

THE BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY HOUSE ROLL CALL

PUBLISHED ONCE A YEAR BY THE COMMUNITY HOUSE ASSOCIATION

The Community House Is The Community Chest In Birmingham...

KEEP the HEART of BIRMINGHAM ALIVE!

You can be proud of your Community House!

In addition to being the civic and social center of the town, it does the welfare and social service work done by the Community Chest in other cities.

It is the central clearing house for all charity activities of the community. It prevents the duplication of welfare work. It consolidates the orders of the city welfare, the city and public school nurses; it unites the gifts of the Goodfellow Fund, the Needlework Guild and other individuals or groups into one well-directed channel of charity. It eliminates waste. It makes your charity dollars go farther... and it insures the distribution of your gifts to the people who are most in need.

Your support makes this community work possible. Your continued support will help the Community House to make Birmingham a better and happier place to live.

400 Articles For Flood Sufferers

During the flood disaster of the past winter the House sent more than 400 articles of clothing, bedding, etc., to various flood relief agencies.

Found Work For Many Persons

The free Employment Service department set a record in 1936. It found work for 1,876 persons... 432 more persons than it served in 1935. It handled 6,856 telephone calls. It found work for maids, day workers, nurses, cooks, couples, laundresses, carpenters, cateresses, week-end chaperons, girls for watching children and boys for cutting lawns. A total of 4,487 people used the office. The House charges nothing for this service.

Residents of Birmingham have been high in their praise for the House's

Employment Service and the assistance given to people needing work has been a great aid in solving the town's welfare problem.

Needy Families Given Relief

During the past year the House gave direct emergency relief to many families needing help. Due to a death, illness, or the loss of employment some families have found themselves without the necessities of life. The House contacted the family, determined the need and then supplied food, clothing, fuel, medical aid and employment as each case needed. All names of relief cases are kept strictly confidential by the House staff.

No Work, No Fuel

Due to a strike a man was out of work. His family was beginning to suffer from the cold. He came to the

House, asked for fuel. The third day after he was called back to work he came back to the House and paid for the coal that had been given him.

Widow Ill, Needed Help

A widow with several children had been doing part-time work to support them. She became ill, had to stop work. Children needed clothing to wear to school. The House supplied food, clothing and medical care.

Accident Causes Want

She had been doing day work to support herself and crippled husband. She was injured in a fall and unable to continue work. The House supplied food and fuel, contacted others, interested them in the case so the family could carry on.

Death Takes Savings, House Helps

When he was working they managed fairly well, but just after he lost his job there was a death in the family. It exhausted all their savings. Pride kept them from asking for help until their condition was desperate. The House aided them with food, fuel and found temporary employment for the man.

Mother In Hospital, Children Out of School

The mother was ill. The father had only part time employment. The children were out of school for lack of clothing. The oldest girl, a mere child, was doing cooking and housework. The House supplied food, fuel and clothing and secured more work for the father.

Goodfellow Fund Meets Emergencies

The Goodfellow Fund, used at the House's discretion, is elastic enough to meet any emergency. Where no specific fund has been allotted, or when set funds are too low, then the Goodfellows live up to their name.

One man had an excellent job and a fine home. Then he was laid off, and couldn't find another job. From being "a little pinched" his family slipped into actual poverty.

Two months behind in rent, they were to be evicted. They were about to move into a much smaller place, but could not pay the necessary month's rent in advance. What to do? The Goodfellow Fund advanced the rent money. When the man again found work, he repaid the loan.

An unusual source of relief is the "Knicker Fund" of the Presbyterian Church. Cost prohibits the Needlework Guild from supplying these important items of a small boy's wardrobe. By the time the original owners have worn them for any length of time, knickers are generally too worn to be distributed by the Thrift Shop. The Church meets a very pressing need with this fund. The Orange Fund is maintained by a Birmingham family. At the discretion of the House oranges are sent to families whose small children need them, or where there is illness. Without this fund the recipients would not have any fruit, for when all the other bills are paid, oranges might as well be made of gold.

These are but a few of the cases in which your Community House has helped. Its aid has been tactful, confidential and complete. Naturally you want this work to go on. You can do your part by enrolling in the Community House Association. If you should miss the solicitor when she comes to your home send your contribution direct to the office of the Community House.