

# MUTUAL SERVICE ASSOCIATION RECORDS, 1907-1981

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Collection #  
M 0374  
OM 0094  
BV 2022-2023

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Processed by  
Connie McBirney  
16 March 1983

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 manuscript boxes, 2 bound volumes, and 1 oversize folder
COLLECTION DATES:	1907-1981
PROVENANCE:	Mutual Service Association through Hazel Heathman, Indianapolis, IN, 27 March 1982
RESTRICTIONS:	none
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	none
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	none
RELATED HOLDINGS:	
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1982.0309
NOTES:	

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## **HISTORICAL SKETCH**

The Mutual Service Association was organized in 1903 by Miss Anna Mock and Mr. C. S. Grout of the Charity Organization of Indianapolis. Miss Mock was responding to a need for assistance by young working women who were newly arrived in Indianapolis. The organization was incorporated in March of 1907 with sixty-eight working women as charter members. The purpose of the group was to render assistance to self-supporting women, to promote "physical, moral, social, mental and spiritual welfare" without binding them to any creed or dogma.

One of the first activities of the group was to purchase land on the northside of Indianapolis and build a residence and summer camp. This residence, Maple Lodge, was used as a summer vacation resort for those women who could not afford a trip outside of the city. This property was sold in 1927 and the proceeds went to create a trust fund, entitled the Mutual Service Foundation. The Foundation, with a board of directors consisting of members of the association, continued to supply financial aid to needy women. In 1967, the organization began a building campaign and raised sufficient funds to erect an apartment complex/retirement home.

Over the years various forms of aid were provided to individual women. Aid came in the form of rent, food and clothing, payment of medical bills, partial payments of entrance fees to nursing homes, reestablishment of lost businesses, and rehabilitation in learning new business skills.

The organization meets once a year and there is an annual fund-raiser, usually in the form of a card party. Membership is by invitation and new members require a sponsor from the existing membership.

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## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Official records of the early years of the organization, excluding copies of legal documents, are virtually non-existent. Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting and the annual meetings begin in the 1960's, with a few copies of earlier minutes included. The financial, except for the building of the retirement home are equally scarce. Legal documents, such as the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws and deeds and the trust fund agreement are available. There is also a fairly comprehensive run of membership rosters from 1926 through 1981.

The collection includes two scrapbooks covering the years 1907 to 1970. These scrapbooks contain photographs of Maple Lodge and various members taken in 1907; copies of the Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, minutes, treasurer's reports and the trust agreement; correspondence; club announcements and programs; newspaper clippings; and membership lists.

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## **BOX AND FOLDER INVENTORY**

### **Box 1**

<b>FOLDER</b>	<b>CONTENTS</b>
1	Collection inventory
2	Club history
3	Articles of Incorporation
4	Articles of Incorporation
5	By-Laws
6	Trust Fund Agreements

7	Board of Directors, minutes of meetings, 1927, 1951, 1967-1972
8	Minutes of Annual Meetings, 1964-1978 (various years)
9	Treasurer's Records, 1926-1971 (various years)
10	Correspondence
11	Maple Lodge/land records
12-15	Retirement Home/building fund records
16	Mutual Service Journal, volume 1, 1907, 6 issues
17	Club announcements
18	Programs
19	Newspaper clippings
20	Misc.

## Box 2

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Officers
2-3	Membership lists, 1913, 1926-1931, 1946
4-5	Printed Membership Rosters, 1945-1981 (not inclusive)
(OM 0094)	Architectural drawings of Maple Lodge done by Bass, Knowlton, Graham
(BV 2022-23)	Scrapbooks of the Mutual Service Association, 1907-1967 and 1967-1970

Photographs are stored in Visual Collections.

Removed from the collection and placed in the uncatalogued pamphlets are two programs from the Women's Club of the Indianapolis Turners.

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## CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's [online catalog](#)
2. Click on the "Local Catalog" icon.
3. Search for the collection by its call number, using the letter or letters designation and **four** digits (e.g., M 0715, SC 2234).
4. When you find the collection, go to the "Holdings" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related

materials.

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