Finding Aid to the Mothers' Milk Bank, Inc. Records, 1945-1979MS 3532

Finding aid prepared by California Historical Society staff; revised by Tanya Hollis.
California Historical Society
678 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA, 94105
415-357-1848
reference@calhist.org
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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Mothers' Milk Bank, Inc. records
Date (inclusive): 1945-1978
Collection Number: MS 3532
Creator: Mothers’ Milk Bank, Inc. (San Francisco, Calif.).
Creator: Auxiliary Mothers’ Milk Bank. (San Francisco, Calif.).
Extent: 3 cartons, 1 box, 1 oversize box, 1 scrapbook (4.0 Linear feet)
Repository: California Historical Society
678 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA, 94105
415-357-1848
reference@calhist.org
URL: http://www.californiahistoricalsociety.org/

Physical Location: Collection is stored onsite.

Language of Materials: Collection materials are in English.

Abstract: Contains administrative records, including correspondence, minutes, and reports of the Board of Directors; financial records, including statements, treasurers' reports, invoices, and bills; fundraising records, consisting of correspondence with foundations and individual donors, foundation proposals, and material relating to special events; and program records, consisting of correspondence with donors and parents of recipient babies, physicians, and other milk banks. Of particular interest are nurses' statistical and narrative reports, and information and statistics concerning donors and recipients. Also includes articles on breast feeding research, newspaper clippings, and a scrapbook with additional clippings, photographs, and other materials. Includes early correspondence from the Baby Hygiene Committee pertaining to the establishment of the milk bank; records of Auxiliary Mothers’ Milk Bank, a fundraising group that provided volunteer support services; and material on Children's Hospital, where the milk bank was housed for many years.

Access
Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Mother's Milk Bank, Inc. Records, MS 3532. California Historical Society.

Separated Materials
Photographs shelved as MSP 3532.

Related Archival Materials
Baby Hygiene Committee Records, 1909-1964 (bulk 1909-1958), MS 51

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Children's Hospital of San Francisco.
Infant health services--California--San Francisco.
Infants--Nutrition.
Maternal and infant welfare--California--San Francisco.
Women in charitable work--California--San Francisco.
Scrapbooks.

National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC) Number
NUCMC 82-435

Accruals
No additions are expected.

Processing Information
Processed by California Historical Society staff.

Organizational History
Dedicating themselves to the study of, action on and solution of educational and social problems of communities, the San Francisco branch of the American Association of University Women has enjoyed a long history of committed social action. In May of 1909, a group of women from the AAUW formed the Certified Milk Fund Committee in order to raise a fund for providing certified milk for the babies of San Francisco’s poor. Aided by local dairies, the committee successfully reduced infant mortality through their city wide drive for uncontaminated milk. In addition to supplying the milk, the Milk Fund Committee offered instruction in the care and feeding of foster babies.

They expanded their program in 1917 with the founding of the Children’s Health Center. Functioning as an educational center for all mothers, the center provided care for infants, foster children and the older run about stage of growth. In the spirit of initiating projects in the interest of child health, the committee then developed programs for prenatal and postnatal care for mothers; classes and conferences; and, examinations and vaccination clinics. Concerned about family planning, they established the Maternal Health Committee in 1929 to offer instruction in birth control.

In 1918 the Committee changed its name to the Baby Hygiene Committee. Among their programs later adopted by the San Francisco Department of Health were the Well Baby Centers; Supervision of Private Boarding Homes for Infants and Children; Cardiac Diagnostic Center for Children; and, Hospital Based Postnatal care for mothers.

When the Baby Health Center closed its doors in 1945, the women of the Baby Hygiene Committee were eager to continue serving the health care needs of women and children. After much discussion and planning, they decided on a Mother’s Milk Bank. They incorporated under a separate organization but the center was run by the members of the AAUW. The Mother’s Milk Bank began service in June of 1948.

With a medical advisory board, ample nursing assistance and a core of volunteers, the Milk Bank opened its doors to the community. Situated in Children’s Hospital, the Milk Bank served three primary services: 1) provided milk for premature and sick infants 2) sponsored research conducted with mother’s milk 3) demonstrated techniques for child care. These varied services were offered free of charge.

Scope and Contents
The Mother’s Milk Bank, Inc. Records consist of over thirty years of correspondence, minutes, reports, financial records, printed materials and newspaper clippings, documenting the community service of one of San Francisco’s best known civic organizations. Included is the history of the organization, programs and various membership lists. The collection contains extensive correspondence between committee members and potential donors and participating doctors.

The collection also contains records of the Mother’s Milk Bank Auxiliary, the volunteer organization which assisted the American Association of University Women (AAUW), San Francisco branch. The Auxiliary traces the efforts at fundraising and membership drives. Extensive Nurse’s Reports offer detailed records of the infants involved with the program and the success and failure rates of their treatments.

The Collection provides an excellent opportunity to explore the history and development of the Mother’s Milk Bank, Inc. and of particular interest and use to those concerned with social history, particularly the history of women following the second European war. Through the collection materials, researchers can follow the change in attitudes regarding the relationship of women, children, motherhood and family.

| Box 1, Folder 1 | History of the Organization |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Planning Documents |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | By-Laws |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Board of Directors |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Correspondence 1951-1970 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Minutes 1950-1953, 1957-1958 |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Minutes 1971-1977 |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Membership Committee 1948-1973 |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Nominating Committee 1950-1973 |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Committee Reports 1957-1976 |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Correspondence |
| | General 1958-1973 |
| | Donor 1947-1970 |
Box 1, Folder 12: Physician 1947-1971
Box 1, Folder 13: Other Milk Banks 1947-1968
Box 1, Folder 14: Annual Meetings 1954, 1968-1973
Box 1, Folder 15: Reports 1948-1970
Box 1, Folder 16: Public Relations 1945-1970
Box 1, Folder 17: Fundraising General 1943-1972
Box 1, Folder 18: Contributions 1958-1959
Box 1, Folder 19: Foundations 1967-1970
Box 1, Folder 20: San Francisco Foundations 1968-1969
Box 1, Folder 21: Fundraising Events 1969-1970
Box 1, Folder 22-23: Membership Forms 1947-1970
Box 1, Folder 24: Milk Collection 1948
Box 1, Folder 25: Donor Applications 1948-1977
Box 1, Folder 26: Donor Mothers 1948-1977
Box 1, Folder 27: Donor Instructions
Box 1, Folder 28: Lists of infants receiving milk 1948-1977
Box 1, Folder 29-32: Nurse’s Reports Monthly Statistical Reports 1948-1977
Box 1, Folder 33: Supplementary Reports 1948-1960, 1967-1968
Box 1, Folder 34: Quarterly Reports 1948-1962
Box 1, Folder 35: Annual Reports 1948-1967, 1974-1977
Box 1, Folder 36: Mother’s Milk Bank Auxiliary History and Function
Box 1, Folder 37: Correspondence 1950-1952
Box 1, Folder 38: Minutes 1966
Box 1, Folder 39-41: Fundraising 1946-1952, 1956-1966
Box 1, Folder 42: Membership 1950-1967
Box 1, Folder 43: Announcements 1956-1967
Box 1, Folder 44: Auxiliary Newsletters 1961-1962
Box 1, Folder 45: Auxiliary Study 1973
Box 1, Folder 46: Guest Lists 1952-1965
Box 1, Folder 47: Anniversary Celebrations 1949-1963
Box 1, Folder 48: Ceremonies 1966
Box 1, Folder 49: Conference Notes 1954-1958
Box 1, Folder 50: Survey 1968
Box 1, Folder 51: Miscellaneous Notes
Box 1, Folder 52: AAUW printed materials
Box 1, Folder 53-54: Treasurer’s Reports 1947-1972
Box 1, Folder 69: IRS Report 1972
Box 1, Folder 70: Printed Articles Breast Feeding
Box 1, Folder 71: Donor Research
Box 1, Folder 72: Breast Feeding
Box 1, Folder 73: Hilda Thelander, M.D.
Box 1, Folder 74: Malformation
Box 1, Folder 75: Childcare
Box 1, Folder 76-78: Newspaper clippings 1950s-1970s