A Comparative Financial Report

1930-1931

ASSETS

	April, 1931	March, 1932
Cash		
Petty Cash Fund	$ 20.44	$ 20.44
First National Bank (Com'l Acct.)	201.37	871.17
First National Bank (Welfare Acct.)	317.80	
First National Bank (Savings Acct.)	6.66	318.99
First State Savings Bank	200.00	
Birmingham Savings Bank	2.50	
	748.77	1,210.60
Notes and Accounts Receivable		
Land Pledges Receivable	2,800.00	2,200.00
Building Pledges Receivable	14,249.10	8,068.10
Furnishing Pledges Receivable	498.00	376.00
Maintenance Pledges Receivable (1930)	1,973.50	1,869.00
Maintenance Pledges Receivable (1931)		1,316.59
	19,520.60	13,829.69
Fixed Assets		
Land	10,000.00	10,000.00
Buildings	98,171.89	98,171.89
Furniture and Fixtures	14,896.28	14,896.28
Commissary Equipment	2,445.44	2,445.44
Commissary Supplies	50.00	50.00
	125,563.61	125,563.61
Deferred Assets		
Insurance Prepaid		132.91
	145,832.98	140,736.81

LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH

NOTES AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		
Notes Payable	4,287.60	2,326.38
Accounts Payable	80.75	
	4,368.35	2,326.38
CONTRACTS AND MORTGAGES PAYABLE		
Contracts Payable	8,944.80	5,643.80
Mortgages Payable	9,750.00	9,500.00
	18,694.80	15,143.80
FAMILY SERVICE BUREAU FUND	317.80	
RESERVES		
Reserve for Depreciation (Bldg.)	3,190.59	5,890.32
Reserve for Depreciation, Furn. and Fixtures	1,420.80	2,723.20
Reserve for Depreciation, Commissary	366.72	702.88
	4,978.11	9,316.40
NET WORTH		
Net Worth	127,561.90	111,483.86
Excess of Revenues over Expense		2,466.37
Excess of Expenses over Revenues	10,087.98	
	117,473.92	113,950.23
	$145,832.98	$140,736.81

Past Year Shows Able Financing

Indebtedness Is Reduced Despite Curtailed Budget And Reduced Income During 1931

Despite a lowered income and in the face of the conditions of the past year, the financial report of the Birmingham Community House shows a reduction in the total indebtedness of the association.

Moreover, the full facilities of the House have been kept open and the Community House during the past twelve months has been called upon for a considerable amount of welfare work for which no budget had been provided.

During the fiscal year which ends May 1, the Community House association has reduced the mortgage on the building $500, paid out $3,551.00 on outstanding contracts, taken up notes amounting to $1,961.22 and paid out $1,227.97 in interest. In addition the House has been operated and current obligations met at all times.

Revenue during the past year has been lower. The 1931 annual Roll Call brought in pledges amounting to $12,502.50 and it was upon this amount that the budget for the year was set up. To date $11,285.91 has been collected and together with rentals, profits from the Thrift Shop, from the commissary, Saturday night dances and other miscellaneous items has provided $14,404.45 of income.

Have Reduced Salaries

This sum is all that the Community House has had to carry on its work for the year, meet its interest payments and take care of its current expenses. And the Community House has stayed within this amount.

To do it has meant salary reductions, the elimination of certain paid workers, whose services could best be dispensed with and a strict economy in every department of the activity. In addition the Community House Association has been faced with another problem.

When the present building was contemplated and a program was carried on to raise funds for its erection, general business conditions were such that the present program could be undertaken without seeming to be out of line with the possibilities for paying for it. In fact, the campaign for pledges to the building fund was most successful, and the goal of a Community House fully paid for and free from debt was well in sight. The change in conditions has brought a marked change in this situation.

Pledges to the building fund have not been met by the donors in many cases because the donors have been financially unable to do so. This has increased the interest charges as well as curtailed the fund available for the retirement of the indebtedness. It has put an added burden upon the yearly budget, and made it necessary to take operating funds for principal expenditures wherever possible.

Contributions Are Vital

No one has been to blame for this. The general conditions are the cause. But the Community House Association has had to meet its obligations as best it could preserve its credit.

Only public support of the Community House will enable the association to continue its work. It has no private funds. Its revenues are small, because prices of rentals, meals and other income producing activities have been kept as low as possible that every member of the community of Birmingham might make use of the Community House facilities. Its mainstay is the support given it through the contributions to the annual Roll Call.

The financial report of the year just ending appears elsewhere. So does the proposed budget for the year to come. A study of these will reveal how carefully the operations have been conducted; just how vital the goal of this year's Roll Call is to the life of the Community House and how important it is that every citizen do his part to support the activity.

The Community House belongs to Birmingham. It is a part of the warp and woof of the community and it merits universal support.

New Budget Versus Old

SALARIES

	1931	1932
Executive Director	$ 2,400.00	$ 2,400.00
Office Secretary and Bookkeeper	1,800.00	1,125.00
Hostess	1,000.00	1,000.00
Employment Office (12 mos.)	400.00	600.00
Janitor		800.00
Games Room	150.00	150.00
Social Worker		1,080.00
	$ 7,805.00	$ 7,155.00

MAINTENANCE

Heat, light, water, etc.	1,500.00	1,500.00
Maintenance	180.00	400.00
New equipment and replacements	500.00	150.00
Taxes	371.38	250.00
Insurance	648.55	550.00
Telephone and telegrams	240.00	280.00
Office supplies	120.00	200.00
Advertising and printing	60.00	60.00
Boy Scouts	300.00	300.00
Girl Scouts	300.00	300.00
Miscellaneous	120.00	150.00
	$ 4,339.93	$ 4,140.00
* Capital payments (on furnishings and notes)	$ 6,750.00	$ 4,505.00
* Interest and mortgage reductions	1,657.60	1,700.00
	$ 8,407.60	$ 6,205.00
TOTAL *	$20,552.53	* 17,500.00
Less anticipated rentals	2,600.00	2,500.00
AMOUNT TO BE RAISED	$17,952.53	$15,000.00

History of Community House Reveals Spirit

(Continued from Page Two).

classes were held for three years. Dressmaking under Srs. Harry Connine, English under Mrs. Shain and elementary arithmetic taught by Mrs. Harrison J. Stringham, were so successful that the program was later adopted by the high school. In May of 1926 $4,000 was raised by the annual roll call of the Community House and it was reported that 20,000 people has used the House during the year, there had been 389 meetings and 1638 people had received employment through the employment bureau. Mrs. Milton Schatz and Mrs. Howard L. Simpson became members of the board and Mrs. Otis Helfrich was chairman of the 1926 birthday party.

Benefit Performance Helps

Each year the details of management increased and so did the roster of helpers. The shortcomings of the little Community House were more apparent daily and serious plans were formulated for purchasing a site and making plans for a new building. For the birthday party of 1927, Mrs. Clarence Vliet assembled 127 hostesses.

In this same year the Birmingham motion picture theater was opened, and in connection with its inauguration, gave a benefit performance for the Community House. The proceeds of this, together with a gift of $1,000 from Walter O. Briggs brought the total of the building fund to $3,500. Meanwhile the growth of Birmingham continued and during the winters of 1927 and 1928 an ever increasing number of activities found their way into the Community House program.

During this period the young people's Saturday night dances got well under way under the guidance of Mrs. Charlotte Whelan and Mrs. Roland Mann. To those who now use the new House, the inadequacies of the old can never be fully realized. Those dances alone pointed the vital need for larger quarters.

All the winter of 1927-28 meetings were held to plan for a campaign for funds for a new building. The huge sum of $125,000 was being sought, much more than ever before had been attempted in the community by popular subscription.

Mrs. C. R. Wilson was named general chairman and Mrs. Shain was chosen vice-chairman and given direct charge of the women's army. Everyone flocked to the colors to help in the campaign and the entire community was combed for pledges. A play "Abracadabra" was produced before large audiences on the estates of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Newcomb, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Scripps Booth, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter O. Briggs. This skit, directed by Mrs. George P. Raynale and Mrs. Stringham, presented the needs of a community center most dramatically.

Campaign Is Successful

A student poster contest produced some most unusual designs. The contest was directed by Mrs. Fred D. Farrar and more than 500 posters were submitted. Not only were Birmingham women active in the campaign for funds but stalwart support came to the program from the women of Bloomfield Hills led by Mrs. Manley Davis, Mrs. W. D. Thompson, Mrs. Albert Stahelin, Mrs. H. A. O'Dell, Mrs. Robert Traub, Mrs. Walter Morley, Mrs. Frank Shuell, Miss Sara Sly, Mrs. George T. Hendrie and many others.

In the village much of the success of the campaign was due to Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Holt, Mr. and Mrs. James Barr, Mrs. Milton Schatz, Mrs. Joseph P. Little, and Fletcher D. Richards. W. A. P. John directed the publicity program, marshalling Birmingham's advertising men—30 strong—to tell the story of the campaign and its aims.

The campaign was successful. The funds were pledged and the work of drawing the plans for the building was entrusted to Muehlmann and Farrar. Many conferences were held with the organizations who were to use the facilities and the designs being finally approved, the Sheldon Construction Company began the building.

The corner stone was laid in April of 1929 on the sixth birthday of the Community House with appropriate ceremonies and the formal opening came in March 1930.

DIRECTORATE IS ELECTED

(Continued from Page One)

They must approve all mortgages, assignments or other financial arrangements affecting the title to the real or personal property of the Community House, and they are consulted on all major moves affecting the finances of the association.

At the present time the board of trustees is made up of the following: Clarence Vliet, representing the library board; Charles Randall of the First National Bank of Birmingham; Henry Hart, vice-president of the Detroit Trust Company; Ray Palmer, member of the school board; Charles J. Shain, member of the board of directors of the Community House Association.

The board of directors is as follows: James Oliver, president; Mrs. H. A. Klingler, vice-president; Mrs. W. B. Brown, recording secretary; Harold S. Gray, treasurer; Mrs. Frederick H. Holt, Mrs. F. B. Etter; Mrs. L. N. Pyle; Mrs. Bert Johnson; Mrs. Richard Bullard; Mrs. Carleton Fox; Mrs. F. W. Schuell; Julius Wenzl; J. Fred Woodruff; W. A. P. John; Charles J. Shain.

Four On Paid Staff

The actual management of the Community House is carried on by paid employes. With the reduction of income during the past two years, this staff has been materially curtailed until at present it is limited to five, including the janitor. Mrs. Hope Halgren is the executive secretary. She is charged with the administration of the Community House building, finances, the various departments and the extension of the services of the project. Mrs. Halgren is, in fact, a general manager and reports to the board of directors. Under her direction is Mrs. Edith Wall, hostess, who acts as housekeeper, makes all arrangements for the many meetings held in the House, and is responsible for meeting the public and seeing that all who use the Community House are properly cared for.

Mrs. Arline Lynch heads the welfare division, whose activities have been fully described above. Due to the restriction of the operating budget, Mrs. Lynch also heads up the employment department, there being no paid worker in this division.

The office work, bookkeeping, typing, recording, filing and correspondence is cared for by Miss Carmine Code. She also answers the telephone in the general office and follows the financial detail of the operation under the supervision of Mrs. Halgren.

Help Unemployment

Janitor service in the Community House is being conducted on a day basis at present, the plan being to give some work to as many unemployed men as possible. The dearth of jobs for men in Birmingham makes this arrangement a real welfare service and the Community House has been glad to sacrifice the advantages of continuous service in the interests of the Community. Messenger service and supervision of the games room is also handled on the same basis.

Naturally the activities of the Community House could not be carried on with such a limited staff were it not for the splendid support of many public spirited women in the village, who have given unsparingly of their time and energies to carry on the work of the various House activities. All of the work of the thrift shop has been volunteer. The employment bureau, too, has been largely operated by volunteer help and there has been a wealth of assistance for the Saturday night dances, the welfare department and all the other activities.

People live in Birmingham because they enjoy the friendly neighborliness of a small community. The Community House is keystone of community friendliness.

A MESSAGE

In 1929, Birmingham built and equipped a Community House. This new home succeeded quarters which, though very limited, had a long and honorable record for civic service.

The new Community House was designed to afford ample facilities for the conduct of those varied civic and cultural activities which have distinguished this village for so long as an outstanding residential center.

When the enlarged program of building, equipment and maintenance was drafted, not one of the founders dreamed of the stress and strain which a new economic era was about to compel the Community House to undergo at the very start of its career.

Before the Community House was fully organized and operating upon its new basis, it was called upon to assume increased responsibilities with curtailed means. There is no need to review here the history of the Community House, especially during the past year. All this is covered elsewhere in this special section of the Eccentric.

Today, after two years which have required the most careful planning, the most skillful management, the most unremitting patience in the face of discouraging conditions, the Community House has established new records of service which merit the wholehearted support of every citizen of the community.

Without deviating in the slightest essential from its contributions to the social and cultural life of the community, the Community House has assumed the very heavy and most necessary task of acting as the clearing house for the relief of those in this section who have suffered most acutely from the depression.

During the past year, all this has been done quietly and uncomplaining and within the limit of the budget imposed by the contributions of 1930.

Next year the Community House comes to the citizens of Birmingham again asking nothing for itself but only that, through your contributions, it may be permitted to carry on this very essential work during the coming months. It is confident that the citizens of Birmingham will respond in full measure to the necessities of the situation.

J. Fred Woodruff
April 11, 1932

FORUM OPEN TO EVERYONE

All Residents Are Welcome To Join Open Discussions

MANY GOOD SPEAKERS

An open forum for the discussion of matters of general interest has been a Community House activity since the new building has been open.

It is known as the Open Forum and meets twice a month. It is open to all residents of the community who care to attend.

Because of the limited finances of the Community House, the activities of the Forum have been confined to discussion and to speakers whose service can be obtained without expense. This, of course, has tended to minimize its programs but the meetings have been regular and many of them have been outstanding.

Such subjects as prohibition, taxation, international affairs, civil liberty, community activity and others have been discussed by speakers, and in general debate. The Forum has had a good attendance and whenever it can organize on a budget basis should develop into an outstanding program for the entire community.

As in the case of the class in international relations, the Open Forum was initiated by the Birmingham branch of the American Association of University Women and the Community House Association.

Girl Reserves Meet In Community House

Where in Birmingham could a girls' club of 86 members meet regularly in congenial surroundings except at the Community House?

That is the headquarters of the High School Girls Reserve Club, a branch of the Young Women's Christian Association, in charge of Mrs. Harold S. Gray, of Fairfax road.

Every two weeks, on Wednesdays, at 4 P. M., after school, the members of the club meet at the Community House, for an hour and a half. They use the roomy upstairs lounge.

These meetings sometimes are social gatherings. Again, they are called together for discussions on various topics. But, of special importance to the community now, there is always a time when Birmingham's young women gather to do sewing for welfare relief.

There is no charge to the club for the use of the lounge for its meetings. The return to the community from the club's activities, in assisting the molding of fine womanhood, is beyond any charge that could be made.

Thursday Musicale Helps Develop Talents In Youth

Music is centered in the Community House through the Thursday Musicale, an organization of nearly 150 Birmingham women devoted to the stimulation of interest in music in the community.

The Thursday Musicale was organized about five years ago and since the opening of the Community House building, has held its regular monthly morning concerts and meetings there, as well as all of its public affairs. Its members meet for the discussion of music and to enjoy hearing the musical talent of the organization. They also sponsor public concerts for the benefit of the community.

Three public concerts have been held this year, including the English Singers, who were brought here by the Thursday Musicale. Last year the organization sponsored the concert program by Ossip Gabrilowitch, conductor of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and one of America's foremost pianists.

In addition to this program, the Thursday Musicale this year has been endeavoring to organize the Student's League, composed of young men and women from 12 years to 22 years of age, who have musical talents and who are interested in meeting together for the mutual advancement of their abilities. The Thursday Musicale also is actively engaged in carrying forward a program for the week of May 1 to May 7, which has been designated as Music week all over the country. They are planning a concert to be held in the Community House and open to the public, at which Birmingham will have the opportunity to hear its leading musicians.

Mrs. Gerald MacMechan is president of the Thursday Musicale this year and she given full credit to the part the Community House and its facilities have played in bringing the organization to its present success and in providing a place for the musical events of the village.

Children To Stage Second Year Play

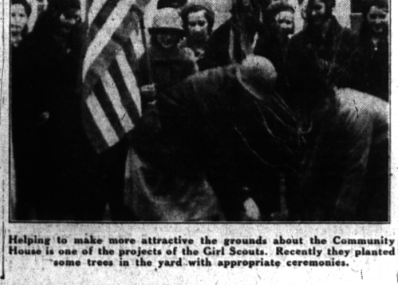
To give the children of the community an outlet for their dramatic urge, the Community House has had a children's drama group for the past two years.

This year it is under the direction of Mrs. Phyllis Plessner and a number of children are now rehearsing for some nursery rhyme pantomines that will be put on in the Community House in May. This activity is open to all children in the village, the ones to perform being selected by trials.

The activity was started last year by Mrs. Caroline Reilly and a rather pretentious drama was staged last Spring. This was the "Dyspeptic Ogre" which had a cast of about 20 youngsters.

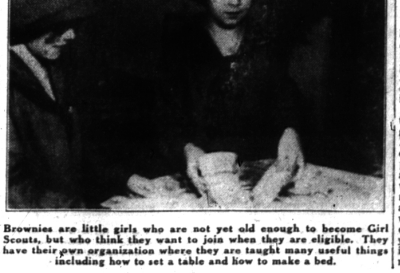
The children get a great thrill out of play-acting and the directors find them not only willing but very capable. It is hoped to broaden this activity as it continues, and to have more than one play a year.

BEAUTIFYING GROUNDS



Helping to make more attractive the grounds about the Community House is one of the projects of the Girl Scouts. Recently they planted some trees in the yard with appropriate ceremonies.

LEARNING TO HELP MOTHER



Brownies are little girls who are not yet old enough to become Girl Scouts, but who think they want to join when they are eligible. They have their own organization where they are taught many useful things including how to set a table and how to make a bed.

VILLAGE MART IS NOVEL IDEA

Organizations Band Together For Profitable Bazaar For All

REPLACE CHURCH FAIRS

Exit the annual church fair—enter the Village Mart.

Another Community House idea that was initiated in December of 1931 and that made a definite success of its initial program was the Village Mart—a combined charity bazaar for the community.

It was begun in September of last year through a resolution of the Community House Board followed by a meeting to which representatives of all the churches in the community were invited. Out of this meeting grew the Village Mart which held forth at the Community House on December 4 and 5.

To it came the villagers—to the Community House ball room all decorated with Christmas greens, tinsel and other holiday coloring. There were booths full of many things, each presided over by some church group or other organization. Dinners were served upstairs on both nights and there was entertainment and dancing in the evening. Each organization retained the proceeds of its own booth and all contributed material to the White Elephant booth, the sales from this being used to defray the general expenses of decorations, printing and incidentals.

The Mart was a big success. In the early meetings the following Churches were represented, Baptist, Methodist, United Presbyterian, Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Embury Methodist Episcopal and Presbyterian. The Baptist Group and United Presbyterian groups withdrew before the opening but the other churches each were represented by a booth. In addition, many other organizations became a part of the event. Among these were the Pi Beta Phi Mountain school products, student Loan Fund, Baldwin High School Senior Washington Group, Girl Reserves, Girl Scouts, American Legion Auxiliary, the Town Club and a Group of girls from the Adams school.

Specific types of articles were decided for each booth so that there would be no conflict in sales, and in addition a prize contest was held for the best posters produced in the art classes of the schools.

No figures are available regarding the profits of the group booths but the White Elephant department together with a hot dog stand and fish pond combined for the benefit of the Community House showed a total profit of $85, in addition to paying all the general expenses of the Mart.

Gyrophytes Lunch Weekly At House

Nine of Birmingham's young business men form the Gyrophytes, a luncheon club for the boys who are just starting in the world of commerce.

They meet each Monday at the Community House for lunch and their aims and purposes are those of every service club. This year they have been active in supplying clothing to the needy and in helping with the milk fund.

Frank Higby is the president of the club this year.

Club Is Devoted To Helping Farm Wife

Helping the farm wife to make her garden a profitable venture in addition to supplying the family table with fresh vegetables is the principal program of the Women's National Farm and Garden association of which Mrs. Henry Ford is national president.

It is the aim and ambition of the Birmingham branch of the organization, headed by Mrs. F. H. McKinney and some 50 strong, to develop roadside stands of proper kind on the main arteries about Birmingham so that the women gardeners of the vicinity may market their wares to best advantage. Last summer a stand was operated at the Wattles farm over on the Troy road and this year it is hoped to establish others including one at Woodward avenue and the Long Lake road.