

Going On Under YOUR Roof?



GROUPS USE THE HOUSE?

Baptist Young Peoples' Club
 Business Girls Club
 Junior Musical Club
 Rotary Club
 Exchange Club
 Lion's Club
 University of Michigan Club

Y. M. C. A.
 Travel Club
 Girl Reserves

Real Estate Board
 Methodist Men's Forum
 Torch Club
 Engineering Society
 Horticultural Club

In addition the House is used by a great many informal groups for bridge games, rehearsals, orchestra practice, recreation in the games room, etc. The family dinners on Thursday evenings are an established institution.

Answers To Some Questions Occasionally Asked About The Community House

When Was the House Started?

The Community House idea was first expressed in 1920 by Charles McCurdy, who interested a group of women in it. Mrs. W. C. Harris was chairman of the group who all worked with a remarkable devotion to their cause. In 1922, the small frame building at the corner of Bates and Maple was repaired and remodeled, and on April 28 it was formally presented to the people of Birmingham. By May, 1923, the need for a larger building was so imperative that the project was undertaken. Mrs. Chas. Shain in 1927-28 made contacts at more than 1100 meetings. The land of the present site was secured and pledges to cover the entire cost, in all \$119,000 were made. The cornerstone was laid on April 28, 1929, the sixth anniversary of the existence of the House. It was completed in March, 1930, and dedicated on the following April 28. After the 1929 debacle, many of the pledges could not be redeemed and the mortgage still stands at \$9,200. The House is very proud that through all the dark days of the last years it has been kept open, its service to the community constantly enlarged and its interest obligations met.

What Was Its Purpose?

The Community House was to be the social center of Birmingham—a meeting ground for all our citizens, where they could meet their fellow townsmen and learn to know them well. It was to render almost universal service to the town on any need, not met by any other agency. It was to do the charity work in Birmingham that is done by the Community Chest in other cities.

Who "Owns" the House?

The Community House is owned by the people of Birmingham through the Community House Association. This association is composed of all those who have contributed \$1.00 or more to the support of the House.

Who Governs the House?

There is a governing board of 15 members, 6 men and 9 women. This board is responsible for the administration of all affairs of the House. It elects its own officers—a president, two vice-presidents, recording and corresponding secretaries, and a treasurer. Those who have served as president of the board are as follows:

Mrs. Frank Miller ---- April, 1923—December, 1923
 Mrs. Chas. Shain ---- December, 1923—September, 1930
 Mrs. F. H. Holt ---- September, 1930—February, 1931
 Jas. L. Oliver ---- February, 1931—February, 1933
 Mrs. L. N. Pyle ---- February, 1933—February, 1935
 Mrs. R. W. Chissus ---- February, 1935—February, 1937
 Mr. Forbes Hascall ---- February, 1937—

As the House has no endowment and no funds beyond voluntary contributions, each year there is a maintenance drive or roll call. It is hoped that ultimately everyone in Birmingham will wish to contribute to maintain the services of the House. It is felt that it is no longer economically sound, to pay such a large proportion of our maintenance costs for interest. To this end a group called the Burn-the-Mortgage Committee is endeavoring to secure gifts totaling enough to wipe out the mortgage, our only remaining indebtedness.

Who Runs the House?

The Community House had at first, two hostesses, Miss Mary Martin and Miss Dorothy Dickinson. Later it became necessary to add to the staff, an employment bureau manager, a manager for the thrift shop, assistant hostess, a bookkeeper, an entire staff of kitchen help and one or two janitors.

Those who have served as hostesses are as follows:

Miss Mary Martin
 Miss Dorothy Dickinson
 Miss Esther Booth
 Miss Ella Adams
 Miss Mary Clark Griffith

Mrs. Hope Halgren
 Mrs. Edith Wall
 Mrs. Carol Plumstead
 Mrs. A. L. D. MacIntyre
 Mrs. Julia K. Eally

The Community House personnel as at present constituted, includes Mrs. Julia K. Lally, Director; Mrs. Carol Plumstead, assistant hostess and bookkeeper; Mrs. A. L. D. MacIntyre, night hostess; Mrs. Grace Trumbull, manager employment bureau; Mrs. Harry Bissett, manager thrift shop; Mrs. Lucy Prentice, commissary head; Mrs. Josephine Ransier, head waitress, and Ben Richardson, caretaker.

What Did the House Do In 1936?

Here are a few "cold statistics" of the use made of the House in 1936:

68714 persons used the House
 13727 meals served
 896 meetings of various kinds held
 1876 persons placed in positions
 1582 articles given out of welfare cupboards (food, clothing, coal, etc.)

AND THE INDEBTEDNESS OF \$5,000.00 FOR FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT ON THE 1936 BUDGET WAS WIPED OUT DURING THIS YEAR!