

**MS-479, Dayton Women's Health Center Records**

**Collection Number:** MS-479

**Title:** Dayton Women's Health Center Records

**Dates:** 1972 – 1997

**Creator:** Dayton Women's Health Center

**Summary/Abstract:**

Established in Kettering, Ohio, in September 1973, the Dayton Women's Health Center provided a variety of women's reproductive health services, including pregnancy tests, contraceptives, and abortions. This collection consists of the DWHC's administrative records, legal records, newspaper clippings, photographs, audiovisual materials, and memorabilia. Also included are materials on the abortion debate, such as pro-choice and pro-life brochures, pamphlets, newsletters, and other literature; records of picketers at the clinic; and correspondence from the DWHC's opponents and supporters.

**Quantity/Physical Description:** 6 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:**

Access to Box 1, Folder 15 is restricted due to the sensitive nature of the materials. Box 11a is stored off site. Please provide us at least two days advanced notice if you want to review this box. Call 937-775-2092 or e-mail us at [archive@www.libraries.wright.edu](mailto:archive@www.libraries.wright.edu). There are no restrictions on accessing the remainder of the material.

**Restrictions on Use:**

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**Preferred Citation:**

MS-479, the Dayton Women's Health Center Records, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

**Separated Material:**

Oversize blueprints from Series I: Administration, a picket sign from Subseries IIB: Pro-Life Materials, and posters from Series VI: Memorabilia and Magazines have been separated to

Oversize Location 87, File 11. Oversize newspaper clippings from Series II: Newspaper Clippings and Scrapbook have been separated to Oversize Location 87, File 12.

**Acquisition:**

This collection was donated to Special Collections and Archives in June 2013 by Anita Wilson, former director of the Dayton Women's Health Center.

**Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:**

This collection includes VHS tapes, video and audio cassettes, slides, and a 16mm film that require special equipment to access.

**Related Material:**

MS-119, Dayton Women's Center Records (Wright State University)  
MS-129, Dayton Women Working (Wright State University)  
MS-133, Dayton Women's Liberation Records (Wright State University)  
Association for the Reform of Ohio Abortion Laws Records, 1965-1977 (Western Reserve Historical Society)  
Betty Morais Papers, 1976-2004 (University of Toledo)  
Brush Foundation Records, 1928-1995 (Western Reserve Historical Society)  
Dayton Right to Life Collection, 1990-2009 (University of Dayton)  
Education for Freedom of Choice in Ohio Records, 1976-1984 (Western Reserve Historical Society)  
National Organization for Women Toledo Chapter Records, 1972-1986 (Library of Congress - National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections)  
Ohio National Organization for Women Records (Ohio Historical Society)  
Planned Parenthood of Central Ohio Records 1932-1969 (Ohio Historical Society)

**Processing Information:**

Manuals and handbooks from Series I, picket notes from Subseries IIC, and court documents from Series IV were removed from their binders and placed in folders. The scrapbook in Series III was placed in a box intact, except for loose materials, which were interfiled with newspaper clippings in that series. Negatives and slides from Series V were placed in plastic sleeves in a binder box.

**Processed by:** Sarah Deffinger, April 2014

**Arrangement:**

The Dayton Women's Health Center Records are arranged into six series and four subseries:

Series I: Administration, 1972-1997  
Series II: Abortion Controversy, 1973-1997  
    Subseries IIA: Pro-Choice Materials, 1973-1997  
    Subseries IIB: Pro-Life Materials, 1980-1997  
    Subseries IIC: Picket Notes, 1981-1996  
Series III: Newspaper Clippings and Scrapbooks, 1973-1997  
Series IV: Litigation, 1974-1996

Series V: Audiovisual, 1974-1997

Series VI: Memorabilia and Magazines, 1982-1990

### **Biographical/Historical Note:**

The Dayton Women's Health Center, or DWHC, opened on September 7, 1973. Located on South Dixie Highway in Kettering, it provided a variety of women's reproductive health care services, including pregnancy tests, birth control, and abortions. Having opened only months after the Roe v. Wade decision legalized abortion in the United States, the DWHC was the first legal abortion clinic in Dayton, and the first such non-profit facility in Ohio.

The organizers behind the DWHC were Jan Griesinger, Anita Wilson, and Laurie Heindal. Jan was a member of Dayton Women's Liberation, a local women's rights organization, and Clergy and Lay, an abortion consultation service. Anita Wilson was previously involved with the Ohio Abortion Alliance, and, along with Laurie Heindal, was a counselor for Clergy and Lay. The three met in January 1973 to discuss Dayton's need for a women's health clinic to provide birth control and safe, legal, affordable abortions. Anita and Laurie became co-directors of the new clinic, and Anita went on to direct it until 1997.

Due to its controversial nature as an abortion clinic, the DWHC attracted the attention of many pro-life activists, who often picketed outside the clinic, waving signs, distributing literature, chanting, and yelling. In 1986, the DWHC became involved in a court case against David Enix and other pro-life activists, who had been picketing persistently outside the clinic. The Montgomery County Common Pleas Court ruled in the clinic's favor, and the DWHC was granted an injunction against picketers. The case was then tried in the Montgomery County Court of Appeals, and finally the Ohio Supreme Court, but the verdict was upheld. In 1993, the DWHC successfully sued Enix for payment of attorney fees.

During its 24 year existence, the DWHC provided services to 45,000 women. The clinic closed on April 4, 1997. It was sold to the Dayton Women's Medical Center, which continues to operate a women's health clinic in Kettering today.

### **Scope and Content**

The Dayton Women's Health Center Records document the administration and history of Dayton's first legal abortion clinic, as well as the litigation and controversy surrounding it. In addition to organizational records, the collection contains newspaper clippings; a scrapbook; correspondence; audiovisual materials, including recordings and photographs of picketers; and memorabilia. Through these records, researchers will gain insight into the operations of a women's health clinic and the turbulence of public opinion toward abortion in 1970s-1990s Dayton. The records are arranged into six series.

Series I, Administration, contains records documenting the business activities and history of the DWHC. Included are board meeting minutes, employee and medical handbooks, blueprints and building plans, statistics, not-for-profit registration, articles of incorporation, and research on other clinics. While this series includes a few financial records, these records are sporadic and document a very small portion of the clinic's history.

Series II, Abortion Controversy, contains materials documenting the abortion debate, and is divided into three subseries.

Subseries IIA, Pro-Choice Materials, contains correspondence from the clinic's supporters and former patients; newsletters and brochures from pro-choice organizations, including the National Abortion Rights Action League and Catholics for a Free Choice; handbooks on birth control and reproductive health; and a National Abortion Federation Field Guide to Anti-Abortion Extremists.

Subseries IIB, Pro-Life Materials, contains newsletters, brochures, flyers, ads, and other literature from pro-life organizations such as Rescue Dayton/The Jericho Project, Dayton Right to Life, the Pro-Life Action Line, and the Army of God. Many of these materials were sent to the DWHC by pro-life activists or left by picketers. This subseries also includes "hate mail" and letters from pro-life advocates, including one folder containing correspondence from David Enix, a picketer with whom the DWHC was involved in lengthy court cases.

Subseries IIC, Picket Notes, contains records of picketers that were written by DWHC staff and volunteers, particularly Jan Rudd. Few of these records are from prior to 1986, when the DWHC began to experience heavy picketing and became involved in litigation against them. The majority of the picket notes are from 1986-1991. Notes include the names of picketers, when they picketed, and what they did or said to DWHC staff, volunteers, and patients. Most of these picket notes correspond to the court cases described in Series IV, Litigation, and were compiled into a binder for the Enix contempt hearings, which has been disassembled into this series. Also see Series V, Audiovisual, for photographs and videos of the picketers.

Series III, Newspaper Clippings and Scrapbook, consists of newspaper clippings and one scrapbook documenting the history of the Dayton Women's Health Center and abortion in Ohio and the United States. The majority of the newspaper clippings are from the Dayton Daily News. Many of the clippings feature the activities of pro-life and abortion protest groups, including the picketers who frequented the DWHC in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Pro-choice groups are also well represented in the newspaper clippings, which include coverage of local and national abortion rights marches. Clippings have been cut from whole newspapers. The scrapbook consists entirely of newspaper clippings on the same topics. These clippings have not been removed from their sticky pages. Loose items were removed and interfiled with the rest of the clippings. Items in this series are arranged in chronological order. Clippings of interest include those from 1973 (the opening of the clinic), 1986-1990 (the Enix trials), and 1997 (the closing of the clinic).

Series IV, Litigation, includes court documents, correspondence, and other records pertaining mostly to the DWHC's legal cases against picketers in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The Enix court documents are divided by case number, as the case was appealed several times and tried in the Montgomery County Common Pleas Court, Montgomery County Court of Appeals, and Ohio Supreme Court. Legal correspondence has been filed separately from any enclosed court documents. This series also includes attorney's fee statements and some records of litigation not pertaining to picketers.

Series V, Audiovisual, consists of photographs, negatives, VHS tapes, audio and videocassettes, slides, and a 16mm film. Most of these items document the activities of pro-life picketers outside the clinic. The photographs and audio and videocassettes, in particular, were used as evidence in court against the picketers involved in the Enix trials. Many of the photographs are labeled with dates and names of the picketers, while four folders contain undated and unlabeled photographs. A few photographs detail the interior of the clinic or feature staff members. The materials in this series do NOT feature images or footage of patients, doctors, or abortions. Polaroids have been placed in paper sleeves, and negatives have been placed in plastic sleeves and housed in a binder box. One VHS tape features a news segment on the DWHC. The audiocassettes in this series are particularly fragile.

Series VI, Memorabilia and Magazines, contains memorabilia relating to the DWHC and the activities of its staff and volunteers, as well as *People* and *Life* magazines on teen pregnancy and fetal development. Included are a DWHC office door sign; a clinic escort vest and t-shirt (worn by clinic volunteers to escort patients past picketers and into the clinic); a National Abortion Rights Action League hat; a pocket Bible; some political pins pertaining to abortion, women's rights, and voting rights; and stickers and posters pertaining to the same.

### **Subject Terms:**

#### **Persons/Families**

Enix, David  
Griesinger, Jan  
Heindal, Laurie  
Rudd, Jan  
Wilson, Anita

#### **Organizations/Corporate Names**

Dayton Women's Health Center

#### **Places**

Dayton (Ohio)  
Kettering (Ohio)

#### **Subjects (General)**

Abortion -- Citizen participation  
Abortion -- Ohio  
Birth control clinics -- Ohio -- Dayton  
Pro-choice movement -- Ohio -- Dayton  
Pro-life movement -- Ohio -- Dayton  
Women -- Services for -- Ohio -- Dayton  
Women's Health -- history -- United States

#### **Material Types**

Audiocassettes  
Audiovisual materials

Brochures  
 Correspondence  
 Magazines  
 Negatives (photographic)  
 Newsletters  
 Newspaper  
 Pamphlets  
 Photographs  
 Scrapbooks  
 Slides  
 VHS  
 Video recordings

**Occupations**

Doctors  
 Volunteers  
 Women volunteers

**Collection Inventory**

<b>Series I</b>		<b>Administration, 1972-1997</b>	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Articles of Incorporation	1973 Jun 11
	2	Board of Directors Meeting Minutes	1973 Sep- 1974 Jun, undated
	3	Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes	1974-1979
	4	Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes	1980-1996, undated
	5	Brochures, DWHC	Undated
	6	Employee Handbook	1995 Jun
	7	Financial Records	1973, 1997, undated
	8	Job Descriptions and Evaluation	1970s, 1995
	9	Laboratory Certification	1993-1996
	10	Laboratory Procedures/Quality Controls	1996
	11	Maintenance Records	1994-1996
	12	Medical Handbooks and Instructions	1996, undated
	13	Not-for-profit Registration	1975-1996
	14	Pathology Reports	1974 May-Jun
	15	Personnel Information ( <b>RESTRICTED</b> )	1976, circa 1995, undated
	16	Personnel Manual	Undated
	17	“Short Term Relationship Counseling” Instructional	1977

		Manual	
	18	Stationery and Business Cards	Undated
	19	Statistics	1973-1981
	20	DWHC History: Vendor Quotations	1972-1973
2	1	DWHC History	1973 Mar-Aug, Undated
	2	DWHC History: Blueprints and Building Plans (See also Oversize Location 87, File 11)	Circa 1973
	3	DWHC History: Notes	Circa 1973
	4	DWHC History: Research on Other Clinics	Circa 1973, undated
<b>Series II    Abortion Controversy, 1973-1997</b>			
<b>Subseries IIA: Pro-Choice Materials, 1973-1997</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	5	<i>Arete</i> journal featuring DWHC	1975
	6	Birth control and VD handbooks	1975,1979
	7	Catholics for a Free Choice	1981-1986
	8	National Abortion Federation "Field Guide to Anti- Abortion Extremists"	1997 Jul 25
	9	National Abortion Rights Action League	Circa 1997, undated
	10	Pro-choice correspondence, letters of gratitude	1987-1997, undated
	11	Pro-choice newsletters and brochures	1974-1989, undated
	12	Roe vs Wade	1973
<b>Subseries IIB: Pro-Life Materials, 1980-1997</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	13	"Army of God" manual	Before 1994 Sep
	14	David Enix correspondence	1987 Jan- 1989 Apr
	15	Jericho Project/Rescue Dayton	1986-1989, undated
	16	Pro-life correspondence	1980-1989
	17	Pro-life correspondence	1990-1995, undated

	18	Pro-life flyers and ads (For pro-life picketer's sign see also Oversize Location 87, File 11)	1980s-1990s
	19	Pro-life newsletters and mailings	1986-1997
3	1	Pro-life pamphlets and brochures	1980s-1990s
	1A	<i>The Personal Worker's New Testament and Psalms</i> (left on-site by a Pro-Life demonstrator)	1982
<b>Subseries IIC: Picket Notes, 1981-1996</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
3	2	Picket notes	1981, 1986
	3	Picket notebook for contempt hearing	1987
	4	Picket notes, individuals	1987-1988, undated
	5	Picket notes	1987-1989
	6	Picket notes	1987 Jan-Feb
	7	Picket notes	1987 Mar-Jul
	8	Picket notes	1987 May-Sep
	9	Picket notes	1987 Oct- 1988 Aug
	10	Picket notes	1988 Sep- 1991 Jun
	11	Picket notes	1994-1996
<b>Series III Newspaper Clippings and Scrapbook, 1973-1997</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
4	1	Scrapbook	1973-1989
5	1	Newspaper Clippings	1973-1987
	2	Newspaper Clippings	1989
	3	Newspaper Clippings	1990-1992
	4	Newspaper Clippings	1993-1997
	5	Newspaper Clippings	undated
		(For oversize newspaper clippings, see also Oversize Location 87, File 12)	
<b>Series IV Litigation, 1974-1996</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>



5	6	Attorney's Fee Statements	1987-1990, 1997
	7	Bredemeyer vs Wilson	1974 Jun-Aug
	8	DWHC vs Enix book, part 1 of 3	1987
	9	DWHC vs Enix book, part 2 of 3	1987
	10	DWHC vs Enix book, part 3 of 3	1987
	11	Enix Common Pleas Case 86-3120	1986
	12	Enix Common Pleas Case 86-3120	1987 Jan-Apr
	13	Enix Common Pleas Case 86-3120	1987 May 28
6	1	Enix Common Pleas Case 86-3120	1987 Jun-1988 Dec
	2	Enix Common Pleas Case 86-3120	1989 Jan
	3	Enix Common Pleas Case 86-3120	1989 Jan
	4	Enix Common Pleas Case 86-3120	1989 Feb
	5	Enix Common Pleas Case 86-3120	1989 Mar-Jun
	6	Enix Common Pleas Case 86-3120	1991-1993, undated
	7	Enix Appeals Case 11545/11637	1989-1991
	8	Enix Appeals Case 10579	1987
	9	Enix Appeals Case 10579	1988
	10	Enix Appeals Case 10579	1989 Jan
	11	Enix Appeals Case 10579	1989 Jan
7	1	Enix Appeals Case 10579	1989 May 19
	2	Enix Ohio Supreme Court Case 89-221	1989 May
	3	Enix Ohio Supreme Court Case 89-221, part 1 of 3	1989 May
	4	Enix Ohio Supreme Court Case 89-221, part 2 of 3	1989 May
	5	Enix Ohio Supreme Court Case 89-221, part 3 of 3	1989 May
	6	Enix Ohio Supreme Court Case 89-221	1989 Aug-1990 Jul
	7	Enix Supreme Court	1990-1991
	8	Enix Appeals Case 13541	1992
	9	Legal correspondence re: Enix	1986-1992
	10	Mary Gingandet Case	1987-1988
	11	Legal research on similar cases	1982, 1985, undated
	12	Other DWHC litigation	1987-1996
	13	Statements and mailings re: picketers	1987-1988, 1993
<b>Series V</b>		<b>Audiovisual, 1974-1997</b>	
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
8	1	Photographs, picketers	1987 Jan
	2	Photographs, picketers	1987 Jan-Feb

	3	Photographs, picketers	1987 Feb
	4	Photographs, picketers	1987 Mar
	5	Photographs, picketers	1987 Mar
	6	Photographs, picketers	1987 Mar
	7	Photographs, picketers	1987 Apr
	8	Photographs, picketers	1987 Apr
	9	Photographs, picketers	1987 May
	10	Photographs, picketers	1987 Jun
	11	Photographs, picketers	1987 Jul-Sep
	12	Photographs, picketers	1988-1991
	13	Photographs, picketers	1980s-1990s
	14	Photographs, picketers	1980s-1990s
	15	Photographs, picketers	1980s-1990s
	16	Photographs, picketers	1980s-1990s
	17	Photographs, picketers, Grim Reaper	1996 Jan-Feb
	18	Photographs, staff and volunteers	1996, undated
	19	Photographs, DWHC last day, clinic	1997 Apr 4, undated
9	1	Negatives – picketers, DWHC office	1987, 1997, undated
	2	Slides – DWHC slideshow	Circa 1974, undated
10	1	VHS tape – “IMP clinic tape for court, Rescue Mission” (See also Box 3, File 3, “Synopsis of Tape”) Note: transferred to DVD and e-archives ms479_e0001	1989 Mar 24
	2	Audiotape – National Abortion Federation, “Waiting Periods: Practical Strategies for Providers” (featuring Anita Wilson)	Undated
	3	Audiotape – “Current Perspectives: Abortion Stand-Off”	1994 Nov 30
	4	Audiotape – Pro-Life Action Line, Kym Mehaffie	1988 Oct 12
	5	Audiotape – Pro-Life Action Line, Kym Mehaffie	Undated
	6	Audiotape – Meeting with Rob, Laurie, and Anita (DAMAGED)	Undated
	7	Audiotape – Meeting with Rob, Laurie, and Anita	Undated
11	1	Videotape – picketers	1987 Aug- Sep 18
	2	Videotape – picketers	1987 Sep 18-25
	3	Videotape – picketers	1987 Sep 28- Oct 13
	4	Videotape – picketers	1987 Nov 24 - 1988 Jan 12

	5	Videotape – picketers	1988 Jan 14- Feb 9
	6	Videotape – picketers	1988 Feb 16- Mar 11
	7	Videotape – picketers	1988 Mar 11- Apr 15
	8	Videotape – picketers	1988 Apr 19- May 27
	9	Videotape – picketers	1988 Jun 2-16
	10	Videotape – picketers	1988 Jun 17- Jul 1
	11	Videotape – picketers	1988 Jul 1-15
	12	Videotape – picketers	1988 Jul 15- Aug 10
	13	Videotape – picketers	1988 Aug 11-19
	14	Videotape – picketers	1988 Aug 22-26
	15	Videotape – picketers	1988 Aug 26- Sep13
	16	Videotape – picketers	1989 Jan 17
	17	Videotape – picketers	1989 Aug 3
	18	Videotape – reenactment of trespass	Undated
	19	Videotape – picketers	Undated
11a	1	16mm film – Dayton Women’s Health Center (stored off site)	1977
<b>Series VI Memorabilia and Magazines, 1982-1994</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
12	1	Pro-choice buttons	1989, 1990, Undated
	2	NARAL, pro-choice stickers	Undated
	3	<i>People</i> magazine, “Babies Who Have Babies: A Day in the Life of Teen Pregnancy in America”	1994 Oct 24
	4	<i>Life</i> magazines, “How Life Begins” and “Treating the Unborn”	1983 Apr, 1990 Aug
		National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) Ohio hat	Undated
		Clinic escort vest	Undated
		Clinic escort t-shirt	Undated

		Dayton Women's Health Center, Inc. office sign	Undated
		(For pro-choice and domestic violence posters see Oversize Location 87, File 11)	