advocates aid to widows and other needy women to enable children to remain with their mothers. Experts at the conference assert that foster care—not the orphanage—is the second-best option if maintaining the family unit is impossible.

The annual Easter Flower Sale was held at the Propylaeum. Unsold flowers were given to the orphans so that each child had a plant to raise.



In 1908 the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum advertised its annual Easter Flower Sale to raise money for the orphans.



Single motherhood proved a huge challenge for women in the early twentieth century. Sometimes single mothers left their children at the orphanage as a temporary measure until their circumstances improved.

(Indiana State Library)



1910 Indianapolis's population grows to 233,650, and the city begins to experience the problems of other major metropolitan cities with crime and labor unrest.

1911 The Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum again raises money through a flower sale, which is held "for the children's sake." Although it receives 30 cents per day per child from the county commissioners for room and board of wards, the agency looks for other ways to fund the asylum. For the Sixtieth Anniversary Party, an afternoon tea is held, with cake served to all 285 orphans.

1912 The federal government creates the Children's Bureau to study problems relating to children and to make recommendations.

1914 "Homes [are] especially desired for boys... 6-14 years of age and a number of little girls, who are capable of making themselves useful in many ways." Over the past year 476 children have been served, with the average enrollment being 187.

1915 St. Elizabeth Maternity Hospital and Infant Home opens.

1917 The U.S. enters World War I.

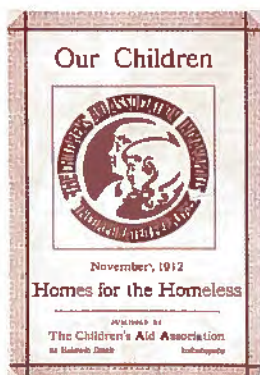
The Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum speaks out against the McCray Bill before the Indiana General Assembly. This bill is aimed at making the juvenile court system "more like" criminal courts.

1918 World War I ends, and the influenza pandemic strikes Indiana.

There are 97 residents (50 permanent and 47 temporary) from Marion County and 118 from other counties when the State Board of Charities visits the asylum. The staff includes an agent who places children in private homes and inspects the homes beforehand.



In 1912 these boys were learning wood-working skills to help them earn a living when they reached adulthood.



Children's aid societies arose in large cities around the turn of the century. These societies tried to get children out of industrial environments with their temptations to more "wholesome" rural areas.

1919 The Indiana General Assembly passes an act creating mother's pensions to provide money to needy women with children. It also funds the Division of Infant and Child Hygiene of the State Board of Health.

1920 Indianapolis's population is 314,194.

1921 The Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum cares for 334 children, with an average enrollment of 181; 81 are placed in homes, 36 return to their parents, and 18 are adopted.

1922 The Charity Organization Society, Indianapolis Benevolent Society, Children's Aid Association, and Mother's Aid Society merge to form the Family Welfare Society.

1923 The Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum becomes a charter member of the Community Chest, the former Community Fund. The Community Fund, formed in 1920, was based on the federated fund-raising model of the war years.

The American Child Health Association is founded.

1924 Miss Edna Emrich starts the caseworker program as the first social worker.

Name <i>Richard Allen Stone</i>	
Sex <i>Male</i>	Color <i>W</i>
Place of birth <i>Den. of Ind.</i>	Date <i>Oct. 12, 1913</i>
Received: Month <i>Oct.</i>	Year <i>1913</i>
Received from <i>Bertha May Stone</i>	
Address <i>Bedford, R. P. 3 Box 3</i>	
Father's name <i>Wm. H. Stone</i>	
Address <i>Bedford, Ind.</i>	
Mother's name <i>Bertha M. Stone</i>	
Address <i>Bedford, Ind.</i>	
Remarks: <i>To Ray B. as a cash worth placed in a home Bertha M. Stone</i>	

NAME OF PERSON TAKING CHILD	ADDRESS	DATE	
		MONTH	DAY, YEAR
<i>Everett Reed Anderson</i>	<i>418 1/4 Broadway St.</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>1913</i>
<i>Died at the home of Everett Reed Anderson Dec. 9/13</i>			

The Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum kept records on each child who passed through its doors.



Dismayed that the children at the asylum had the desire but not the equipment for a band, Rotarians asked singer Sophie Tucker for help. With a check from Tucker, they approached an instrument maker who provided the instruments gratis. At the end of the transaction, the Rotarians had both instruments and money.



Concerns over the health and cleanliness of children rose in the 1920s. (Indiana State Library)

“Safeguarding the interests of the child”

In 1920, as part of its regular inspections of childcare facilities, the State Board of Charities visited the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum. This visit had a different purpose than usual, however; the inspector, Dr. Estabrook, had come to check the mental capacities of the orphans. Nearly 30 years after Oscar McCulloch died, professionals in Indianapolis—and elsewhere—continued to debate and examine the role that heredity and environment played in childhood development.

Since 1909, when the White House Conference on Dependent Children asserted the primacy of the family in the development of children, the well-being of American youth had been the subject of increased scrutiny. In Indianapolis the “Indiana Child Welfare Exposition” was held in 1914 to “present the argument for intelligent community action in preventing child waste, in conserving child life and in safeguarding the interests of the child.” The welfare of the child was “in reality [important to] the interests of the state.”

Dr. Estabrook's inspection of the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum was likely an extension of this larger movement. In hindsight, however, the results of the survey are unsettling; it revealed that of the 140 children in the orphanage at that time, only “53 [were] found to be of average ability, 37 retarded, 12 probably mentally defective, and 38 definitely feeble-minded.” Thus 62 percent of the children were deemed of less than average ability. While professionals debated the effects of environment on statistics such as these, institutionalization in orphanages came to be seen as one culprit.

Not long after the state conducted its study on the intellectual abilities of orphans, the board of managers and the staff of the orphanage began reforming the institution. It hired its first caseworker in 1924 and two years later joined the Child Welfare League of America, an advocacy group of childcare agencies and orphanages. In doing so, the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum placed itself in the forefront of a larger movement to professionalize and deinstitutionalize childcare in the city.

1925 The Indiana Division of Infant and Child Hygiene conducts a series of lectures on maternity and childcare to help mothers understand the importance of diet and good medical care.

1926 The Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum establishes an association with the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) and becomes a charter member. The Child Welfare League was founded in 1920 by orphanages and child-placing agencies.

1928 After the Child Welfare League of America conducts a study of the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum, social work becomes a separate department. The Indianapolis Foundation provided funding for the study. Gertrude Taggart, a longtime member and officer on the board of directors, in answer to a question concerning the need for a board of managers now that the asylum has a paid staff, states, "the Board is the heart of our public relations program; it is the agency's primary tie to the public to which we must look for interest, understanding and support."

1929 The stock market crashes.

1930 Indianapolis's population is 364,161.



Orphans ate meals grouped by age in the early twentieth century.

"the Board is the heart of our public relations program; it is the agency's primary tie to the public to which we must look for interest, understanding and support."



Children who were not available for adoption were "placed out" in homes across the city. This one was the Keller Boarding Home for Children.

(Indiana State Library)



Several children lived at the Keller Boarding Home for Children in 1923.

(Indiana State Library)



Children were bathed regularly in an effort to control disease.

(Indiana State Library)

1931 In "A Study of Child-Caring Work in Indianapolis," Catherine Sanders examines the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum. Sanders finds that children in grades one through six attend school on the grounds of the asylum, and that approximately half of the children there at any one time are wards of Marion County. The study addresses the evolution of an orphanage (an institution) into a childcare agency "performing ... under social work administration." Sanders recommends that the asylum merge with the Family Service Association.

1932 In October a group of charity-minded women establish the auxiliary to the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum. Its purpose is to provide recreational activities for orphans and to help in any way possible. Fund-raising begins with regular puppet shows and bridge parties. The women also set up a motor corps to take orphans to medical appointments.

The Indiana Birth Control League, later known as Planned Parenthood, is founded to help married women who have two or more children plan for future children.



Although no official unemployment statistics were kept during the Great Depression, it is estimated that at its peak 20 percent of all males had no jobs. This photo shows a section of old ward four on Indianapolis's west side in the 1930s. (Indiana State Library)

"Born of a need"

As the Great Depression tightened its grip on the United States, money for "vulnerable" children became scarce. This made it difficult for the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum to meet their needs. The director of the Children's Bureau, Lucille Batson, later recalled that the auxiliary to the asylum was "born of a need" to help the children. The auxiliary was established in October 1932.

From the beginning, the auxiliary raised money and provided volunteer support. Often representing generations of Indianapolis's most affluent families, volunteers added an extra dimension through fund-raising involving a myriad of activities. For many years the auxiliary sponsored flower sales, tennis matches, rummage sales, and a skating club called the Ice Crackers. Moneymaking projects after 1960 stretched the imagination: from a charity ball at Riverside Park on the eve of the 500-Mile Race in 1962; to the Broad Ripple gift shop "Something Special," opened in 1976; to Hoosier Dome tours, started in 1984; to an annual celebrity golf tournament.

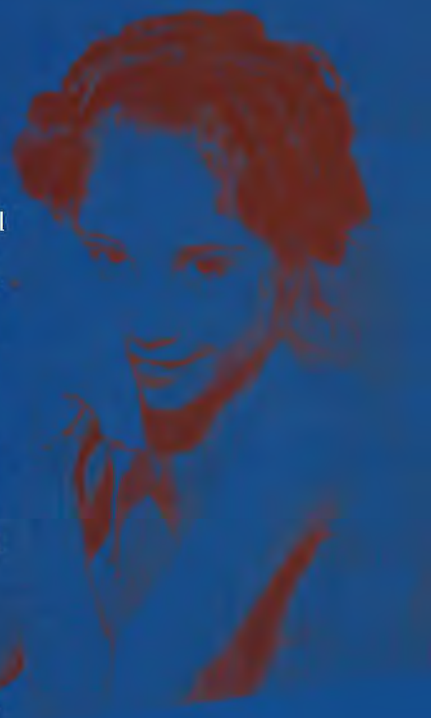
The money raised by the auxiliary often went toward expanding a child's horizon of experience or alleviating a medical problem. Over the years, auxiliary funds were used for a variety of purposes, including music lessons and instruments, orthopedic shoes, summer camp, and an international exchange program visit. Some of the money raised provided scholarships for staff members to further their education through graduate study or for them to attend professional conferences.

The auxiliary has been active in other kinds of support for the Bureau as well. In 1939 the auxiliary began publishing the *Reflector* for foster parents, which became the official newsletter of the organization. During World War II the auxiliary organized and operated a toy-lending library on East Market Street for childcare providers, in addition to its other war-related activities. By the 1960s the auxiliary's volunteers helped in the Children's Bureau's office, interviewed prospective adoptive parents, and organized foster parents and foster child activities. Over the years the auxiliary continued to grow and respond to the changing needs of the Children's Bureau.

In 1992 the Children's Bureau merged with the Family Support Center, Inc. The Family Support Center had its own auxiliary, founded in April 1981 by Mrs. Carl M. Sauer. This auxiliary remains closely tied to the activities of the Family Support Center, providing volunteer service and fund-raising through various charity events. Still separate, the two auxiliaries continue to provide ongoing support that was "born of a need."



Members of the auxiliary donated time and talents to help the orphans and to raise money for the orphanage.



With Congress passing Aid to Dependent Children in 1935 and with private philanthropy drying up during the 1930s, orphanages such as the one pictured, began closing their doors. (Indiana State Library)



1934-1901

Children's Bureau of the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum

In the midst of the Great Depression, with hardship a daily experience, the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum merged with the Children's Bureau of the Family Service Association. Since the White House Conference in 1909, there had been a growing movement to keep children in family situations rather than in orphanages. In 1935 the federal government validated this movement by instituting Aid to Dependent Children. The next 27 years were a time of transition.



Girls from the Indianapolis
Orphans' Home posed for
this photo at camp in 1937.



During World War II, wives and mothers gathered after work to sew and roll bandages for soldiers. The Children's Bureau helped with the local war effort by finding childcare situations for working women.

(Indiana Historical Society, Martin Collection, 30024)

1934 In July the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum merges with the Children's Bureau of the Family Service Association to become the Children's Bureau of the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum.

1935 The United States Congress passes the Social Security Act, which has a provision for state grants for Aid to Dependent Children. This changes child welfare, putting a premium on keeping families together and leading to the eventual demise of orphanages.

1936 A transition begins in which responsibility for public child welfare cases (wards) is transferred to the Children's Division of the Marion County Department of Public Welfare. For the first time in its history, the Children's Bureau shifts from a primarily public institution to a more private agency.

1937 The Indiana Department of Public Welfare is established as a result of the 1936 Welfare Act passed by the general assembly. This agency administers federal relief funds.

Records show that the auxiliary has funded such expenditures as a graduation dress, Butler College tuition, a scout uniform, business courses, and musical instruments.

1938 The Children's Bureau funds five full or partial scholarships for orphans to Butler College, Ball State Teachers College, Franklin College, Central Business College, and City Hospital.

1939 The auxiliary begins publishing *Reflector*, a mimeographed newsletter containing advice and guidance for foster parents.

People jubilantly gathered to celebrate the end of World War II on 14 August 1945. *(Indianapolis Star)*





The Auxiliary to the Children's Bureau saluted foster mothers at its recognition luncheon.

1940 Indianapolis's population is 386,972.

Meta Gruner, director of the Children's Bureau, sets the stage for the closing of the orphanage next year: "I think we have progressed beyond ... food, shelter, and clothing as substitutes for what a child has lost in his own home." Twenty-five percent of the children now come from divorced parents.

"I think we have progressed beyond ... food, shelter, and clothing as substitutes for what a child had lost in his own home."

1941 With the bombing of Pearl Harbor on 7 December, the United States enters World War II.

Meeting the "physical needs" of children is not enough, according to a statement released by the director of the asylum. "All our children needed individual attention and care." Institutional responsibility for the orphanage is transferred in October to the Protestant General Orphans' Home, 1404 South State Street. The orphanage building is sold, and the money is placed in an endowment fund. The Children's Bureau moves to the Odd Fellows building at the corner of Washington and Pennsylvania Streets in December.

For the past year, the Children's Bureau has been assisting the Day Nursery in placing children in daycare while their mothers are engaged in war work. With the closing of the orphanage, there is renewed emphasis on "Child Placing—to place children, both Negro and white, in foster homes, either as a temporary or permanent plan."



In 1951 Howard Peckham, Kerth W. Hardy, and Mrs. Robert Gruen viewed the scroll of the original incorporators of the Children's Bureau as the organization celebrated its 100th anniversary.

An era ends

As the last of the children left the orphanage in 1941, an important chapter ended in the history of the Children's Bureau of the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum. The closing of its orphanage marked the Bureau's transition from a mostly public to a mostly private agency. Economics, as well as changes in the political environment, dealt the final blow. The ideological shift from institutional care to social work/case-managed care, however, had been under way for more than 30 years.

After the 1909 White House Conference on Dependent Children, childcare experts increased their advocacy of preserving the family unit, or at least keeping mothers with their children. As a result, states began to provide pensions for mothers so that they could keep

their children with them even in tough times; the Indiana General Assembly passed such legislation in 1919. Then in 1935 the Aid to Dependent Children provision of the Social Security Act made federal money available for mother's pensions in order to keep the family together.

Additionally, leaders in childcare had come to believe that orphanages were not the answer for "vulnerable" children. They felt that institutions could not meet the needs of the individual.

Meta Gruner, the director of the Children's Bureau, echoed their sentiments as she set the stage for the closing of the orphanage: "I think we have progressed beyond . . . food, shelter, and clothing as substitutes for what a child has lost in his own home."

Funds shrank for orphanages as other relief measures grew during the Great Depression. Responsibility for public child welfare cases was transferred to the Children's Division of the Marion County Department of Public Welfare. The responsibility for orphanage care for the county's wards shifted to the Protestant General Orphans' Home in 1941. An era had ended.



The orphanage remained central to the mission of the Children's Bureau of the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum until it closed in 1941. The orphanage on East Washington Street was the third and final home.

1942 In January the Children's Bureau amends its constitution to reflect its present focus. It will "provide for the physical and medical care, educational and religious training and to meet the social needs of children: to place children in substitute homes or institutions. These homes may be boarding, free, adoptive, or wage." The war changes the way the Bureau operates. Personnel turnover becomes common, and there is a shortage of caseworkers for the war's duration. (The beginning salary for a caseworker with graduate training is \$135 per month.) Volunteers from the Red Cross supplement the services of the auxiliary, particularly where rationed items like gas and tires are involved.

1943 The Day Care Committee of the Children's Bureau reports the need for 100 homes for children of working mothers. Longtime manager Gertrude Taggart is appointed chair of the board of the Indianapolis Emergency Day Care Services, Inc., which has citywide responsibility for daycare, group care, and foster family care. The Day Care Service licenses 93 homes for daycare. During the year, the Children's Bureau finds foster homes for 662 children.

Indiana forms the Committee on the Care of Children in Wartime to combat the perceived increase in juvenile delinquency that has accompanied the war.

1944 For the first time, the Children's Bureau Board of Managers includes men. The auxiliary has 75 members. According to the director, "Our board and our Auxiliary can interpret our program to the public much more effectively than we can." The Bureau serves 1,018 children this year. At the end of the year, 174 children are under its care. "The majority of our children come to our attention upon direct application by parents and relatives."

1945 World War II ends.

At the end of the war, the Children's Bureau reflects on the wartime experience, especially as it related to children: "Too few mothers were able to make suitable arrangements for the care of their children while they were working." As a result, "children too often were dumped on or left with relatives or neighbors who didn't want them." In the past year, 1,186 children "came to the agency's attention."



The late 1940s and early 1950s represented a time of transition for the Children's Bureau. In 1953 it moved its administrative offices to the English Foundation Building.



Shortly after the move to the English Foundation Building, a photographer captured an unidentified employee and a child in the offices of the Children's Bureau.



The Evangelical Lutheran Orphans' Home and the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum merged with the (German) General Protestant Orphans' Home in 1941. Here orphans were sweeping the steps at the General Protestant Orphans' Home. (Indiana Historical Society, C8482)



In 1955 orphans gathered for a performance at the General Protestant Orphans' Home. In 1971 the name of the home changed to the Pleasant Run Children's Home. (Indiana Historical Society, C110)

1948 Indiana has a staggering 13,772 open child welfare cases, with 2,938 children in foster homes, 1,779 in free or adoptive homes, and 2,093 still in institutions. The rest of the open cases involve children still living in their own homes.

1950 Indianapolis's population is 427,173. For many, this decade is an era of abundance as people rush to spend money on automobiles, homes, and appliances. People begin to worry about the Cold War, Communists, and the nuclear bomb.

1952 The board indicates that the press has an indifferent attitude toward the work of the Children's Bureau, except in regard to the efforts of the auxiliary. However, a Carl Sandburg radio program gives the Bureau time to recruit foster parents. There are ongoing discussions with the board of the Suemma Coleman Home about having the Bureau assume responsibility for finding homes for infants born there.

1953 The *Indianapolis Star* publishes a series of articles examining the city's slums. Nearly 20 percent of the residents live in substandard housing, meaning they have neither indoor plumbing nor adequate living space. In March, three children under the age of four are found living with their parents in a hog house just west of Indianapolis.



In 1960 the Garrard House, the first group home, was named for Mrs. Jessie Garrard, a longtime board member of the Children's Bureau.

The Children's Bureau moves to the new English Foundation Building. The Bureau gets three spots on Lynn Stevens' television show *Guest Book*, where the role of foster parents is discussed. Director Kerth W. Hardy questions the practice of accepting wards from public agencies at a fixed rate because private funds are then used to support public responsibility.

1954 The Child Welfare League of America questions the Children's Bureau's practice of accepting wards from Marion County. The Community Chest expresses the feeling that it is subsidizing a public, not a private, agency. With the decrease in the number of wards this year, Director Hardy says this is a good time to end the practice.

1955 Planned Parenthood offers services for unmarried women for the first time; its services have previously been restricted to married women with two or more children.

1957 The United Fund is established from the old Community Chest, and the Children's Bureau is a charter member.

1958 James J. Mallon is appointed director of the Children's Bureau. He serves in this capacity until his death in 1983.

1959 The auxiliary sponsors a horse show to establish a scholarship fund. The Children's Bureau provides some care for 821 children and full care for 414. It helps 158 expectant mothers and places 53 children in adoptive homes.

1960 Indianapolis's population is 476,258. The Federal Drug Administration approves birth control pills.

The Children's Bureau initiates a pilot project of a small group home for adolescent girls. Located on the east side, Garrard House, named in honor of Jessie Belle Garrard, a board member for more than 50 years, is the first group home in Indiana. Auxiliary members clean and paint the house in preparation for the girls' occupancy.

The Children's Bureau initiates a pilot project of a small group home for adolescent girls.



With the closing of the Indianapolis Orphans' Asylum, the Children's Bureau began concentrating on facilitating adoptions.



The Children's Bureau helped families adopt minority babies, such as this American Indian baby, in 1961. This was part of an ongoing project with the CWLA.



Homes for Black Children symbolized the shift of the Children's Bureau at the end of the twentieth century toward community programming. These families associated with the program went to Washington, D.C. in the 1990s for the First Stand for Children.

1961-2001

Children's Bureau of Indianapolis, Inc.

After the closing of the orphanage in 1941, the Children's Bureau began redefining its role in the Indianapolis community. Over the next 50 years, adoption and foster care would remain key components, but the Bureau would also expand its services to include group homes, transitional living, and, as private and public money became available, a multitude of programming for "vulnerable" children.



Mrs. George H. Maley and
Mrs. Richard O. Creedon
prepared for the Kiltie
Karnival, a fundraiser for the
Auxiliary to the Children's
Bureau, May 1966.



Mrs. Meredith Nicholson, Jr. received a life membership for her years of dedication to the Children's Bureau.

(Indiana State Library)

1961 In May the Bureau's name is changed to the Children's Bureau of Indianapolis, Inc.

The Children's Bureau presents its third life membership to Mrs. Meredith Nicholson, Jr. The first two recipients were Mrs. Charles Garrard (1911) and Miss Gertrude Taggart (1915).

1962 The auxiliary sponsors an Indianapolis 500-Mile Race gala, its first charity ball at Riverside Park.

1964 Since 1959 the number of children and adolescents served by the Children's Bureau has increased dramatically. The number of unwed mothers has risen 111 percent, to 346; the number of children placed for adoption is up 109 percent. There are 1,495 children receiving some care and 571 receiving full care, up 82 percent and 38 percent respectively.

The War on Poverty is declared. This is a cornerstone of President Lyndon Johnson's vision of a Great Society. Over the next three years, laws will be passed to help alleviate poverty.

1965 The auxiliary's mission is "to assist the Board and the Staff of the Children's Bureau by interpreting the work of the Bureau to the community, providing volunteer assistants, and raising funds to augment the program of the Bureau." During the year, 28 children are adopted; 13 are minority children: 9 black, 3 Indian, and 1 "interracial."

1966 "The outstanding concern of this year was the need for more applications from Negro couples interested in adoption."

1968 The auxiliary hosts its annual Thanksgiving party for foster parents and a Christmas party for children. Members again sponsor an annual dance and carnival at Riverside Park on the eve of the 500-Mile Race to raise money for art classes, dancing lessons, scholarships, and other enrichment activities for children.



Mrs. Grider held her youngest foster child in April 1961.

1969 Mallon House for adolescent boys opens. It is named for director James Mallon's son, who was killed in Vietnam. By 1969 the Children's Bureau has placed more than 30 children from different Indian tribes across the United States as part of the CWLA Indian Adoption Project. Auxiliary members attend the annual Child Welfare League's central region conference in Pittsburgh to learn what others in the field are doing. They are the only auxiliary members to do so.



Foster parents were important to the Children's Bureau's program. Here Director James Mallon (right) chatted with Mr. and Mrs. Earl Cook in 1962.

1970 Indianapolis's population is 744,624.

Evans House, a private home on the north side of Indianapolis, is donated to the Children's Bureau as a home for unwed mothers. It has facilities for as many as 10 girls and house parents. It also has a hospital room for emergencies. Members of the auxiliary establish one-on-one relationships with these girls through activities such as shopping trips. Evans House is an open home, meaning that it has fewer restrictions than traditional facilities for unwed mothers. It "[de-emphasizes] family life because most babies are put up for adoption." Adoptive homes are found for 153 children, the highest number in the history of the agency to date. The number of children available for adoption will decrease hereafter as more unmarried women choose to keep their children.

It "[de-emphasizes] family life because most babies are put up for adoption."

The auxiliary sponsors the Peru (Indiana) City Circus "Big Top Twirl" dance at the Coliseum on the eve of the 500-Mile Race. It replaces the annual Riverside Park soiree.

1972 By March, 40 percent of the caseload is African American. Yet the Children's Bureau struggles to get a Black Adoption Council energized within the community.

1973 The auxiliary continues to provide extraordinary support. This year, for instance, volunteers work 6,366 hours, or the equivalent of 2.2 workers for a year, in addition to raising more than \$5,000.

The United States Supreme Court legalizes abortions with *Roe v. Wade*.



Mrs. Carr, a member of the auxiliary, shared a moment with foster parents Mr. and Mrs. William Jones at a foster parents meeting in January 1962.



The Lamberts excitedly fed their adoptive daughter in April 1967.

Over the next few years, the number of white babies available for adoption dropped dramatically.

1974 The new Garrard House is built and furnished for approximately \$160,000. The Children's Bureau opens and operates Morris House, a group home for boys with emotional or behavioral problems, under contract with the Office of Youth Development of Indianapolis on the east side of the city.

1975 Morris House closes because of neighborhood problems, and the program moves to Evans House, which was originally used for unwed mothers. The Children's Bureau formulates a policy with respect to transracial adoptions. "The Board believes the Children's Bureau should proceed with an appropriate degree of caution in the placement of children across racial lines until more reliable evidence becomes available." Fewer children are placed for adoption, and there are more "waiting" children now.

1976 Morris House reopens as a facility for girls, ages 13 to 18. The Garrard House's occupancy rate now stands at 98 percent.

1979 The Children's Bureau establishes Homes for Black Children, an outreach program to meet the needs of minority children awaiting adoption and to educate the community about the need for black adoptive parents. Lilly Endowment and the Indianapolis Foundation award a one-year grant as seed money. The Children's Bureau places 47 children for adoption, only 12 of whom are babies or young children; the rest are older children, sometimes in sibling groups. This marks a transition in the Bureau's adoptive services. The Children's Bureau undergoes voluntary national accreditation by the Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services. This process, which happens every four years, means that the agency is meeting or surpassing the highest national standards.



Janet Myers (seated) talked with Michael Eberly and Julia Joseph, adoption supervisor, about the case load of the Children's Bureau in 1969.

The Children's Bureau pioneered the concept of group homes with the Garrard House on East Washington Street. Older children lived there while waiting for adoption or when foster care was not a viable option.





In 1967 the Children's Bureau had 11 healthy black babies available for adoption but no potential parents.

1980 Indianapolis's population is 700,807.

The Children's Bureau estimates that it has served more than 85,000 children and has placed approximately 5,000 for adoption since it was established.

1982 The auxiliary to the Children's Bureau celebrates its 50th anniversary.

1983 With the death of James Mallon, Janet M. Myers serves as acting director. Kenneth L. Phelps becomes director in October.

1985 Counseling becomes a large part of operations, with more than 3,600 hours devoted to it. Homes for Black Children finds homes for 23; total adoptions are down to 40. During the past year, auxiliary members have donated 11,069 service hours.

Indiana enacts a law that makes it the most restrictive state in the nation in regard to keeping adoption records confidential.

1986 The Family Support Center building is chosen as a Crisis Shelter for runaway youth. The Children's Bureau assumes administration of the respite care component from the Family Support Center and continues the mission of the existing "respite care program for abused/neglected children." The Bureau also assumes responsibility for the operation of the Delaware Youth Center, a center for male adolescents who are first-time offenders.

1988 The Children's Bureau establishes the Roberta West Nicholson Award to recognize an outstanding advocate for children on the local, state, or national level. The agency becomes a member of the Indiana Youth Services Association.

With the number of minority children available for adoption increasing, the Children's Bureau initiated outreach programs to bring together prospective black parents and children available for adoption.



In a landmark case in 1968 Audrey Oliver became the first single parent to legally adopt a child in Indiana.

Finding Safe Homes for Children

Saturday's child
Archie needs a family

Archie needs a family to love him. A friendly and affectionate 12-year-old, Archie enjoys riding his bike, playing basketball and watching the "Incredible Hulk" on T.V. He is showing a lot of potential talent in drawing and enjoys art class in school.

According to his caseworker, Steve Wnoch, Archie is eager to please and genuinely enjoyed his education. He has had a lot of unhappiness to cope with. Within the last year his mother, stepfather and grandmother have all died. "He doesn't feel like anyone cares about him."

When he is alone, he withdraws and the depression has hurt his school work. Archie is capable of making straight grades in regular classes. He now needs fourth-grade special education classes. His caseworker feels his directly related to his numerous emotional ills.

Archie needs an adoptive family that can motivate him to enjoy himself. He thrives on praise and needs a loving, affectionate family to give him direction. Ideally, his family should have experience with no other children under age 12. Children younger or older would be fine.

Archie's new family would need to be patient with him according to his caseworker. "He has lots of potential, but it may take a little time to bring it out." Despite all he has been through, Archie tries hard to please and desperately wants someone to love him. Maybe that someone is you?

Homes for Black Children is looking for an adoptive family for Archie and many children like him. There is no fee. Anyone interested in finding out more about Archie should contact: Homes for Black Children, 1131 E. 18th Street, 345-1441.

ARCHIE



Newspaper columns like "Saturday's Child" in the *Indianapolis News*, highlighted children available for adoption.

The types and the number of children available for adoption have ebbed and flowed with the tide of social and cultural change. For example, during World War II the number of available infants increased dramatically as women offered illegitimate children for adoption before their husbands returned from war service. In the 1970s, widespread use of birth control pills, the legalization of abortion, and the loss of the stigma attached to single motherhood resulted in fewer healthy white infants available for adoption.

Concurrent with this change, however, the number of minority children placed for adoption has increased. Since the 1960s, the Children's Bureau has faced a growing need for homes for black children. By the early 1970s, 40 percent of the caseload (foster and adoptive) was African American. This led to the founding of the Homes for Black Children program, which was established to create a pool of black adoptive parents and to reverse the growing trend of transracial adoptions.

Along with the increase in minority children available for adoption, the number of children with "special needs" has increased as well. Special needs children are older and have learning disabilities, backgrounds of abuse, or medical problems. Sometimes older children are part of a sibling group. Finding homes for these children has posed a different challenge than finding homes for healthy white infants.

Educating the public about the profile of children available for adoption has taken effort. In the early 1970s, the Children's Bureau had a weekly segment on the Jim Gerard Show that featured a child, usually a minority infant, available for adoption. Later, WTHR-Channel 13 began a similar weekly television report called "Thursday's Child." The *Indianapolis Star* has had a long-running column in Sunday's paper, "Sunday's Child," which features a child or a family group. Highly successful, these endeavors serve to keep one major mission of the Children's Bureau before the public: to find safe homes for children.



Volunteers Nathan Zackery and Hoyt Diamond raised awareness for National Adoption Week at the Statehouse in the 1980s.

1989 In early April, a new Evans House for disturbed boys is dedicated. Counseling for children and families continues to be a significant part of the Bureau's efforts. Residential programs include Crisis Shelter, Runaway Shelter, Youth Center, and Project Safe Place. Youth generally stay in residential centers for a brief time before moving on to other situations. The auxiliary sponsors the first annual Children's Bureau Golf Classic.

The Legal Services Organization initiates a lawsuit against the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration for violating the constitutional rights of its wards by not moving them through the state welfare system quickly.



The Campaign for Healthy Babies is launched to reduce the high infant mortality rate among Indianapolis's African American population.

Evans House, which was originally a home for unwed mothers, shifted to a facility for boys in the late 1980s.

1990 Indianapolis's population is 741,962.

On 23 March the Children's Bureau establishes its own foundation (Children's Bureau Foundation, Inc.) to protect and manage its assets. Counseling continues to be a large part of the Children's Bureau's efforts, accounting for a total of 4,753 hours. The Bureau helps 2,085 in residential centers. A Transitional Living Program is initiated "to help young adults make an easier adjustment to life on their own." The Bureau serves 122 pregnant teens, 175 children in foster care, and 73 children in group homes. There are 70 adoptions, 44 through Homes for Black Children.

"to help young adults make an easier adjustment to life on their own."

1991 Counseling will average 5,000 to 6,000 hours this year and for each of the next five years.

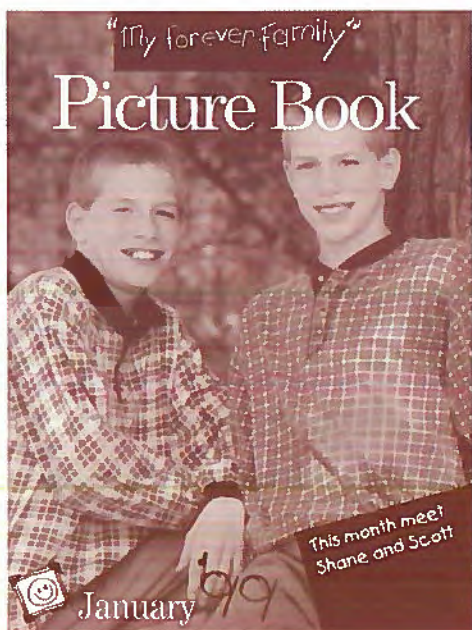
1992 In January the Children's Bureau merges with the Family Support Center. It develops and implements ADAPTS (Adolescent Development and Primary Treatment Shelter) and HEART (Home, Education, and Respite Team) programs. Fewer children are living in group homes (31) and staying in residential centers (1,066) than in prior years. The Child Abuse Hotline receives 5,310 calls. The Family Support Center has its own auxiliary, which actively supports the Center's endeavors.

The Federal Court orders reform of the Marion County Child Welfare system.



Fewer white children than ever before were available for adoption in the 1990s, when 60 percent of the caseload at the Children's Bureau was African American.

(Photo by Carl Popel)



The Children's Bureau of Indianapolis administered Indiana's Adoption Initiative. The statewide program published *Picture Book*, which features special needs children awaiting adoption.



Children enjoyed a day of activities as part of the Respite Program at the Family Support Center in the 1990s.

1993 Indiana makes changes to the law regarding the confidentiality of adoption records. Now both parties can file with the State Board of Health to make contact.

The Children's Bureau launches a residential-care program (ADAPTS Plus) on the northwest side of Indianapolis for emotionally disturbed children. The facility is set up to teach teens life skills, such as balancing a checkbook and preparing for a job interview.

1994 In the past two years a total of 335 families have undergone training to be foster or temporary parents for abused or neglected children. More foster families are still needed.

1997 Ken Phelps resigns, and Ron Duke Carpenter becomes President and CEO in July. There are 81 children in group homes. The Crisis Center deals with 694 children, and 493 are in home-based counseling.

Statewide, 1,000 children have been in foster care for more than six years. In November the United States Congress passes the Adoption and Safe Families Act, designed to expedite adoption and to reduce the number of children in foster care. The act is designed to force agencies to develop a "permanency plan" early in the foster care cycle, which allows the state to terminate parental rights within a given time frame.

1998 The Children's Bureau administers or is involved in 20 definable activities or programs under the major headings of Group Home Living, Secure Residential Care, Transitional Living Services, Family Support Center, and Child and Family Services. The annual CHILD (Citizens Helping and Investing in Lifelong Dreams) Award is established to recognize outstanding supporters of the Bureau and its clients.



Homes for Black Children, an ongoing program in the last quarter of the twentieth century, has brought together African American children with prospective parents. (Photo by Carl Pope, 1993)

1999 The Children's Bureau marks its 24th year of accreditation by the Council on Accreditation. Hoosier cartoonist Jim Davis, creator of Garfield, designs a T-shirt that promotes adoption awareness through a program called "My Forever Family, Indiana's Adoption Initiative." The Bureau takes a leadership role in administering the Neighborhood Alliance for Child Safety, which educates neighborhoods on their roles in protecting children from abuse and helps families with a wide range of needs to keep them out of the welfare system.

2000 The Children's Bureau is one of only six non-profit organizations in the state to receive an Indiana Achievement Award for effectiveness.

With the rights of biological parents becoming of greater issue, some people are opting for "open adoption," whereby the child lives with the adoptive parent but maintains some contact with the biological parent. There are also same-sex couples and single-parent adoptions; same-sex adoptions are administered as single-parent cases.

This year Indiana is attempting to find adoptive homes for more than 1,200 foster children. It is estimated that one in six of these adoptions will fail and the child will be returned to state care.

This year Indiana is attempting to find adoptive homes for more than 1,200 foster children

2001 The Children's Bureau of Indianapolis celebrates its 150th anniversary.



Ron Carpenter accepted a check from Fox 59 Community Fund in 1998 for the Safe Place Saturday program.



Supporters of Invest in Kids, a coalition to raise community interest in and advance advocacy of children's issues, gathered for a rally in 2000.



In 2000 the Children's Bureau proudly unveiled the architect's drawing of its new facility, a site of neighborhood based programming.

"Today and tomorrow"

From the President and CEO, Ron Duke Carpenter



In 1993 Janice Klein displayed her Social Worker of the Year award. (Left to right: Clara Hector Anderson, Janice Klein, and Director Ken Phelps)

After 150 years, it is my pleasure to relate that the Children's Bureau of Indianapolis continues to be a successful organization and a valuable asset to our community. The Bureau embodies one of the most important aspects of leadership success—determination. It has remained true to its original purpose and the vision of its founders. In this time of unprecedented proliferation of human service organizations, which has increased competition for public and private funding, it persists as a mission-focused and -driven agency that does not compromise quality of care in the pursuit of efficiency. Its sustainability has been accentuated by its adaptability and innovation. The Bureau still responds to our community and its most vulnerable citizens' needs. The agency leadership today has in common with its founders its passion for all children and represents what is right and noble in our culture. Consistently throughout its history, the Bureau's staff and volunteers have remained compassionate and committed.

This is where we have been. Its unprecedented heritage is made up of a rich tapestry of lives dedicated to helping children. As a parent, I understand the important and lifelong responsibility of raising a child. That responsibility is even more awesome when you play a part in raising another's child. That is what Children's Bureau has been all about. Although described as orphaned, abused, neglected, wayward, delinquent, outcast, damaged, disenfranchised, incorrigible, disturbed, special needs, vulnerable, at-risk, or disadvantaged, these are still just children. They are our future. We have to believe in them all and collectively do what is necessary to help them thrive and thereby reach their potential. They need nurturing and investment. Throughout history, one thing remains consistent and true: No child is expendable.



The Children's Bureau took a leadership role in Children... Our Best Investment, with its advocacy for changes in public policies that effect children. Here Ron Carpenter spoke at the Statehouse on this issue.

So after 150 years, where are we going and what does the future hold? First and foremost, as long as a child goes to bed at night hungry and cold from poverty and neglect, or bruised from abuse, there will be a need for organizations like Children's Bureau. As Mark Twain pointed out, "The art of prophecy is very difficult especially with respect to the future." What is predictable is that there are consistent issues and challenges that Children's Bureau will continue to address and face as it has throughout its fascinating history. Today, as it was 150 years ago, we continue to "wrestle with theories about the causes of poverty" and "differentiate between the worthy and the unworthy poor." We will continue to debate the best interests of children in relation to defining what constitutes a "healthy" family. We will continue to attempt to find the ideal balance between parental and children's rights. Economics, not what is best for disadvantaged children, will continue to drive public policy decisions. Consequently, we must remain aggressive in putting faces on tragic statistics. We must continue to articulate our rage and astonishment over how some adults treat and damage children. We must tell the children's stories of

overcoming what they have suffered and endured. We must continue to innovatively seek collaborative, effective, and efficient solutions to society's ills. Above all else, we must collectively increase our advocacy efforts. We are the voice for the children we serve. Be it preserving struggling families or providing humane, homelike environments in foster care, group homes, or orphanages, whatever the best practices of the time dictate, we must strive to minimize multiple placements of the children in need of services and their everlasting traumatic impacts before we reach the development of a permanent healthy home for those same children. Finally, no matter what new technological advances the future holds to make us more efficient, what we do will always be a person-to-person business.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "The task ahead of us is never as great as the power behind us." What has made the Children's Bureau great and powerful has been the people that have lived out their personal missions and careers through their service with this historic organization. In my years in this honorable profession, I have come to know some wonderful peers and volunteers. Employees of the Children's Bureau, such as James Mallon, Janet Myers, Janice Klein, Clara Anderson, Trish Riedl, Nadine Barnett, Ken Phelps, and Ann Frick, embody the best of our profession. They have set an incredibly high standard of excellence for future generations of social workers to meet, maintain, and, hopefully, surpass. Volunteers, such as B. J. Maley, Barbara Grayson, Sally Harrell, Becky Gatman, Moses Gray, and Marilyn Creedon, to name a few, have dedicated a lifetime of volitional investment to this agency and children that we mutually serve. Not only have they been part of an organizational history of success and achievements, they have shaped it. They have all played a vital role in positively affecting the lives of our community's most vulnerable population, at-risk children. As long as there are human beings like these representative few associated with the Children's Bureau that I have cited, who weep for and serve others' children, there is hope. There is hope that the sadness for some children will diminish, that their pain will be alleviated, and that the health of their bodies and spirits will be restored. Such is the legacy of the Children's Bureau's past and the promise of its future.



In June 2000 some of the staff of the Children's Bureau posed in the reception area of the Family Support Center. That month the Bureau received an Indiana Achievement Award, for its leadership role in the not-for-profit community.



At Homes for Black Children's first Black Adoption Day, volunteers Susie Davie and Moses Gray gathered with Cynthia Diamond, the director of HBC.

"The task ahead of us is never as great as the power behind us."



These children at the Family Support Center were part of the Respite Program.

Appendix

Presidents of the Board of Managers:

Mrs. Austin W. Morris, 1850-1851
Records missing, 1852-1853
Mrs. A. G. Willard, 1853-1854
Records missing, 1855-1857
Mrs. M. D. Willard, 1858-1861
Mrs. C. G. Perkins, 1862
Mrs. William T. Clark, 1863
Mrs. Elizabeth Landis, 1864
Mrs. Drusilla Wilson, 1865-1866
Mrs. Hannah T. Hadley, 1867-1873
Records missing 1873-1883
Mrs. Adeline Bradshaw, 1884-1900
Records missing, 1901-03
Mrs. Emma Lee Elam, 1904-1919
Mrs. Fanny B. Gregory, 1919-1920
Mrs. India C. Harris, 1920-1924
Mrs. Jessie B. Garrard, 1924-1938
Mrs. Mary Hoke Lesh, 1938-1942
Mrs. Meredith Nicholson, Jr., 1943-1944
Miss Gertrude Taggart, 1945-1946
Mr. Edwin G. Plum, 1947
Records missing, 1948-1949
Mrs. Charles Brignall, 1950
Mr. Edwin G. Plum, 1951
Mr. Howard H. Peckham, 1952-1953
Mrs. Silas B. Reagan, 1954-1955
Mr. Edward B. Raub, Jr., 1956-1957
Mr. William B. Clark, 1958-1960
Mr. Benjamin Hitz, Jr., 1961
Senator J. Russell Townsend, Jr., 1962
Mrs. Virginia Hill, 1963-1964
Mr. John W. Kingsbury, 1965
Mr. Ben F. Small, 1966
Mr. Irving L. Fink, 1967-1968
Mr. Jameson Woollen, 1969-1970
Mr. Donald G. Sutherland, 1971-1972
Mr. Peter Kappes, 1973-1974
Mrs. Edward J. Ohleyer, 1975-1976
Mr. Ronald J. Newmark, 1977-1978
Mr. Charles L. Falvey, 1979-1980
Mr. P. Roger Kumler, 1981-1982
Mrs. Sally Harrell, 1983-1984
Mr. Walter P. Bruen, 1985-1987

Mr. David Doyle, 1988-1989
Mr. Robert Schneider, 1990-1991
Mr. Michael T. Price, 1992
Mr. Fritz R. Gordner, 1993-1995
Mr. Daniel Ent, 1996-1997
Mr. Marc Novotney, 1998-1999
Mr. Dennis Pressler, 2000-

Directors:

Miss Clark, 1934-1938
Lucille Batson, Acting Director, 1939
Meta Gruner, 1939-1943
Lucille Batson, 1943-1946
Kerth W. Hardy, 1947-1957
James J. Mallon, 1958-1983
Janet M. Myers, Acting Director 1983
Kenneth L. Phelps, 1983-1997
Ron Duke Carpenter, 1997-

Roberta West Nicholson Award:

Patti Phelps, 1988
Marc Novotney, 1989
Carol Stein, 1990
Moses Gray, 1991
Larry Dunville, 1992
Ken Chapman, 1993
Ralph Dowe, 1994
John Day, 1995 (Special recognition to Helen Daniels)
National Council of Jewish Women, Indianapolis, 1996
Lisa Smith, 1997
Kim Hood-Jacobs, 1998
Judy O'Bannon, 1999
Mary Boggs, 2000



Children at the Family Support Center enjoyed a break in their day.

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Dedicated staff and volunteers have assisted with the history project as well. For years Jean Pattison maintained the Bureau's historical records. Then under the guidance of Joan Hostetler, June Johnson, Millie Lux, Maxine Reynolds, Jean Semick, and Rita Tomson created the Bureau's archives. The archives aided greatly in the research for the book. Staff members, such as Clara Anderson, Ron Carpenter, Ann Frick, Jennifer King, Janice Klein, Annette Lofton, and Carmela Rosner often helped in the search for the past by finding obscure photos and documents or by suggesting people to interview. Others graciously participated in oral interviews. Interviews with Clara Anderson, Ron Carpenter, Marilyn Creedon, Sally Harrell, Janice Klein, Annette Lofton, and Craig and Jorja McConahay gave the authors a unique and varied perspective on the Bureau's past and present activities.

To everyone associated with this project, the authors and researchers with Weintraut & Associates wish to express our collective appreciation. We believe that this is a story that is, indeed, worth telling for little has been written of children or of the poor in Indianapolis and Indiana. We are grateful to have been chosen to help the Children's Bureau tell its history.

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Linda Weintraut
John Warner
Connie J. Zeigler
Joan Hostetler, Heritage Photo Services



Over the years families, such as the Walkers, have been the mainstay of the Bureau's adoptive services.



Recently adopted brothers played in the backyard of their new home.



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