

Inventory of the

DeKalb County Migrant Ministry

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 251

INTRODUCTION

Linda Sons, the last president of the DeKalb County Migrant Ministry, donated records of that organization to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on November 13, 1981. Additional records pertaining to the DeKalb County Migrant Ministry and other organizations concerned with aiding migrant workers were donated by Joan Hallaron, a past president of the organization, on various dates.

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Linear feet of shelf space: 4
Number of containers: 9
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 251

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains materials which document the efforts of the DeKalb County Migrant Ministry from 1964 to 1979, and other organizations which aided migrant and impoverished farm workers in the DeKalb County area from the mid-1970's to 1980.

Joan Hallaron became involved in the migrant ministry in 1969 through her church, St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sycamore, Illinois. Her involvement as a board member and office holder throughout the 1970's with the DeKalb County Migrant Ministry led to her working and corresponding with a variety of local and state organizations and committees which provided assistance to migrant farm workers and their families. These organizations include: the Children's Learning Center, DeKalb 4-C, DeKalb County Welfare Services Committee, Illinois Committee for Migrant Children, Illinois Farm Worker Ministry, Illinois Inter-Agency Committee on Migrant Affairs, Illinois Migrant and Seasonal Farm Worker Ministry, Regional Advisory Committee of the Illinois Migrant Council, Health Advisory Committee of the Illinois Migrant Head Start Policy Council, Illinois Welfare Association, Midwest Association of Farmworker Organizations, National Farm Worker Ministry, Project H.E.L.P., and the Spanish Speaking Peoples Study Commission. The majority of the materials relate to the DeKalb County Migrant Ministry, DeKalb 4-C, and the Illinois Migrant Head Start Project.

The materials found in this collection run from meeting minutes and personal notes on meetings, to membership lists, to newsletters, correspondence, conference materials, reports, policies, by-laws and constitutions, to newspaper clippings, brochures, and other publications. Although there are not complete records for every organization, the variety of materials in this collection provides a good overview of the resources available to help migrant workers and their families in the 1970's.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The DeKalb County Migrant Ministry (DCMM) was started in 1963 by three ministers from the DeKalb County Ministerial Association. Within a year it had grown to include a variety of churches, charitable and service organizations and individuals who wished to show their concern for migrants as part of the community. Their purpose was to serve the seasonal farm workers and their families who follow the crops, and also those who wished to “settle out” into the community, by means of educational, occupational, medical, social, and religious programs. It also desired to awaken those living in DeKalb County to the presence of migrants and to promote sharing of the benefits of the community with the migrants and their families. The DCMM was a voluntary organization without any paid staff, so nearly all the funds it received via grants and contributions was used for actual programs to aid the migrants, with the exception of basic administrative expenses for office supplies, postage and telephone. It attempted to cooperate and coordinate activities with other agencies and organizations.

One of the DeKalb County Migrant Ministry’s core programs was “family night” whereby a designated groups were matched up with migrant camps and made weekly visits. The evening program usually consisted of a recreational activity, religious education, refreshments and informal discussion. Another major effort was the establishment of the DeKalb County Migrant Day Care Center. It began as a six week session during the summer of 1968 in the basement of St. Mary’s School basement in DeKalb, for children a few weeks old to age five who couldn’t be taken into the fields. In 1969 the name was changed to DeKalb County Migrant Learning Center and operated for three months. Over the years the program grew in length, numbers of children cared for, and it changed locations several times. Although the major portion of funding originally came from the Illinois Migrant Council in 1971 the major source of funding became the Illinois Department of Family Services. On December 17, 1971 word was received from Springfield that funding was available to allow the Center to remain open year-round and the name was changed to the Children’s Learning Center. In the spring of 1974 a portion of the old Cyclone Fence factory, on the corner of 14th and Pleasant Streets, in DeKalb was donated to be used rent free for twenty years. At the end of August 1974 the new facility opened with a capacity for 85 children.

Almost from the beginning the need for basic adult education was also evident. Initially migrants were tutored in English and on basic driving laws. Later nutrition, sewing, child rearing, consumer education, and basic math were added. The first formal adult education classes took place during the summer of 1971. Over the years adult education and vocational programs were established in conjunction with Kishwaukee College. Health services were provided through the Public Health Department which employed a registered public health nurse. State monies also funded a clinic offering medical and some dental care. The Migrant Ministry also provided referrals to migrants with legal and other problems. The “Settling Out” program began in 1970 to help those migrants who wished to remain in the area find jobs and housing.

By the end of 1978 much had changed regarding the needs of migrants and the purpose of the DeKalb County Migrant Ministry. During the years 1966 and 1967 as many as 1,300 migrants came to DeKalb County, but there were fewer than 300 in 1978. Previously there had been no “settled-out” migrants, now there were over 100 families. The schools for migrant children were taken over by the DeKalb School system. The DCMM was providing more assistance to those needing help finding shelter, solving legal problems, and other relief services. The focus thus became helping ex-migrants become a real part of the community. By the late 1970's most of the work of the DCMM was carried out by fewer and fewer people, primarily the executive board, and the organization was dissolved in 1980. Two programs which originated with the DeKalb County Migrant Ministry were still going on independently in 2001 - the Children’s Learning Center at 905 S. 4th Street, DeKalb, and the Summer School Programs for Children.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Agriculture
 Agricultural laborers
 Children’s Learning Center
 Community Coordinated Child Care
 DeKalb County (Ill.)
 DeKalb County Migrant Ministry
 DeKalb County Welfare Services Committee
 DeKalb 4-C
 Discrimination in Housing
 Education
 Hallaron, Joan
 Illinois Committee for Migrant Children
 Illinois Farm Worker Ministry
 Illinois Inter-Agency Committee on Migrant Affairs
 Illinois Migrant Council
 Little Star Migrant Center, Kankakee
 Medical Care--United States
 Mexican Americans
 Midwest Association of Farmworker Organizations
 Migrant Head Start Policy Council
 Migrant Labor
 National Farm Worker Ministry (U.S.)
 St. Mary (Parish: Sycamore, Ill.)
 Spanish Speaking Peoples Study Commission
 Strikes and lockouts
 Title XX
 Vocational education

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	
1	1	DeKalb County Migrant Ministry Constitution, 1970	
	2-6	Meeting Minutes, Correspondence and Related Documents, (1964-1979)	
	7	DeKalb County Migrant Learning Center, Program History, 1970; Children's Learning Center, History, 1975, and Philosophy, n.d.	
	8	Children's Learning Center, Meeting Minutes and Related Documents, 1974-1979	
	9	St. Mary's Parish, Sycamore, "Migrant Ministry" Related Materials, 1974-1978	
	10	Joan Hallaron, Resumes and Related Material, 1978, 1980,	
	2	1a	DeKalb County 4-C (Community Coordinated Child Care) Newsletters, Meeting Minutes and Reports, (1974-1980)
		1b	Strategic Plan, April 1993
		2	Personnel Policies, 1978-1979
		3	Calendar of Activities, Procedures, Forms, and Related Materials, n.d.
4a&b		Joan Hallaron's Meeting, Conference and Workshop Notes, 1979-1980	
5		DeKalb County Welfare Services Committee, 1975-1979	
6-7		Illinois Committee for Migrant Children, 1971, 1973-1977	
8		Illinois Inter-Agency Committee on Migrant Affairs, 1977- 1980	
9		Illinois Migrant and Seasonal Farm Worker Ministry, 1972, 1973, 1975	
10		Illinois Farm Worker Ministry, 1975-1978	
		Illinois Migrant Council	
11		Correspondence, Meeting Minutes and Notes, Brochures, And Related Documents, 1975-1980	
12		Workshop on Coordination of Migrant Services, February 24-25, 1977, & Follow-up Correspondence, March-April, 1977	
13		"Second Illinois Conference on Migrants," May 19-20, 1977	
14	Illinois Migrant Legal Assistance Project, Newsletters, June-July 1978		

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	5
3	1-4	Illinois Migrant Head Start Project	
	5	Correspondence and Related Material, 1975-1980	
	6	Draft - Infant Guide, 1977	
4	1	Program Report, 1979	
	2	National Sixth Annual Child and Family Development Conference, May 16-19, 1979	
	3	Indian Migrant Program Division (IMPD), Annual Head Start Conference, March 9-14, 1980	
	4	Application for Federal Assistance, Draft, March 1980	
	5	Application for Federal Assistance, December 1980	
	6	Booklets and Brochures, (1971-1979)	
	7	<u>Head Start to Confidence: A Program Manual and Study Guide, 1970</u>	
	8	<u>Responding to Individual Needs in Head Start, Part I: Working with the Individual Child, [1975]</u>	
	9	<u>Nutrition Training Guide for Classroom Personnel in Head Start Programs, 1976</u>	
	10	<u>Handbook for Local Head Start Nutrition Specialists, [1977]</u>	
	11	<u>Recipes for Success - Head Start and EPSDT, 1977</u>	
5	1	Head Start Program Performance Standards Self-Assessment/Validation Instrument; Policy Manual, 1979	
	2	Illinois Welfare Association (IAW), 1977	
	3	Little Star Migrant Center, Kankakee, 1979	
	4	Midwest Association of Farmworker Organizations (MAFO), 1979	
	5	National Association of Farmworker Organizations (NAFO), 1978-1980	
	6	National Farm Worker Ministry, Newsletters and Related Documents, 1975-1979	
	7	NIU Migrant Farm Workers Program, Fall 1976	
	8	Project H.E.L.P.(Help Ease Learning Problems), 1975, n.d.	
	9	Spanish Speaking Peoples Study Commission, (1970-1978)	
	10	YETP, n.d.	
	11	Directory of Services for Migrant Families, 1976-1977	
	12	“A Report of Agricultural Workers’ Conditions in Illinois,” by Daniel Alvarez, October 1974	
	13	Rules and Regulations for Migrant Labor Camps, 1979	
		Legislation Relating to Migrants, 1971-1972, 1975, 1977-1979 (Includes Title XX)	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	6
6	1	Newspaper and Magazine Articles on Migrant Education, Child Care, Employment, Living Conditions, 1972-1980	
	2	Brochures and Booklets on Migrant Farm Worker Health, Safety, Education and Legal Issues, 1967-1978	
	3	Books and Booklets relating to Migrant Children and Education, (1970-1977)	
	4	Books and Booklets on Mexican Law, Population Characteristics of Persons of Spanish Origin, and Mexican-Americans of Southern Texas, 1964, 1976, 1977	
	5	Books and Booklets relating to Health, Safety, and Food Preparation, 1977-1980	
<u>ADDENDUM</u>			
7	1	Counseling and Evaluating the Latino Client, Dr. Maria Barreda-Hanson, Gordon Center, October 26, 1979	
	2	Illinois Inter-Agency Committee on Migrant Affairs, Fourth Annual Conference, April 9 and 10, 1980	
	3	Legal Services Center for Immigrants, 1980	
	4	Migrant Program and Reimbursement, 1978-1979	
<u>ADDENDUM</u>			
8	1	Agreements with the City of DeKalb, DeKalb County Migrant Ministry, 1974-1977	
	2	Annual Report, 1973-1981	
	3	Application for Funding, 1971-1978	
	4	Articles of Dissolution, DeKalb County Migrant Ministry, June 30, 1981	
	5	Certificate of Change of Registered Agent and Registered Office, June 4, 1976	
	6	Certificate of Incorporation, DeKalb County Migrant Ministry, May 6, 1965	
	7	Constitution, DeKalb County Migrant Ministry, January 1, 1970	
	8	Events, 1967-1976	
	9	Financial Records, 1970-1979	
	10	Fiscal Reports, 1974-1978	
	11	Health Department Records, 1970-1976	
	12	Memberships and Services, 1966-1977	
	13	Proposals, 1968-1978	
	14	Proposed Constitution, Illinois Migrant and Seasonal Farm Worker Ministry, May 11, 1972	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	7
8	15	Meetings, 1968-1978	
9	1	The Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C) Newsletter, October 1975	
	2	Day Care and Child Development Reports, March 1974-December 1975	
	3	El Migrante Newsletter, Illinois Migrant Council, April-August 1975	
	4	Illinois Farm Worker Ministry Newsletter, 1974	
	5	National Farm Worker Ministry Newsletter, December 1974-Summer 1975	
	6	Newspaper Clippings, 1970-1972	
	7	Correspondence, 1967-1981	
	8	Miscellaneous, 1972-1976	
	9-10	Ledger Books, 1970- 1976, 1974-1978	