



## **Pearl Street Neighborhood House Collection**

**COLLECTION, M-91**

**DATE**

1917 – 1971

1992 – 2002

**CONTRIBUTOR**

Mattatuck Museum

**ADMINISTRATIVE/BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY ELEMENT**

In 1923 a group of people met at Miss Alice Kingsbury's home on Prospect Street to discuss a report on the Waterbury African American population compiled by Charles Johnson. As a result of this study, an Interdenominational committee and Board of Directors made up of both African American and White members of the community, planned a recreation program. The program was first located at 81 Pearl Street.

In January of 1927, a new building donated by Alice Kingsbury was formerly dedicated to "to a work for the social and moral welfare of the colored people of Waterbury and their friends." The Neighborhood house activated their community members into volunteering; fought for better housing, employment, and education; and created a safe space for African American community events, meetings, and entertainment. The Neighborhood House also served recent immigrants with a place to stay while getting on their feet.

The information in this section can be found in the Administrative Folder 15.

**SCOPE & CONTENT**

The Pearl Street Neighborhood House Collection contains photocopies and original documents about the founding and activities of the Pearl Street Neighborhood House from the 1920s through the 1970s. There is one folder from the 1990s that details projects that embrace the legacy of the neighborhood House. The collection contains newspaper clippings, photocopies of correspondence, programs, articles of incorporation, and photographs. The collection is arranged per original order. The collection also starts at Folder 15 because it is housed with 2 other collections.

**RELATED PEOPLE/INSTITUTIONS**

Mattatuck Historical Society (created by)