



THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K1284

Provident Association Collection

1880-1944

1 folder

Document prepared by R.F. Townley entitled: "A History of the Provident Family and Children's Service of Kansas City, Missouri. Est. 1880."

HISTORY:

The Provident Association was formed in 1880 by a group of nineteen prominent citizens of Kansas City, Missouri, gathered together for that purpose by Father Dalton. The object of the association "was not only to relieve suffering and distress, but to ferret out and expose a clan of beggars who constantly imposed upon the 'confidence and liberality of the people', and to learn how to discriminate between the worthless beggar and the deserving poor and sick." In the early years, direct relief was provided for the incapacitated and employment was provided for the able-bodied. A fuel yard, a stone yard, and laundry were sources of employment for those in need. The association raised and dispensed its own charity fund providing help during floods, smallpox epidemics, wars and depressions.

On December 1, 1899, twenty-five charities and organizations including the Helping Hand Institute and the Visiting Nurse Association joined together to form the Associated Charities, a non-relief-giving society. In 1904 the Provident Association merged with Associated Charities. Eventually a children's agency, the Children's Service Association was created and in the early 1940's the two were merged into Provident Family and Children's Services.

PROVENANCE:

This gift was received from Mary Shaw Branton as accession KA1821 on August 16, 2010.

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DESCRIPTION:

The collection includes one copy of a document prepared by R.F. Townley in 1944, regarding the history of the Provident Association.

INVENTORY:**BOX 001**

Folder 1. "A History of the Provident Family and Children's Service of Kansas City Missouri. Est. 1880",