

MS - 119

THE DAYTON WOMEN'S CENTER RECORDS

Special Collections and Archives

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

PROCESSED BY:  
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## HISTORY

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. It tried to inform and educate women in the community through programs and workshops. It served as a referral agency, sending women who came to it to other Dayton area organizations where their needs could be served.

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 papers 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, giving a view of the women's movement in the 1970's throughout the country.

### SERIES ONE: BOXES 1, 2, 3, 4

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 employee job descriptions, employee resumes, and contracts with workshop leaders. There are also questionnaires relating to volunteers' services.

In addition to copies of the Women's Center Service Directory, their project status reports, service projects, and a calendar of events. There is in this collection a large file of the Women's Center newsletters that were sent to members to inform them of the center's activities. There are also news releases from the Women's Center.

### SERIES TWO: BOXES 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

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 THREE: BOXES 12, 13, 14, 15

This series 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.

CONTAINER LISTING

<b>Series I</b>			
<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	1	Inventory of the Records of the Dayton Women's Center	
	2	Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, Contract, Goals, Proposals, Evaluation, Organizational Structure	1973-1976
	3	Meeting Minutes and Correspondence	1974-1979
	4	Correspondence	1973-1979
	5	Correspondence	1973-1980
	6	Employee Resume, Job Descriptions, Workshop Contracts, Volunteer Questionnaires	1973-1977
	7	Volunteer Questionnaires	1978
	8	Membership Surveys, Skills Exchange Forms, Membership Lists, Attendance Records	1974
2	1	Cash Receipts	1973-1977
	2	Cash Receipts and Financial Reports	194-1980
	3	Cash Disbursements	1974-1977
	4	Payroll Record	Dec 1973- Jun 1974, Dec 1976- Dec 1977
	5	Financial Records	1973-1978
	6	Funding Correspondence	1974-1975
	7	Funding Correspondence	1974-1978
3	1	Workshop Sign-up Sheets	
	2	Workshop Description and Programs	
	3	Project Status Reports	Nov/Dec 1973- June 1974
	4	Women's Service Directory	
	5	Women's Service Project Questionnaires	1975
4	1	Newsletters and Pamphlets	
	2	Newsletters and Pamphlets	
	3	Newsletter-Mock-ups, Drawings and Logos	
	4	News Releases	
	5	Newspaper clippings about the Center, Cartoons, Awards	
	6	Scrapbook of Newspaper Clippings, Photographs	

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Series II</b>			
5	1	Abortion	
	2	Abortion	
	3	Anti-Abortion	
	4	American Civil Liberties	
	5	Alcoholism	
	6	Alternate Living Arrangements	
	7	American Friends Service	
	8	Birth Control	
	9	Breast Cancer	
	10	Child Abuse	
	11	Childlessness	
	12	Childbirth and Pregnancy	
6	1	Child Care	
	2	Credit Opportunities for Women	
	3	Displaced Homemaker	
	4	Divorce	
	5	Domestic Violence	
	6	Drug Abuse	
	7	Educational Equality and Discrimination	
7	1	Equal Rights Amendment	
	2	Female Offenders	
	3	Gay Rights	
	4	Feminist's Songs	
	5	Girls Clubs	
	6	Women Heads of Households	
	7	Women's Health Problem	
	8	Insurance Discrimination	
	9	International Women's Day	
	10	Language of Its Effects	
	11	League of Women Voters	
	12	Legal Services	
	13	Lesbians	
8	1	Women's Liberation Movement	
	2	Miscellaneous Pamphlets	
	3	Name Retained	
	4	National Organization for Women	
	5	Other Women's Organizations	
	6	Women in Politics	

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>
8	7	Population Trends	
9	1	Women in Religion	
	2	Socialist-Feminist	
	3	Women in Sports	
	4	Ten Fired Nurses	
	5	Therapy for Women	
	6	Transsexualism	
	7	Violence against Women	
	8	Venereal Disease	
	9	Women's Educational Equity Communications Network	
	10	Rape	
	11	Rape	
10	1	Rape Intervention Resource Manual	
	2	Rape and Its Victim	1975
	3	Discrimination Against Women, Part 1	1970
	4	Discrimination Against Women, Part 2	1970
11	1	Women Working	
	2	Women Working	
	3	Women Working	
	4	Women Working	
	5	Women Working	
	6	Women Working	
<b>Series III</b>			
<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>
12	1	Catalogues and Pamphlets of Available Films, Books, Recordings, and Periodicals about Women	
	2	Catalogues and Pamphlets of Available Films, Books, Recordings, and Periodicals about Women	
	3	Catalogues of Available Films about Women	
	4	Bibliographies of Books about Women and by Women	
	5	Bibliographies of Books about Women and by Women	
13	1	Newsletters from Other Women's Organizations	1971-1980
14	1	Newsletters from Other Women's Organizations	1971-1980

<b>Box</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>
15	1	New American Movement Discussion Bulletin No. 19	
	2	To Form a More Perfect Union: Justice for American Women	1976
	3	Psychology Today	1975
	4	Women	1971-1973
	5	New Women	1971
	6	Women in History	1976
	7	Women's Work	1976
	8	Spokesman	1980
	9	The Political Economy of Women	1970
	10	Business World Women	1977
	11	The Activist	1975