



Bethlehem Area Public Library
Local History Collections
Finding aid for the Bethlehem Community Chest Collection

Creator: Bethlehem Community Chest
Title: Bethlehem Community Chest Collection
Dates: 1951-1968
Extent: .25 linear feet (1 box)
Location: Bethlehem Room
Language: English

Abstract: The Bethlehem Area Community Chest annual meeting was held as a dinner program for its membership. The purpose of the program was to present to its membership the organization's highlights of the previous year. Information in the programs focused on the services provided to the community, disbursements, list of donors, pledges, list of officers, and budget for the fiscal year. The two Who's Who pamphlets list member organizations with a brief description of their purpose and services offered.

Access to materials: The collection is open to researchers in the Bethlehem room.

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Preferred Citation: [Item], Bethlehem Community Chest, 1951-1968. Bethlehem Area Public Library Local History Collections, Bethlehem, PA.

Historical Note: The Bethlehem Community Chest was founded in 1919 as an umbrella organization for charitable organizations in the Bethlehem area. Its purpose was to coordinate the planning and fundraising efforts of multiple organizations. Member organizations could also apply for funds from the Bethlehem Community Chest for specific projects or needs. The organization was committed to transparency by disclosing to the public how funds were allocated. As time progressed, government run social service agencies began to take on a greater role of providing financial assistance in the community. It was during this period that the Bethlehem Community Chest began adapting its mission to provide counseling, training, and recreation programs. It also provided aid to children in need. Additionally, the organization provided assistance with operational costs for struggling organizations and free services to individuals in the community with limited resources.

Scope and Content: The records contain the Bethlehem Community Chest annual membership meeting agenda and two Who's Who pamphlets. The annual membership meeting was held as a dinner meeting. The program booklet includes a list of members, donors, and officers. Also, included in the program are a list of receipts and beneficiaries. The Who's Who pamphlets list the different organizations that comprise the Bethlehem Area Community Chest. The collection is organized by date and type of material.

Subjects:

Community chests
Community Chests and Councils of America.
Social welfare--United States.
Social work & counseling

Administrative Notes:

Processed by Wenonah Riegel, September 2021

Container Listing

Description	Date	Box	Folder
Membership Dinner Meeting	1951-1953	1	1
Membership Dinner Meeting	1954	1	2
Who's Who Pamphlet	1951-1968	1	3