

A Guide to the Barrett Day Care Center Papers

Barrett Day Care Center Papers 1942-1995
1942-1995

A Collection in the Special Collections Department 3283, -a, -b
Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library
2015

History

Processed by: Special Collections Department

Title Statement

A Guide to the Barrett Day Care Center Papers

Subtitle: Barrett Day Care Center

Collection: 3283, -a, -b

Publication Statement

File size: 40 Kilobytes

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Publisher: Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from WordPerfect. Date of source: 1997.

Language Usage: Description is in English.

Revision Description

Feb 18, 2004 PUBLIC "-//University of Virginia::Library::Special Collections Dept.//TEXT (US::ViU::viu01864::Barrett Day Care Center Papers)//EN" "viu01864.xml" converted from EAD 1.0 to 2002 by v1to02.xsl (sy2003-10-15).

Feb 27, 2004 converted to conform to eadVIVA.dtd by vivastrict.xsl

Descriptive Summary

Accession Number

3283, -a, -b

Language

English

Extent

This collection consists of ca. 1000 items

Repository

Special Collections, University of Virginia Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

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Acquisition Information

Accession #3283 was loaned to the Library on August 3, 1949, by the Janie Porter Barrett Day Nursery of 5th and Commerce Streets, Charlottesville, Virginia. Accessions #3283-a and #3283-b were loaned to the Library on August 8 and October 4, 1996, by Cynthia Stratton, Director of the Barrett Day Care Center, 410 Ridge Street, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Preferred Citation

Barrett Day Care Center Papers, Accession #3283, -a, -b, Special Collections Dept., University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, Va.

History of Barrett Day Care Center

The Barrett Day Care Center, formerly the Janie Porter Barrett Day Nursery, is the oldest day care center in the State of Virginia. It was organized in the fall of 1935 by Daisy V. Green, a registered nurse of Petersburg, Virginia and former employee of the Charlottesville City Health Department; it was supported by the Works Project Administration of the Education Department. The Nursery was originally located in a building owned by Courtney D. Goodloe at 126 4th Street, N. W. This small facility served as the Nursery's home until August 1940 when it closed upon Mrs. Greene's departure. During these early years, many friends made donations, and the children were admitted free of charge.

In January 1941 the Nursery re-opened under the same name and still under the support of the Works Project Administration. A December 23, 1942 letter from Mrs. Frances Cromwell, State Supervisor of the Child Protection Program, stated that by order of the President of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, all W. P. A. projects would be liquidated as of January 16, 1943. On December 31, 1942, Douglas Edwards and Otelia L. Jackson, members of the Nursery, along with members of the Belmont Day Nursery, met with the Charlottesville City School Board. Board members of both nurseries were in favor of continuing the Janie Porter Barrett Day Nursery and closing the Belmont Day Nursery. Following this meeting, during which the School Board informed the Nursery that it was not its sponsor, an appeal was made directly to the State. This advisory committee succeeded in getting the Department of Public Welfare to sponsor the program. This could be done under the provisions of the State Child Care Committee appointed the previous fall, if the program was classified as "day nursery" rather than "nursery school." On January 13, 1943, the Nursery was given permission to continue. Responses from volunteers and local organizations were good. The Child Welfare Association paid salaries of teachers following the first month when teachers had given their service free. Rent had also been donated that first month. The Nursery continued operation through 1943 without interruption under the supervision of a group of Charlottesville citizens with funds raised entirely in Charlottesville. In becoming a day nursery, it had extended its services by taking care of children for ten hours rather than only from nine to three; it also took the five-to-six-year-olds who had been excluded under the former plan. The Nursery struggled to maintain its existence until the organization of the Community Chest and its acceptance of the Nursery as one of its agencies.

There was a regular tuition charge of one dollar a week per child. A plan was worked out whereby the mother and the employer were asked to share this tuition as each benefitted from the care of the child. Response from employers was chiefly favorable. A few mothers paid the entire tuition themselves. A few others were unable to pay any because of financial obligations. For such cases, there was a scholarship committee which investigated the case; and, on the basis of their recommendation, whole or partial scholarships were granted.

In addition to tuition fees, the Board of the Nursery sought other sources of income. It was granted an appropriation of seventy-five dollars per month by the City Council, which was given as an increased appropriation to the Department of Public Welfare, the official sponsor of the Nursery. The local Child Welfare Association was the next largest contributor with \$700 per year. There were also individual and group contributions.

Throughout the 1940s and 1950s, the Nursery inhabited several locations until moving to its present location of 410 Ridge Street in the late 1950s. During its first few years, the Nursery lacked the requirements to meet the needs of the community, such as not having an outdoor play area or the services of a trained director. From July 1950 until July 1951, the Nursery secured the services of Miss Velma Branch, a graduate of Hampton Institute and College with a year's experience in the Nursery School at Hampton Institute. The board members and staff gained valuable information on the needs and management of a nursery school from Miss Branch, and used this knowledge to the Nursery's best advantage. Immediately prior to Miss Branch's resignation there had been a reduction of the budget by the Community Chest.

During the 1960s, the Janie Porter Barrett Day Nursery moved from the sponsorship of the Community Chest

to the sponsorship of the United Givers Fund. It continued to grow under their sponsorship. In the 1960s, the Nursery provided a unique service to Charlottesville and Albemarle County as the only day-care center for children in the community. It provided day care for children of low-income families thereby enabling parents to hold full-time jobs, thus increasing the family's income and keeping it off welfare. The community also benefitted from the productivity of these families and the availability of additional workers for its businesses, industries, and personal services.

Present day management of the Nursery by a Board of Directors came into existence during this time. The Board of Directors consists of citizens from all areas of the community with an interest in pre-school children and who demonstrate leadership qualities. The Board determines the policies of the Nursery and supervises its finances. The Nursery program is based upon standards established by the Virginia Department of Welfare and Institutions for day-care centers.

During the 1960s, about 70% of the Nursery's operating expenses were provided through the United Givers Fund. Most of the other 30% came from tuition fees paid by parents. There were also surplus food items and gifts of services from a local business and physician. Tuition was paid by the parents of all children in the Nursery. Fees charged were based on the income of the family and the number of independent children with a minimum of \$2.50 and a maximum of \$8.50 per child per week. A small scholarship fund was available to assist families of children who may have become financially distressed through loss of job, loss of a parent, or extended illness.

The building located at 410 Ridge Street in which the Barrett Day Care Center operates was owned and operated by the United Givers Fund throughout the 1960s and 1970s. The building was deeded to the Barrett Day Care Center, Inc. in 1977 by the United Givers Fund, now the United Way, with the stipulation that it be used as a day care center. As of 1989, the Day Care Center operated solely on donations and tuition fees and was the only non-profit day care center in Charlottesville that did not have an underwriting sponsor to help pay for such expenses as utility or maintenance costs. Donations were not as strong as they needed to be; and, although United Way assisted ten children at the center with scholarships, there was still a waiting list for children whose families needed financial assistance for tuition. Working with the Board of Directors of the Day Care Center and a representative of the Monticello Area Community Action Agency, the center's director, Cynthia Stratton, helped to set up a committee of individuals to raise the money necessary for the most pressing needs at the center and to continue the operation of the Barrett Day Care Center. Within two months, donations from Charlottesville-area businesses and individuals helped push a state-mandated project through at the center. They also boosted revenue for refurbishing the seventy-two-year-old building at 410 Ridge Street.

The Nursery is licensed by the Department of Public Welfare (formerly the Department of Welfare and Institutions) of the Commonwealth of Virginia. This license certifies that the Nursery meets health and safety regulations, has adequate space and equipment, has sufficient staff, and conducts a program that is beneficial to the age children admitted to the Nursery. In the past, the Nursery was a participating agency of the United Givers Fund of Charlottesville and Albemarle, Inc. It was also a member of the National Committee for the Day Care of Children, Inc., a non-profit agency which promoted adequate day-care centers and good standards for centers and which disseminated information in this field.

A digital exhibition drawn from these papers is [available online](#).

Container List

Topical

Applications for Admission

Unit Date 1950-1951

Container Box 1

Budget

Unit Date 1943-1985

Container Box 1

Extent (3 folders)

Children's Lists of Names and Records for Tuition

Unit Date 1955-1970

Container Box 1

Community Chest

Unit Date 1951-1961

Container Box 1

Extent (3 folders)

Correspondence of the Janie Porter Barrett Day Nursery

Unit Date 1942-1954

Container Box 1

Scope and Content

[correspondence with board members and employees; donations of money, food, and supplies; budget; liquidation of the Child Protection Program of the Works Project Administration(23 Dec 1942); R. E. Lee & Son and Edward van Leare estimates according to specifications for the nursery building (16 July 1953); rental agreement (1 Sep 1954); personnel committee's study of retirement problems in the nursery (14 & 21 Dec 1954)]

Correspondence of the Janie Porter Barrett Day Nursery

Unit Date 1955-1956

Container Box 1

Scope and Content

[correspondence with board members and employees; donations of money, food, and supplies; budget; Yadseut Club interest in civic organizations and sponsoring the Nursery (16 & 18 Jan 1955); Community Chest agencies receipt of gifts and services from local commercial establishments (20 June 1955); Community Chest budget for the Nursery (29 June & 6 July 1955); recommendations based on the minimum standards for licensed day care nurseries, following a visit by Sarah Elliott, Children's Agencies Section, Department of Welfare and Institutions(29 Aug 1955)]

Correspondence of the Janie Porter Barrett Day Nursery

Unit Date 1957-1966

Container Box 1

Scope and Content

[correspondence with board members and employees; donations of money, food, and supplies; University of Virginia nursing students observation of the Nursery (19 June 1957); University of Virginia pediatric nursing students observation of the Nursery (8 May 1958); completion of remodelling for the Nursery at 410 Ridge Street (14 Aug 1958); program for graduation exercises (1 June 1961); Department of Welfare and Institutions (13 Aug 1962; 24 Aug 1965); case between Janie Porter Barrett Day Nursery and Holy Comforter School(13 June 1966 with attachments)]

Correspondence of the Janie Porter Barrett Day Nursery

Unit Date 1967-1968

Container Box 1

Scope and Content

[correspondence with board members and employees; donations of money, food, and supplies; estimation for painting outside trim (11 Sep 1967); Special Milk Program (Oct 1967); purchase of nursery equipment (Nov 1967-Mar 1968); hire of a kindergarten teacher (May-July 1968); University of Virginia Maternal-Child Health Nursing faculty observation of the Nursery (31 July 1968)]

Correspondence of the Barrett Day Care Center

Unit Date 1989-1995

Container Box 1

Scope and Content

[letter to the editor of the Daily Progress from Cynthia J. Stratton, Director of the Barrett Day Care Center (1 Aug 1989); program for "Barrett Day Care Center Presents Songs of Jubilation," including a "history" and "purpose and mission" (13 Oct 1991)]

Correspondence of Richard S. Callaghan, Jr., President of the Janie Porter Barrett Day Nursery

Unit Date 1965-1966

Container Box 2

Scope and Content

[correspondence with board members and employees; budget; amendments to By-Laws of the Nursery (3 Jan 1966); Federal Exemption (7 & 14 Mar 1966); case between Janie Porter Barrett Day Nursery and Holy Comforter School (17 May-2 Aug 1966); "Problems and Policy Questions Faced by our Nursery," with attached relative material (27 Sep 1966); sales tax exemption (28 Sep & 4 Oct 1966); Charlottesville-Albemarle Community Action Organization, Inc. proposal for a youth community program (22 Dec 1966 & 5 Jan 1967); Special Release of the National Committee for the Day Care of Children, Inc. (Dec 1966)]

Correspondence of Richard S. Callaghan, Jr., President of the Janie Porter Barrett Day Nursery

Unit Date 1967

Container Box 2

Scope and Content

[search for head teacher and director of the Nursery; hire of Karen (VanCampen) Janssonas director; hire of Vaness G. Terrellas head teacher; United Givers Fund and the Nursery's appeal for additional funds]

Correspondence of Richard S. Callaghan, Jr., President of the Janie Porter Barrett Day Nursery

Unit Date 1968-1969

Container Box 2

Scope and Content

[correspondence with board members and employees; budget; parent's questionnaire (1 Feb 1968); search for kindergarten teacher (May-Aug 1968); recent history, objectives, and activities of the Nursery (22 May 1969); application for admission (n.d.)]

Correspondence of Frank D. Daniel, President of the Janie Porter Barrett Day Nursery

Unit Date 1943-1948

Container Box 2

Scope and Content

[donations of money; budget; request for monetary donations from Lions Club(20 Jan & 29 Mar 1943) and Kiwanis Club(25 Jan 1943); reorganization of the "colored nursery" into a day nursery to be supported by local funds (28 Jan-4 Feb 1943); food rations (6 & 14 Apr 1943); Charlottesville and Albemarle Community and War Fundconcerning the budget (3 July & 5 Sep 1945; 11 June 1946); surplus commodities/Commodity Distribution Program (2 Sep, 15 Oct & 30 Dec 1947); rental agreement (16 Oct 1947); Charlottesville and Albemarle Community Chest concerning the budget, agency standards, and Red Feather Services(1947-1948); Child Welfare League(26 Mar & 2 Sep 1948); recommendations and concerns following a visit to the Nursery by Dorothy Donovan, Children's Bureau, Department of Public Welfare (1948); recommendations and concerns following a visit to the Nursery by Evangeline J. Howlette, Hampton Institute (post 2 Dec 1948); radio teleplay about the Nursery (1948)]

Correspondence of Frank D. Daniel, President of the Janie Porter Barrett Day Nursery

Unit Date 1949-1950

Container Box 2

Scope and Content

[recommendations for the provision of health services at the Nursery compiled by the Instructive Visiting Nurses Association(12 May 1949); search for director of the Nursery and the subsequent hiring of Velma Branch (Jan-May 1949); Community Chest and the budget of the Nursery (25 Oct 1950)]

Correspondence of Frank D. Daniel, President of the Janie Porter Barrett Day Nursery

Unit Date 1951-1956

Container Box 2

Scope and Content

[correspondence with board members and employees; budget; Community Chest and the budget of the Nursery (30 Jan & 10 Aug 1951); request to the use the Jefferson Elementary school building (16 & 21 Mar 1951); survey of children and method of arrival to the Nursery (14 Apr 1951); search for Director of the Nursery and subsequent budget cut (June-Aug 1951); form letter re tuition rates (21 July 1951); University of Virginia Department of Nursing students observation of the Nursery (25 & 26 Apr 1956)]

Correspondence of R. Garsed Sketchley, Jr., President of the Janie Porter Barrett Day Nursery

Unit Date 1960-1961

Container Box 2

Scope and Content

[donations of money and supplies; correspondence with board members; study of the nursery administration by Jean R. Burnswith detailed list of problems (25 Jan 1961); L. A. Lacy Plumbing and Heating proposal to install new controls and wiring for the oil burner (17 Apr 1961); Charlottesville and Albemarle Community Chest re Campaign Cabinet meeting and the Agency-Chest Agreement (May 1961); program for graduation exercises (1 June 1961)]

Directory of Private Schools in Charlottesville and Albemarle

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 2

Establishment and Administrative Policies

Unit Date 1943-1944

Container Box 2

Scope and Content

[forward; constitution; certificate of incorporation]

Establishment and Administrative Politics

Unit Date 1944-1971

Container Box 2

Scope and Content

[articles of incorporation (1944); constitution; policy governing leaves of absence... (Sep 1963); by-laws (Jan 1966); policies and practices (Feb 1966; 1971); regulations; miscellaneous on day care centers]

Federal Assistance

Unit Date 1965

Container Box 2

Scope and Content

[publication lists]

Fee Schedules

Unit Date 1956-1971

Container Box 2

Films

Unit Date 1965-1966

Container Box 2

Scope and Content

[lists of films concerning children]

Finances: Reports on Examination

Unit Date 1970-1971

Container Box 2

Scope and Content

[Hantzmon, Wiebel & Company]

Health Certificates and Inspections

Unit Date 1948-1967

Container Box 2

History of the Janie Porter Barrett Day Nursery

Unit Date 1942-1965

Container Box 2

Scope and Content

[correspondence and papers; essay, "Children of Mothers Who Work" (ca. 1943); articles of incorporation (May 1944); brief history of the Nursery by Otelia L. Jackson(1 Feb 1953); sketch of Janie Porter Barrett(22 Mar 1953); program of the "Janie Porter Barrett School & 50 Years 1916-1965" (20 May 1965)]

History of the Janie Porter Barrett Day Nursery

Unit Date 1947-1965

Container Box 2

Scope and Content

[correspondence and papers; brief history of the Nursery (30 June 1947); brief history of the Nursery by Otelia L. Jackson (16 June 1950; Feb 1953); survey on who uses the Nursery (1952-1953); statement on the Nursery (28 Apr 1959); United Givers Fund brochure on the Nursery; application for admission; miscellaneous papers re child care (1960s)]

Insurance

Unit Date 1958-1967

Container Box 2

Licenses for Day Nursery/Child Care Center

Unit Date 1944-1971

Container Box 2

Licenses for Day Nursery/Child Care Center: Correspondence and Papers concerning

Unit Date 1943-1972, 1988

Container Box 2

Extent (3 folders)

Membership Lists

Unit Date 1948-1968

Container Box 2

Minutes of the Janie Porter Barrett Day Nursery

Unit Date 1942-1957

Container Box 3

Extent (12 folders)

Minutes of the Janie Porter Barrett Day Nursery

Unit Date 1958-1972

Container Box 4

Extent (13 folders)

Minutes of the Barrett Day Care Center

Unit Date 1973-1979

Container Box 4

Extent (3 folders)

Minutes of the Barrett Day Care Center kept by Lillie Mae Brown

Unit Date 1979-1981

Container Box 4

Extent (3 folders)

Minutes of the Barrett Day Care Center

Unit Date 1980-1981

Container Box 5

Extent (2 folders)

Minutes of the Barrett Day Care Center kept by Lillie Mae Brown

Unit Date 1981-1983

Container Box 5

Extent (2 folders)

Minutes of the Barrett Day Care Center

Unit Date 1982-1984

Container Box 5

Extent (3 folders)

Nursery Equipment

Unit Date 1955-1958

Container Box 5

Nursery Equipment: Creative Playthings, Inc.

Unit Date 1957-1969

Container Box 5

Nursery Equipment: Crown Institutional Equipment Company

Unit Date 1953-1958

Container Box 5

Photographs of the Janie Porter Barrett Day Nursery

Unit Date 1965, n.d.

Container Box 6

Photographs of the Barrett Day Care Center: Children; Front entrance

Unit Date ca. 1960-1992

Container Box 6

Photographs of the Barrett Day Care Center: Children, Staff, and Volunteers

Unit Date 1992, n.d.

Container Box 6

Photographs of the Barrett Day Care Center: Group photos

Unit Date 1977-1985, n.d.

Container Box 6

Photographs of the Barrett Day Care Center: Group photos

Unit Date 1988, 1993

Container Box 6

Photographs of the Barrett Day Care Center: Individual Children

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 6

Photographs of the Barrett Day Care Center: Social Functions

Unit Date 1985-1992

Container Box 6

Extent (2 folders)

Publicity: Newspaper Articles

Unit Date 1967-1991

Container Box 6

Rating Forms for Four-and-Five-Year-Olds

Unit Date n.d.

Container Box 6

Registered Agent

Unit Date 1957-1968

Container Box 6

Reports and Surveys on Day Nurseries

Unit Date 1949-1953

Container Box 6

Scope and Content

["Recommendations for Personnel Practices in Day Nurseries" (Apr 1949); Midcentury White House Conference on Children and Youth (3-7 Dec 1950); "Report of Survey of the Families of Children Enrolled in the Janie Porter Barrett Day Nursery" (13 May 1953)]

Taxation and Exemptions

Unit Date 1952-1966

Container Box 6

Treasurer's Reports

Unit Date 1962-1969

Container Box 6

Extent (3 folders)

Tuition Studies

Unit Date 1967-1971

Container Box 6

United Givers Fund

Unit Date 1964-1971

Container Box 6

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Unit Date 1983

Container Box 6

Scope and Content

Materials submitted to the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission for consideration of the Barrett Day Care Center as a historic site.

[Nursery building at 410 Ridge Street being entered into the National Register of Historic Places; application for an historic preservation matching grant under the Emergency Jobs Act of 1983; Forest Hill Associates, Inc. proposal for work on the exterior of the building]

Bound Volumes

Receipt Book

Unit Date 1954

Container Box 7

Receipt Book

Unit Date 1958-1960

Container Box 7

Record Book

Unit Date 1949-1963

Container Box 7

Extent (5 folders)

Record Book

Unit Date 1962-1985

Container Box 8

Extent (2 folders)

Teachers Roll Book

Unit Date 1952 Jul-1955 Dec

Container Box 8

Extent (2 folders)

Teachers Roll Book kept by Beatrice Frye

Unit Date 1969 Jun-1972 Aug

Container Box 8

Teachers Roll Book

Unit Date 1969 Sep-1972 Jun

Container Box 8

Teachers Roll Book kept by C. W. Johnson

Unit Date 1969 Sep-1972 Aug

Container Box 8

Teachers Roll Book kept by B. E. Payne

Unit Date 1972 Sep-1975 Apr

Container Box 8

Oversize

Architectural Drawings for the proposed Janie Porter Barrett Day Nursery: main floor plan; roof plan; south elevation; ground floor plan

Unit Date 1953 Jul

Container Oversize (Box)