



Does *this* represent the Community Spirit of Birmingham?

ONE afternoon about eight years ago, a little group of women met in a Birmingham home—and out of that meeting evolved the Birmingham Community House . . . that familiar structure on Maple and Bates.

A remodeled residence, physically inadequate for the needs of the cause it was destined to serve—this little building has stood like a bulwark against every tendency on the part of Birmingham to lose its native charm. Population has increased. Business enterprises have multiplied. Our citizenry has become constantly more cosmopolitan. But always there has been preserved that spirit of neighborliness which is Birmingham's most priceless asset. And the focal point for its expression has been the old Community House.

But the time has come when the present Community House, scarcely equal to the requirements of eight years ago, is utterly inadequate. The needs which called it into being have multiplied and magnified. Its activities have come to be extended over a wider front. No longer is it representative of Birmingham's community spirit.

Entirely aside from civic pride, entirely aside from any consideration of Birmingham's future desirability as a place in which to live—the cold logic of figures proves the utter inadequacy of the present Community House.

During 1927, this little building—poorly ventilated, furnished with makeshifts, and lacking entirely in the inspirational qualities that are so vital in a building of this nature—was the scene of 555 meetings, attended by 22,000 men, women and children!

Fourteen hundred and twenty-eight people found employment through the good offices of its personnel!

Scores of families in straitened circumstances came to its Thrift Counter to purchase the cast-off clothing of Birmingham's more well-to-do.

Christmas and Thanksgiving observances—Red Cross activities—organized charity . . . all have called for intelligent, sympathetic and widespread effort. And as the sole agency of its kind in Birmingham, the Community House has shouldered these community responsibilities.

In spite of the loyalty and ability and consistent endeavors of those in charge, none of these activities have been carried out as thoroughly as they deserve to be—due entirely to lack of physical facilities. But far more serious is the fact that a number of worthy community organizations had to be denied even the privilege of meeting in the Community House in 1927—were obliged to seek accommodations elsewhere. And the situation is becoming more and more serious as time goes on.

Obviously, there can be but one solution to this vital community problem: Birmingham must build a new Community House—one that meets not only the needs of the present but the needs of the future as well—one that gives true expression to that spirit of neighborliness which means so much to every resident of Birmingham.

Plans for such a Community House have already been approved—and through the generosity of 12 public-spirited citizens, a site has been acquired. The cost of the building, furnishings and a year's operation and maintenance has been estimated at \$125,000. A campaign to raise this amount by popular subscription will begin on May 14th.

Some time during the campaign, you will be visited by a resident of Birmingham and asked to contribute to the Community House fund. When this individual calls to see you—remember that he or she is your neighbor—interested, as you are, in preserving that community spirit which makes Birmingham so attractive to us all. And when you give—give with the knowledge that you are investing in a better Birmingham . . . a more delightful place in which to live!

community May
14 to
26 house drive

BUILD FOR A BETTER BIRMINGHAM