

**Record Group 8: Social Services
Series 3: Casework and Counseling/Social Worker**

**Records
1896-[ongoing]
(bulk 1953-1996)**

10 linear feet [ongoing]

**Japanese American Service Committee Legacy Center
4427 N. Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60640
(773) 275-0097 x224
archives@jasc-chicago.org
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**Prepared by Deborah Mieko Burns, Archivist
2002**

Japanese American Service Committee Legacy Center
Record Group 8, Social Services
Series 3, Casework and Counseling/Social Worker's Records
Finding Aid

Overview of the Collection

Creator: Japanese American Service Committee Social Worker (Chicago, IL)

Title: Records

Dates: 1896-[ongoing] (bulk 1953-1996)

Abstract: This series consists of client records and program administration records. The client records include intake forms; progress notes; reports; correspondence; legal documents such as birth certificates, passports, court filings, and wills; invoices; client applications for employment; and clients' personal documents, papers, and photographs. The administrative records include correspondence, memoranda, budgets, grant proposals, manuals, service statistics, schedules, brochures, flyers, forms, lists, reference material, and material documenting the social worker's external professional activities. The records date from 1896 to 1996 (bulk 1953-1996) with additions added periodically following the guidelines in the JASC's Records Management Manual. The client records are arranged roughly alphabetically by client's last name and the administrative records are arranged roughly chronologically. A portion of the client records contains documents in Japanese language without English language translations. For related client information, please see also Record Group 8 (Social Services), Series 2 (Adult Day Care/Adult Day Services) and Series 4 (Homemakers/Home Support Services) records.

This record group contains confidential personal and medical information about the JASC's Counseling clients. These records and the container lists for this collection are accessible only to the current Casework and Counseling supervisor, Legacy Center staff members, JASC Executive Director, and JASC President. All other JASC staff members and the public may access these records and the container lists by submitting a written request to the JASC Executive Director or President. When granted access, JASC staff members and the public must complete the *Confidential Case Record Access Agreement* before accessing the records and container lists. In addition, these records will be administered in accordance with the *JASC Legacy Center Access & Use Guidelines* provided to all researchers. Researchers assume full responsibility for following libel, privacy, and copyright laws as they may apply to use of this collection.

Quantity: 10 linear feet (10 boxes) [ongoing]

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Acknowledgements

The JASC Legacy Center gratefully acknowledges the Chicago Japanese American Council, Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Chicago, National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), and the Woods Fund of Chicago for generously supporting the preservation, processing, and care of these records.

Deborah Mieko Burns, Archivist, and Mike Courtney, Archival Assistant, processed these records.

Provenance

The JASC's social worker created and maintained these records at the JASC's previous and current facilities.

Access and Restrictions

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The preferred citation for this collection is: [Item Name, Folder Number, Box Number]. Record Group 8, Social Services. Series 3, Casework and Counseling/Social Worker's Records. Japanese American Service Committee Legacy Center, Chicago, Illinois.

Container lists available upon request, archives@jasc-chicago.org or (773) 275-0097 x224.

History of the JASC

The Japanese American Service Committee (JASC) is a non-profit, community-based organization providing social services and cultural and community programming. It was founded in 1946 to assist in the resettlement of over 20,000 newly arrived Japanese Americans to Chicago who had been interned in U.S. concentration camps during World War II. Originally called the Chicago Resettlers Committee (CRC), the agency sought to help Japanese American resettlers with housing, job placement, educational, medical, social service, translation, and recreational needs. At the end of the resettlement era, the agency renamed itself the Japanese American Service Committee in October 1954.

After the initial postwar period of resettlement, the JASC undertook a new priority and sought to provide comprehensive services for seniors including English language classes, employment doing piece work (called the Sheltered Workshop begun in 1960), home visitations, and healthcare programs. In addition, the JASC began coordinating community-wide programs and cultural events such as arts and music programs, lectures, festivals, and special celebrations. Eventually the JASC expanded their activities to include other social services such as individual and family counseling, a nutrition program, meals on wheels, adult day services, and household care and general assistance for seniors. The agency constructed a 200-unit home for seniors in 1980 called Heiwa Terrace (920 W. Lawrence in Chicago) and a 180-bed skilled nursing care facility in 1993 called Keiro Extended Care Center (3919 W. Foster in Chicago). This nursing care facility is now called Harmony Nursing Home.

The JASC has been a center of the Japanese American community in Chicago since its founding. As a Japanese American social service agency, the JASC has been keenly aware of the important role it can and should play in preserving, promoting, and passing on Japanese and Japanese American traditions, history, culture, and arts. The agency has made that heritage an integral part of its programming and services.

Currently the JASC serves the Japanese American community in the Chicago metropolitan area as well as various parts of the Midwest. The JASC distinguishes itself by being the only Japanese American social service organization in the Midwest, but it has also grown into a community center used by many other Japanese American and Asian American organizations to hold meetings and events. The primary population the agency serves is Japanese American, but through its various social service programs, the JASC serves a diverse group of people regardless of age, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation or disability.

Today the JASC runs a wide variety of programs including Adult Day Services; Casework & Counseling; Home Support Services; educational workshops on topics such as health insurance, social security, senior driver's education, and estate planning; health screening and flu shot clinics; arts and cultural classes such as ceramics, ikebana (flower-arranging), origami, and tai chi; Japanese American community events

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and festivals; and the Legacy Center (an archive and library). The JASC also serves as a meeting place for many community groups such as the Tohkon Judo Academy, Tampopo-kai (pre-school), Northside Friends (Quakers), Asian American Law Enforcement Association, Angel Island Theatre Company, Chicago Nisei Post (veterans), New Horizons (a senior singles group), Nisei Minyo Dance Group, Ukulele Club, and the Quilting Club. The JASC is a partner with other groups in programs such as the Lunar New Year celebration, a citywide Japanese American community picnic, periodic Intergenerational Dialog programs, and the annual Day of Remembrance event honoring the U.S. Presidential signing of Executive Order 9066 (authorizing the internment of Japanese Americans). Today the JASC extends its services not only to Chicago' s Japanese American population, but also other Asian American groups and seniors.

History of the Casework and Counseling Program

The primary focus of the JASC since its founding has been to provide social services for the community. From the beginning, the JASC provided information to community members about housing, employment, worship services, professional services, educational opportunities, and social activities. Many of the agency' s early leaders were trained social service professionals, so informal counseling services existed from the agency' s early days.

It appears the agency established a formal counseling program in the early 1950s. Originally this program served primarily *Nisei* or second-generation Japanese Americans (the first generation born in the United States). In the 1960s, the program began to serve a more diverse clientele.

Today the program specializes in bilingual (Japanese-English) information and referrals, casework coordination, and counseling services for individuals, couples, families, or groups. The social worker serves people of all ages and nationalities such as Americans and Korean and Japanese nationals. The program provides advocacy services for clients dealing with schools, hospitals, physicians, and other care providers. The social worker has many clients living at Heiwa Terrace, but also travels throughout the Chicago metropolitan area to meet the community' s needs. Client fees are arranged on a sliding scale. This program is partially funded by the United Way of Chicago.

Scope and Contents Note

This series consists of client records and program administration records. The client records include intake forms; progress notes; reports; correspondence; legal documents such as birth certificates, passports, court filings, and wills; invoices; client applications for employment; and clients' personal documents, papers, and photographs. The administrative records include correspondence, memoranda, budgets, grant proposals, manuals, service statistics, schedules, brochures, flyers, forms, lists, reference material, and material documenting the social worker's external professional activities. The records date from 1896 to 1996 (bulk 1953-1996) with additions added periodically following the guidelines in the JASC's Records Management Manual. The client records are arranged roughly alphabetically by client's last name and the administrative records are arranged roughly chronologically. A portion of the client records contains documents in Japanese language without English language translations.

The client records in this series document the challenges faced by Japanese Americans and Japanese nationals in Chicago and the United States. Challenges included discrimination and prejudice by the mainstream community and common concerns for populations of vulnerable people such as aging, mental illness, and unemployment. Of particular interest are records documenting the lives of male "bachelor" clients including their personal papers such as letters to friends and family, photographs, financial information, and legal and government documents. The client records also reveal a shift in the JASC's counseling clientele during the 1960s to encompass a more ethnically diverse client base. Folders titled, "Job Applications," show clients from different ethnic, religious, and social backgrounds and the social worker's opinion of the client regarding their employability.

The administrative records document the program's operation and the social worker's involvement in the community and the profession. This series shows the social worker's deep involvement in the JASC's other social service programs (Adult Day Service and Home Support Services). In addition, the records demonstrate the social worker's efforts to assist other external social service programs and remain professionally active.

For related client information, please see also Record Group 8 (Social Services), Series 2 (Adult Day Care/Adult Day Services) and Series 4 (Homemakers/Home Support Services) records.

Generally information and dates listed on the folders and container lists were copied directly from the original folders. Information added by the processor is indicated in brackets [XX]. Most of the dates for forms in this series are estimates. The JASC fiscal year runs from July to June. For example, fiscal year 1999 is July 1998 to June 1999.

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