

MS-119: Dayton Women's Center Records

Collection Number: MS-119

Title: Dayton Women's Center Records

Dates: 1969-1981

Creator: Dayton Women's Center

Summary/Abstract:

The Dayton Women's Center was founded in 1974 by a group of Dayton-Area feminists and closed in January, 1981. It was created to provide a space for local women to meet, organize around feminist issues, and share common interests and concerns. The records consist of organizational and founding papers, correspondence, meeting minutes, financial records, and membership surveys. As well as newsletters, clippings, news releases, subject files, photographs, and literature, pamphlets, brochures, and posters.

Quantity/Physical Description: 7.5 linear feet

Language(s): English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092.

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

Restrictions on Use:

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Preferred Citation:

[Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-119, Dayton Women's Center Records, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

Acquisition: The collection was donated to Special Collections and Archives by Leslie A. Liszak and Martha Congdon on March 23, 1981.

Separated Material: Event posters and citations were separated to oversize flat files.

Other Finding Aid: The finding aid is available on the Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries web site at

<https://libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms119.pdf> . It is also available in the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository at <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/>.

Related Material:

MS-507 Judith Ezekial “Feminism in the Heartland Research Collection”
<http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms507.pdf>

MS-129 Dayton Women Working Records
<https://libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms129.pdf>

MS-133 Dayton Women’s Liberation Records
<https://libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms133.pdf>

MS-141 Socialist Feminist Conference Records
<https://libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms141.pdf>

MS-176 Women Inc. Scrapbooks
<https://libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms176.pdf>

Revisions:

Finding aid revised according to DACS standards by Alyssa Stark and Toni Vanden Bos, February, 2019.

Processed by: Barbara Wannemacher, 1981 June.

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged into three series:

- Series I: Organization Papers, 1971-1981
- Series II: Subject Files, 1969-1980
- Series III: Printed Materials, 1970-1981

Historical Note:

The Dayton Women's Center opened in January, 1974. Administered by the Women's Center Collective, a group of Dayton area feminists, it was created to provide a place for women to be together and share common interests and problems. They informed and educated women in the community through programs and workshops. It also served as a referral agency, guiding women to other Dayton area organizations where their needs could be met.

In its first years it occupied a large house on North Main Street in Dayton. It had a paid director and a full time staff as well as numerous volunteers. Hundreds of women gathered at the center both to enjoy the society of other women, to discuss their problems, and to learn about new opportunities open to them.

After a few years, however, interest as well as funds declined, and the center moved to a room in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on Salem Avenue.

By 1980 the Women's Center Collective had only five members and few women were using the center or attending workshops. At the time of its closing in January, 1981, two thousand women were on the mailing list, but the center's facilities and resources were not being used sufficiently to warrant its continuation. Those who were active in keeping the center open were weary of the continuing financial problems and the declining interest in the center. It closed, having served the women of Dayton area for seven years.

Scope and Content

The Dayton Women's Center records have been divided into three series. The first series is made up of organizational and administrative papers that explain how the center was formed and what it tried to do as an agency for women in the Dayton area. The second series contains printed material about a variety of topics that reveal Dayton women's interests as well as local Feminists' activities. The third series also contains printed material, much of it from other women's groups, providing a view of the women's movement in the 1970s throughout the country.

The first series contains organizational files which include papers dealing with the organization's framework: the articles of incorporation and its constitution, its goals and proposals, the contracts made with other agencies, and its general administrative structure. This series also contains correspondence and financial records, including files of funding requests and information from funding agencies. There are minutes of the Women's Center meetings, membership lists, and attendance reports. Also included are job descriptions and contracts with workshop leaders.

In addition to copies of the Women's Center Service Directory, their project status reports, service projects, and a calendar of events, there is a large file of the Women's Center's newsletters, which informed members of the center's activities. There are also news releases from the Women's Center in this series.

The second series, which is the largest part of the collection, consists of pamphlets, bulletins, guidelines, and articles dealing with the many topics of interest and importance to women in Dayton and to women involved in the women's movement generally. It includes information about women's health problems, especially birth control, childbirth, pregnancy, abortion, breast cancer. It also deals with domestic violence, child abuse, and rape. There are files on discrimination, including discrimination in education politics, insurance, credit, and religion. Also found in this series are materials concerning the women's liberation movement, the National Organization for Women, and the Equal Rights Amendment, but the largest amount of material in this series is related to the many aspects of women working away from the home, their problems and their opportunities. It contains many manuals and guidelines designed to assist the working woman.

Series III contains some very interesting printed materials that represent a variety of left-of-center interests. There are catalogues of films, recordings, books, and periodicals. While these catalogues represent the philosophy of many different groups; most of the material is feminist in interest and attitude. Also found in this third series is a very interesting collection of newspapers and newsletters from other feminist organizations. Completing the series are booklets,

guidelines, and manuals from State and federal government agencies as well as pamphlets, booklets and manuals from other sources as well.

Subject Terms:

Organizations/Corporate Names

Dayton Women's Center – Archives
Women's Center Collective

Places

Dayton (Ohio) – Social conditions

Subjects (General)

Feminism – Ohio – Dayton
Women's issues -- Ohio -- Dayton

Material Types

Correspondence
Financial records
Minutes (administrative records)
Newsletters
Clippings (information artifacts)
Pamphlets
Press releases

Collection Inventory

Box	File	Description	Date
Series I: Organizational Papers			1971-1981
1	1	Inventory of the Records of the Dayton Women's Center	1981 June 4
1	2	Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, Contract Goals, Proposals, Evaluation, Organizational Structure	1973-1976
1	3	Meeting Minutes and Correspondence	1974-1979
1	4	Correspondence	1973-1979
1	5	Correspondence	1973-1980
1	6	Job Descriptions and workshop leader contracts	1973-1977
1	7	Volunteer Questionnaires	1978
1	8	Membership Surveys, Skills Exchange Forms, Membership Lists, Attendance Records	1974
2	1	Cash Receipts	1973-1977
2	2	Cash Receipts and Financial Reports	1971-1980
2	3	Cash Disbursements	1974-1977
2	4	Payroll Record	1973 December- 1974 December, 1976 December- 1977 December
2	5	Financial Records	1973-1978
2	6	Funding Correspondence	1974-1975
2	7	Funding Correspondence	1974-1978
3	1	Workshop Sign-up Sheets	1974-1976
3	2	Workshop Description and Programs	1975-1976
3	3	Project Status Reports	1973 Nov/Dec- 1974 June
3	4	Women's Service Directory	1976
3	5	Women's Service Project Questionnaires	1975
4	1	Newsletters and Pamphlets	1974-1979
4	2	Newsletters and Pamphlets	1975-1979
4	3	Newsletter-Mock-ups, Drawings and Logos	undated
4	4	News Releases	1974-1978
4	5	Newspaper clippings about the Center, Cartoons, Awards	1975-1978
4	6	Scrapbook of Newspaper Clippings, Photographs	1974-1978
Series II: Subject Files			1969-1980
5	1	Abortion	1978-1980
5	2	Abortion	1975-1980
5	3	Anti-Abortion	1972-1980
5	4	American Civil Liberties	1973

Box	File	Description	Date
5	5	Alcoholism	1977-1980
5	6	Alternate Living Arrangements	1978-1978
5	7	American Friends Service	1975-1978
5	8	Birth Control	undated
5	9	Breast Cancer	1976
5	10	Child Abuse	undated
5	11	Childlessness	1977-1980
5	12	Childbirth and Pregnancy	1973-1974
6	1	Child Care	1974-1975
6	2	Credit Opportunities for Women	1974, undated
6	3	Displaced Homemaker	1979
6	4	Divorce	1975, undated
6	5	Domestic Violence	1976-1978
6	6	Drug Abuse	1978-1980
6	7	Educational Equality and Discrimination	undated
7	1	Equal Rights Amendment	1972-1976
7	2	Female Offenders	1973-1977
7	3	Gay Rights	1974-1980
7	4	Feminist's Songs	undated
7	5	Girls Clubs	1973-1974
7	6	Women Heads of Households	1978-1979
7	7	Women's Health Problem	1974-1978
7	8	Insurance Discrimination	1974
7	9	International Women's Day	1977, undated
7	10	Language of Its Effects	1970-1974
7	11	League of Women Voters	1974
7	12	Legal Services	undated
7	13	Lesbians	1977
8	1	Women's Liberation Movement	1969-1974
8	2	Miscellaneous Pamphlets	undated
8	3	Name Retained	1973-1979
8	4	National Organization for Women	1974-1980
8	5	Other Women's Organizations	undated
8	6	Women in Politics	1974-1979
8	7	Population Trends	1974, undated
9	1	Women in Religion	1974-1977
9	2	Socialist-Feminist	1974-1975
9	3	Women in Sports	1974
9	4	Ten Fired Nurses	1974
9	5	Therapy for Women	undated

Box	File	Description	Date
9	6	Transsexualism	undated
9	7	Violence against Women	1974-1979
9	8	Venereal Disease	undated
9	9	Women's Educational Equity Communications Network	1979-1980
9	10	Rape	1972-1980
9	11	Rape	1974-1980
10	1	Rape Intervention Resource Manual	1975
10	2	Rape and Its Victim	1975
10	3	Discrimination Against Women, Part 1	1970
10	4	Discrimination Against Women, Part 2	1970
11	1	Women Working	1974-1977, undated
11	2	Women Working	1976-1979
11	3	Women Working	1974-1978
11	4	Women Working	1973-1979
11	5	Women Working	1971-1979
11	6	Women Working	1975-1978, undated
Series III: Printed Materials			1970-1981
12	1	Catalogues and Pamphlets of Available Films, Books, Recordings, and Periodicals about Women	undated
12	2	Catalogues and Pamphlets of Available Films, Books, Recordings, and Periodicals about Women	undated
12	3	Film Catalogues	undated
12	4	Catalogues of Available Films about Women	undated
12	5	Bibliographies of Books about Women and by Women	undated
12	6	Bibliographies of Books about Women and by Women	undated
13	1	Newsletters from Other Women's Organizations	1971-1981
14	1	Newsletters from Other Women's Organizations	1971-1980
15	1	New American Movement Discussion Bulletin No. 19	undated
15	2	To Form a More Perfect Union: Justice for American Women	1976
15	3	Psychology Today	1975
15	4	Women	1971-1973
15	5	New Women	1971
15	6	Women in History	1976
15	7	Women's Work	1976
15	8	Spokesman	1980
15	9	The Political Economy of Women	1970

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
15	10	Business World Women	1977
15	11	The Activist	1975
oversize		Event Posters, citations	circa 1970