Language of Material: English

Contributing Institution: SJSU Special Collections & Archives

Title: Florene Stewart Poyadue Papers

Identifier/Call Number: MSS.2006.10.18

Physical Description: 9 boxes 19.5 linear feet

Date (inclusive): 1967-2005

Date (bulk): 1985-2001

Abstract: Shortly after her fourth child was diagnosed with Down's syndrome, Florene Stewart Poyadue became involved with Parents Helping Parents (PHP), a Santa Clara Valley based local support network for parents of disabled children. Under her direction, Poyadue transformed PHP from a small local support group to a prototype for parent resource networks. Items in this collection document Poyadue's unwavering commitment to PHP, and highlight how her vision and work impacted the lives of countless families and child health resource providers. Under Poyadue's leadership, PHP became a United Way agency in 1985, and was recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 1990 as the model for parent-to-parent resource centers across the nation.

Language of Material: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

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Preferred Citation

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Biographical History

Florene Stewart Poyadue was born in 1934, one of 12 children who were raised in a three bedroom house in Lovejoy, Illinois. Immediately following high school, she earned a nursing degree from St. Mary's Infirmary School of Nursing in St. Louis, Missouri. Around the same time she married Octave Poyadue and started a family. For nearly twenty years Poyadue worked as a nurse in several different cities, moving as Octave's military career necessitated. The family finally settled in the Bay Area after Octave retired from the military. In 1975, Poyadue earned a Bachelor of Vocational Education degree from San Jose State University.

Prior to graduation, Poyadue gave birth to their fourth son Dean, who was diagnosed with Down's syndrome. The only advice that doctors and hospital staff gave her regarding her son's diagnosis was to "take him home and love him." Frustrated with the lack of support and information available about her son's condition, she reached out to other parents. Poyadue soon after, joined forces with Elayne Bagwe and Gita Dedek, who had recently started a parent resource group called Parents Helping Parents (PHP). Soon after joining them, Poyadue convinced Bagwe and Dedek that she could take the organization further, and she became the acting director, a position she held until retirement in 1998.

From the moment Poyadue took charge of PHP in 1976, the organization flourished. She left her job to work with PHP full-time and immediately incorporated the organization as a non-profit and wrote its bylaws. In 1979, Georgette Strohm joined PHP as assistant director, and together they expanded the organization's focus from support group to full-service family resource center with an annual symposium, a library, and regular workshops for doctors and family members. Throughout her years with PHP, Poyadue authored several publications and partnered with several health-care providers including Kaiser Permanente.

Poyadue went on to earn a master's degree in Marriage/Family/Child Counseling from Santa Clara University in 1983. In 1985, PHP was asked to become a United Way Agency, and in 1987 Poyadue accepted the Senator Lloyd Bentsen Award at a conference of the U.S. Surgeon General in Washington, D.C. In 1991 the U.S. Department of Health designated PHP as a national center on parent-direct resources. In 1993 Santa Clara University awarded her an honorary doctorate and invited her to address the graduating class.

In 1998, Poyadue retired from PHP, with over 20 years of dedicated service. During her tenure with PHP, Poyadue was honored by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and the Diocese of San Jose. The city of Houston proclaimed June 14, 1987 "Florene Stewart Poyadue Day" and in 1990 she received the Family Achievement Award from the Joseph P.
Kennedy Jr. Foundation and the Women of Achievement Award from the San Jose Mercury News and the Women's Fund. Between 2005 and 2006, PHP provided over 23,000 direct services to children, families and the professionals serving them, over 3,000 attended PHP parent education sessions and/or support events, and over 12,000 individuals attended parent education, information and outreach sessions. Florene Stewart Poyadue's work with PHP remains a national model for family resource centers for children with special needs, and the organization's continued success is a testament to her years of service.

Scope and Content of Collection
The Florene Stewart Poyadue Papers consist of administrative files, publicity and outreach material, photographs, and audiovisual material created by Poyadue and Parents Helping Parents (PHP) during her tenure with the organization. Poyadue’s work with PHP transformed the organization from a small local support group to a national and international prototype for parent resource networks. Items in this collection document her contributions to PHP, and highlight how her vision and work impacted the lives of so many. Under Poyadue, PHP became a United Way agency in 1985, and was recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 1990 as the model for parent to parent resource centers across the nation.

Arrangement
The Florene Stewart Poyadue Papers are organized into four series: Series I. Administrative Files, Series II. Audiovisual Material, Series III. Publicity & Outreach Material, and Series IV. Personal Material.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Parents of children with disabilities-Services for
Parents of children with disabilities-Social networks
Poyadue, Florene Stewart

Series I. Administrative Files 1967-2003
Physical Description: 2 boxes
Series Scope and Content Summary
This series is comprised of administrative files that include correspondence, financial records, legislative files, as well as several organizational manuals. Much of this series consists of files related to numerous grants that Parents Helping Parents (PHP) applied for and received under Poyadue’s leadership. These grants allowed PHP to broaden their focus and form partnerships with other healthcare organizations, such as Kaiser Permanente. This series also contains legislative material, primarily testimony given by Poyadue, which documents the commitment of PHP to improving conditions for the disabled and their families and care providers.
Arrangement
Files in this series are arranged alphabetically by format.

Box 1, Folder 1  Agendas circa 1984-1997
Box 1, Folder 2  Annual Reports 1991-1997
Box 1, Folder 3  Biographical Material 1990-1994
Box 1, Folder 4  Board Related Items circa 1990-1995
Box 1, Folder 5  Budgets/Financials circa 1990s
Box 1, Folder 6  Bylaws 1992-1998
Box 1, Folder 7  Charts Diagrams circa 1989-1993
Box 1, Folder 8  Community Associates Board circa 1989-1993
Box 1, Folder 9  Multicultural Committee undated
Box 1, Folder 10  Correspondence 1967-1989
Box 1, Folder 11  Correspondence 1990-1995
Box 1, Folder 12  Correspondence 1996-2003
Box 1, Folder 13  Correspondence (1 of 2) undated
Box 1, Folder 14  Correspondence (2 of 2) undated
Box 1, Folder 15  Forms circa 1994
Box 1, Folder 16  Fundraising circa 1994
Box 1, Folder 17  Grant Paperwork circa 1990s
Box 1, Folder 18  Grant: National Center on Parent-Directed Family Resource Centers - Continuation Application (1 of 2) 1991
Box 1, Folder 19  Grant: National Center on Parent-Directed Family Resource Centers - Continuation Application (2 of 2) 1992
Box 1, Folder 20  Grant: Parent Training Information - Continuation Application, Copy 1 1992
Box 1, Folder 21  Grant: Parent Training Information - Continuation Application, Copy 2 1992
Box 1, Folder 22  Grant: Developing Family/Professional Collaboration and Parent-Directed Family Resource Centers 1993
Box 1, Folder 23  Grant: Managed Care Health Plans - Introducing Family-Centered Care 1994
Box 1, Folder 24  Grant: National Center on Parent-Directed Family Resource Centers - Final Report (1 of 2) 1995
Box 1, Folder 25  Grant: National Center on Parent-Directed Family Resource Centers - Final Report (2 of 2) 1995
Box 1, Folder 26  Grant: Managed Care Health: Introducing Family-Centered Care - Continuation Application 1996
Box 1, Folder 27  Grant: Managed Care Health: Introducing Family-Centered Care - Continuation Application 1998
Box 1, Folder 28  Grant: Managed Care Health: Introducing Family-Centered Care - Financial Status Report 1995
Box 2, Folder 29  Grant Related: Kaiser Permanente (1 of 5) circa 1994-1998
Box 2, Folder 30  Grant Related: Kaiser Permanente (2 of 5) circa 1994-1998
Box 2, Folder 31  Grant Related: Kaiser Permanente (3 of 5) circa 1994-1998
Box 2, Folder 32  Grant Related: Kaiser Permanente (4 of 5) circa 1994-1998
Box 2, Folder 33  Grant Related: Kaiser Permanente (5 of 5) circa 1994-1998
Box 2, Folder 34  Legislative Material: Families with Disabled Children 1985-1990
Box 2, Folder 35  Legislative Material: Amendment to the Education of the Handicapped Act after 1988
Box 2, Folder 36  Legislative Material: Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Board circa 1989
Box 2, Folder 37  Legislative Material: Family Empowerment Centers (1 of 2) circa 2000-2001
Box 2, Folder 38  Legislative Material: Family Empowerment Centers (2 of 2) circa 2000-2001
Box 2, Folder 39  Mailing Labels undated
Box 2, Folder 40  Merger Files 1994
Box 2, Folder 41  Notes undated
Box 2, Folder 42  Manuals: Admin. Finance circa 1996
Box 2, Folder 43  Manuals: Board Building 1991
Box 2, Folder 44  Manuals: Board Member 1997
Box 2, Folder 45  Manuals: Employee circa 1990
Box 2, Folder 46  Manuals: Employee circa 1994
Box 2, Folder 47  Policy 1994
Box 2, Folder 48  Planning Documents circa 1989
Box 2, Folder 49  Planning Documents 1997
Box 2, Folder 50  Planning Documents undated
Box 2, Folder 51  Real Estate Files undated
Box 2, Folder 52  Schedules and Calendars 1994
Box 2, Folder 53  Telephone Messages undated

Series II. Audiovisual Material circa 1980s-2005

Physical Description: 4 boxes

Series Scope and Content Summary

Files in this series are arranged alphabetically by format. The photographs in this series provide visual documentation of the organizational evolution and activities of Parents Helping Parents (PHP). Included are photographs of Poyadue's first PHP "office" which was located in a closet in her home, as well as large scale community fundraising and networking events that PHP later went on to host. Also included are audio and video cassettes consisting of speeches from workshops and conferences, recordings from many of Poyadue's public appearances, and television news reports about PHP activities.

Box 2, Folder 54  Photographs (1 of 20) undated
Box 2, Folder 55  Photographs (2 of 20) undated
Box 2, Folder 56  Photographs (3 of 20) undated
Box 2, Folder 57  Photographs (4 of 20) undated
Box 2, Folder 58  Photographs (5 of 20) undated
Box 2, Folder 59  Photographs (6 of 20) undated
Box 2, Folder 60  Photographs (7 of 20) undated
Box 2, Folder 61  Photographs (8 of 20) undated
Box 2, Folder 62  Photographs (9 of 20) undated
Box 2, Folder 63  Photographs (10 of 20) undated
Box 2, Folder 64  Photographs (11 of 20) undated
Box 2, Folder 65  Photographs (12 of 20) undated
Box 2, Folder 66  Photographs (13 of 20) undated
Box 2, Folder 67  Photographs (14 of 20) undated
Box 2, Folder 68  Photographs (15 of 20) undated
Box 2, Folder 69  Photographs (16 of 20) undated
Box 2, Folder 70  Photographs (17 of 20) undated
Box 2, Folder 71  Photographs (18 of 20) undated
Box 2, Folder 72  Photographs (19 of 20) undated
Box 2, Folder 73  Photographs (20 of 20) undated
Box 3  Photograph Album: Memories of Florene Stewart Poyadue 1994
Box 3  Photograph Album: Tribute to Florene Stewart Poyadue 1998
Box 4  Audio Cassette Tapes circa 1989-1996
Box 5  Audio and Video Recordings (CD, DVD, VHS) circa 1993-2005

Series III. Publicity and Outreach Material circa 1970-2003

Physical Description: 8 boxes

Series Scope and Content Summary
Files in this series are arranged alphabetically by format. The series documents Poyadue's considerable efforts towards furthering awareness about parent support networks in the Santa Clara Valley and beyond. Under her direction, Parents Helping Parents (PHP) authored several publications aimed at providing parents with authoritative information about their children's disabilities as well as specialized local resources. Her never ending outreach efforts on behalf of PHP, including motivational speeches given at conferences around the nation, were recognized by countless organizations, and eventually the White House as part of the 1000 Points of Light program. Poyadue also received the Senator Lloyd Bentsen Award at the Surgeon General Conference in 1987.

Box 6  Awards (Three-dimensional) 1980-1994
Box 7  Awards (Three-dimensional) 1985-1997
Box 8  Awards (Three-dimensional) 1990-2000
Box 9  Awards (Three-dimensional) 1994-2001
Box 10, Folder 74  Awards (Certificates) circa 1980-2003
Box 10, Folder 75  Awards (Certificates) undated
Box 10, Folder 76  Clippings circa 1976-2001
Box 10, Folder 78  Conference Material: Badges 1990-1996
Box 10, Folder 80  Conference Material: The Keys to Creating, Managing and Maintaining a Family Resource Center or Other Non-Profit Agency 1996
Box 10, Folder 81  Conference Material: WrapAround 1996
Box 10, Folder 82  Conference Material: Walking in Each Other's Shoes 2000
Box 10, Folder 83  Conference Material: Managing Change 2001
Box 10, Folder 84  Conference Material: Miscellaneous undated
Box 10, Folder 85  Guestbook 1998
Box 10, Folder 86  Newsletters: Non-PHP 1978-2001
Box 10, Folder 87  Newsletters: PHP 1979-1985
Box 10, Folder 88  Newsletters: PHP 1986, 1990
Box 11, Folder 124
Publications: Caring for Children and Families: Guidelines for Hospitals (Bound Book) 1992

Box 11, Folder 125
Publications: Day Care for Children with Special Needs 1993

Box 11, Folder 126
Publications: The Acronymary after 1994

Box 11, Folder 127

Box 11, Folder 128

Box 11, Folder 129
Publications: Caring for Children with Special Needs 1995

Box 11, Folder 130
Publications: Better Ways of Breaking Diagnostic News (1 of 2) 1996

Box 11, Folder 131
Publications: Better Ways of Breaking Diagnostic News (2 of 2) 1996

Box 11, Folder 132
Publications: The Keys to Creating, Managing and Maintaining a Family Resource Center or Other Non-Profit Agency (1 of 4) 1997

Box 11, Folder 133
Publications: The Keys to Creating, Managing and Maintaining a Family Resource Center or Other Non-Profit Agency (2 of 4) 1997

Box 11, Folder 134
Publications: The Keys to Creating, Managing and Maintaining a Family Resource Center or Other Non-Profit Agency (3 of 4) 1997

Box 11, Folder 135
Publications: The Keys to Creating, Managing and Maintaining a Family Resource Center or Other Non-Profit Agency (4 of 4) 1997

Box 11, Folder 136
Publications: The Parent to Parent Handbook (1 of 2) undated

Box 11, Folder 137
Publications: The Parent to Parent Handbook (2 of 2) undated

Box 11, Folder 138
Publications: Parents Activating Family-Centered Care (1 of 3) undated

Box 11, Folder 139
Publications: Parents Activating Family-Centered Care (2 of 3) undated

Box 11, Folder 140
Publications: Parents Activating Family-Centered Care (3 of 3) undated

Box 11, Folder 141
Speeches: Cause-Related Solutions 1975

Box 11, Folder 142
Speeches: ECE Meeting 1979

Box 11, Folder 143
Speeches: CANHC 1979
| Box 12, Folder 153 | Speeches: Attitudes of Professionals Re: Treatment and Care of the Handicapped 1980  |
| Box 12, Folder 154 | Speeches: The Black (American) Experience 1980 |
| Box 12, Folder 155 | Speeches: Respecting Life 1981 |
| Box 12, Folder 156 | Speeches: School Psychologist 1983 |
| Box 12, Folder 157 | Speeches: Mother's Day Sermons 1983-1990 |
| Box 12, Folder 158 | Speeches: Surgeon General's Conference 1984 |
| Box 12, Folder 159 | Speeches: Small Groups 1984 |
| Box 12, Folder 160 | Speeches: Letting Go and Holding On circa 1985 |
| Box 12, Folder 161 | Speeches: To Kiwanis of Palo Alto 1985 |
| Box 12, Folder 162 | Speeches: Siblings Lecture 1986 |
| Box 12, Folder 163 | Speeches: Assessment 1987 |
| Box 12, Folder 164 | Speeches: CUE to Bridging the Gap 1987 |
| Box 12, Folder 165 | Speeches: Traumatic Injury Conference - Keynote 1987 |
| Box 12, Folder 166 | Speeches: Parental Empowerment and Advocacy 1987 |
| Box 12, Folder 167 | Speeches: What is Helping? 1987 |
| Box 12, Folder 168 | Speeches: Lloyd Bentsen Award Recipient Speech 1987 |
| Box 12, Folder 169 | Speeches: Second Annual Governor's Conference on Coordination of Services for Chronically Impaired Children and Their Families (CIC) 1987 |
| Box 12, Folder 170 | Speeches: Empowering Parents 1988 |
| Box 12, Folder 171 | Speeches: Address to James Lick High School National Honor Society 1988 |
| Box 12, Folder 172 | Speeches: Parent Training and Stress Management 1988 |
| Box 12, Folder 173 | Speeches: Advocacy Grassroots Connection 1989 |
| Box 12, Folder 174 | Speeches: Grief 1989 |
| Box 12, Folder 175 | Speeches: Fiscal Problems after 1989 |
| Box 12, Folder 176 | Speeches: Parents Helping Parents-What it is and a Whole Lot More! 1990 |
| Box 12, Folder 177 | Speeches: Making a Difference for the Child at Risk 1990 |
| Box 12, Folder 178 | Speeches: Cognitive Coping at PHP 1991 |
| Box 12, Folder 179 | Speeches: St. Mary’s Infirmary Reunion - Keynote 1992 |
| Box 12, Folder 180 | Speeches: Serving the Diverse Needs of Families 1992 |
| Box 12, Folder 181 | Speeches: Powerful You 1992 |
Box 12, Folder 182
Speeches: Transition Collaboration 1993
Speeches: Family Impact 1993
Speeches: If I Had Time 1993
Speeches: Cultural Competence and Our Commonality On Being Human 1994
Speeches: Community Partnerships 1995
Speeches: Great Expectations Revisited 1995
Speeches: Weaving Words of Wisdom and Wellness for Our Diverse Times 1996
Speeches: Parent Networks 1996
Speeches: Advocating Successfully Being Active Politically 1997
Speeches: Can We Talk? 2000
Speeches: Child At Risk undated
Speeches: Collaboration Defined Mathematically undated
Speeches: Developing Guidelines for Placing Handicapped Students in Health Careers undated
Speeches: Eulogy for Georgette Strohm undated
Speeches: Families in Focus undated
Speeches: Top 10 Points for Saving Caregivers undated
Speeches: Pro Speech undated
Speeches: Power to Endure undated
Speeches: Off the Stress Scale undated
Speeches: On Common Ground undated
Speeches: Visiting Parents Program undated
Speeches: Mother’s Day undated
Speeches: Mainstreaming undated
Speeches: Integrating Dean undated
Speeches: How PHP Helps undated
Speeches: I Dare You undated
Speeches: I Respect You, But... undated
Speeches: God is Important undated
Speeches: Get A Life undated
Series III. Publicity and Outreach Material circa 1970-2003

Box 13, Folder 211
- Speeches: Flo's Philosophy undated
- Speeches: History of Family-Centered Care undated
- Speeches: Untitled undated

Box 13, Folder 214
- Training Material: Nursing Assistant and Home Health Aide 1970-1980

Box 13, Folder 215
- Training Material: A Course of Instruction for Residential Care Home Operators circa 1973
- Training Material: Conference Encounters Technique 1977

Box 13, Folder 216
- Training Material: Guidelines for Welcome Chariot 1983

Box 13, Folder 217
- Training Material: Miscellaneous undated

Box 13, Folder 218
- Training Material: Transparencies undated

Box 13, Folder 219

Box 13, Folder 220
- Workshop Materials: Our Time Together On Inclusion And Building Community undated
- Workshop Materials: Burnout Prevention Workshop undated

Box 13, Folder 221
- Workshop Materials: Collaboration Workshop undated

Box 13, Folder 222
- Workshop Materials: Miscellaneous undated

Box 13, Folder 223
- Writings circa 1980-1990

Series IV. Personal Material circa 1971-1996

Physical Description: 1 Box

Files in this series are arranged alphabetically by format. This bulk of this series documents Poyadue's personal life and activities prior to her involvement with Parents Helping Parents (PHP). This series contains many of Poyadue's academic records from nursing school, and Santa Clara University, where she earned her master's degree in Marriage/Family/Child Counseling in 1983. Also included in this series is Poyadue's private correspondence and scripts from a television show that she hosted from 1975-1976.

Box 13, Folder 226
- Clippings 1971-1989

Box 13, Folder 227
- Correspondence 1971-1975

Box 13, Folder 228
- Education Related: Nursing Program 1971-1975

Box 13, Folder 229
- Education Related: Santa Clara University 1981-1996

Box 13, Folder 230
- Printed Material (Ephemera) undated

Box 13, Folder 231
- Television Show Scripts 1975-1976

Box 13, Folder 232
- Training Material: Nursing Assistants and Home Health Aides 1971-1975

Box 13, Folder 233
- Training Material: Palo Alto Unified School District Source and Work Book for Nursing Assistants and Home Health Aides (1 of 3) undated
| Box 13,                      | Training Material: Palo Alto Unified School District Source and Work Book for Nursing Assistants and Home Health Aides (2 of 3) undated |
| Box 13, Folder 234          | Training Material: Palo Alto Unified School District Source and Work Book for Nursing Assistants and Home Health Aides (3 of 3) undated |