Finding aid for the El Nido Services and Lodges records

Collection number: 0409
Contributing Institution: USC Libraries Special Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 2.5 Linear feet2 boxes
Date (inclusive): 1932-1986 (bulk 1970s-1980s)

Abstract: The El Nido Services and Lodges records cover the practical details of El Nido's operations, 1930-1980, documenting its real estate management, zoning battles, tax questions, insurance and "disaster preparedness" provisions, and occasional personnel problems of this social service agency. Originally a project of the Los Angeles Section of the National Council of Jewish Women, the Section established a Children's Bureau in Los Angeles in 1925, and three years later built a camp for underprivileged and "pre-tubercular" girls in Laurel Canyon. Control of El Nido eventually passed to the Council of Jewish Women of Los Angeles, Inc., and during the 1970s, with the increasing diversity of Los Angeles' communities, control of El Nido passed from the Section to a new Board of Directors. By 1981, the El Nido organization that these records document no longer existed; it became known, in 1981, as Children, Youth and Parent Counseling.

creator: El Nido Services (Los Angeles, Calif.).

Acquisition
El Nido Family Centers.

Scope and Content
The El Nido Services and Lodges records, 1930 to 1980, consist of administrative records, blueprints, ephemera and photographs, that document the day to day activities of this social service organization. The records cover the practical details of El Nido's operations in all phases of its existence during this period. Documented are its real estate management, zoning battles, tax questions, insurance and "disaster preparedness" provisions, and occasional personnel problems.

Administrative history
El Nido was originally a project of the Los Angeles Section of the National Council of Jewish Women. This group established a Children's Bureau in Los Angeles in 1925, and three years later built a camp/residential center for underprivileged and "pe-tubercular" girls in Laurel Canyon. From 1933 until the early 1940s, the residential center served girls living in the Los Angeles area who had behavioral problems, or who required health service for such problems as tuberculosis or eating disorders, and who were in need of "special vocational guidance." At some point thereafter, operation of the Children's Bureau passed to the Council of Jewish Women of Los Angeles, Inc. This California corporation, with identical membership to the Los Angeles Section of the National Council of Jewish Women, may have been organized as a parallel agency to facilitate local fund raising and participation in the Los Angeles Community Chest.

During World War II and its aftermath the Los Angeles Jewish Women's Council was particularly concerned with the welfare of emigres from Nazi oppression in Europe. The Children's Bureau Agency used the Laurel Canyon center as a temporary Jewish refugee center for children going into the American foster care system and for young immigrant single mothers or widows with young children adapting to the United States as their new home. Working with the National Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and the Los Angeles Emigre Service, the Agency created and ran "Americanization and Naturalization programs" on behalf of their foreign clients.

In 1954, the Council's articles of incorporation stated its purpose "to sponsor a social agency carrying on a program of social service in the fields of child guidance, service to the foreign born, and such other social service programs as the Los Angeles Section of the National Council of Jewish Women shall agree upon." By the mid 1950s most Jewish refugees bound for Los Angeles had arrived and been given full assistance by the Council, and the agency's attention began to focus exclusively on disadvantaged adolescent girls. During the 1960s and 1970s, due to the rapidly increasing ethnic diversity of Los Angeles communities, the Children's Bureau Agency began servicing disadvantaged adolescent girls, some with a history of violence, many of whom were wards of the local Court System, with residential therapy and counseling services. Their problems ranged from such school difficulties as truancy, to criminal activities such as prostitution, gang membership, and substance abuse. In addition, the purposes of the Los Angeles Council of Jewish Women began to diverge from those of its originator, the National Council of Jewish Women. El Nido had always been non-sectarian in its staffing and service policies, but in the 1970s the rapidly increasing ethnic diversity of the communities in which it operated created a need for an ethnically and culturally diverse board of directors rather than with one with membership drawn solely from the Los Angeles Section of the National Council of Jewish Women. The complicated split between "the Section" and El Nido, finalized in 1978, freed the agency from sectarian obligation, but also left it without the financial support and sponsorship of the National Council of Jewish Women.
In the mid-1970s El Nido Services owned and operated three residential lodges for troubled teenage girls, and also started an outreach program of preventative counseling for at-risk youth in Los Angeles school districts. However, in 1980, El Nido Services lost the lease of its largest residential building, making operation of its smaller units economically impossible. Building on the outreach program in the Los Angeles school district, the board members of the Agency reorganized their operations in 1981 to provide a variety of counseling services from newly established outpost offices to fifteen Los Angeles communities under a new name: Children, Youth and Parent Counseling. The goals of the counseling program were threefold. They centered on preventive intervention: to avert future emotional problems of children of divorced parents; to support the completion of school and provide job placement skills for teen-agers who became parents; and to provide alternative activities for young adults at high risk for becoming involved in criminal activities.

These agency records, which cover the most mundane practical details of El Nido's operations, documenting its real estate management, zoning battles, tax questions, insurance and "disaster preparedness" provisions, and occasional personnel problems, reflect also the difficulties confronting an agency in the late 1970s that found itself providing outmoded services to a radically changed client population. As El Nido negotiated to free itself from close association with the Section, it also re-evaluated its program and its ability to manage, as an open institution, the increasingly violent and seriously delinquent girls referred to it by county probation departments. The loss if its largest facility in 1980 provided an opportunity for El Nido to reassess its organization. By then welfare policy makers, and some legislators, had begun to promote family preservation in virtually all circumstances, and to disfavor social services provided to adolescents separated from their families in residential facilities. That the El Nido board of directors was deeply engaged in the debate is evident from legislative material collected here, and from its correspondence, particularly with the California Association of Children's Residential Centers which was leading an advocacy campaign in the legislature for maintenance of residential services.

In 1981, after the inevitable closure of the residential facilities which had been the setting for El Nido's operation for decades, the agency turned to the business of fund raising, promotion, and development of outpost offices where it would provide a variety of social services in fifteen Los Angeles communities under a new name--Children, Youth & Parent Counseling.

**Conditions Governing Use**

The use of archival materials for on-site research does not constitute permission from the California Social Welfare Archives to publish them. Copyright has not been assigned to the California Social Welfare Archives, and the researcher is instructed to obtain permission to quote from or publish manuscripts in the CSWA's collections from the copyright holder.

**Conditions Governing Access**

Advance notice required for access.

**Preferred Citation**

[Box/folder# or item name], El Nido Services and Lodges records, Collection no. 0409, California Social Welfare Archives, Special Collections, USC Libraries, University of Southern California

**Organization**

There are ten series within the collection, and no sub-series. The largest series consist of minutes from annual meetings and committee work of the Agencies board of directors. The creators grouped these records according to subject, and within each folder they are, for the most part, arranged chronologically. For maximum accessibility, this finding aid lists the series alphabetically by name. However, since the original order for these records was maintained, the series appear in the boxes in the following order: By-laws; Tax Status; Property Management; Budget; Board of Directors; Public Relations; Correspondence; Programs; Fundraising; and Publications.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

California Association of Children's Residential Centers, Inc. -- Correspondence
El Nido Services (Los Angeles, Calif.). -- Archives
National Council of Jewish Women. Los Angeles Section. -- Archives
Blueprints
Brochures
Child welfare--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources
Clippings
Correspondence
Family services--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources
Financial records
Legal documents
Los Angeles (Calif.)--Social conditions--Archival resources
Maps
Press releases
Reports
Scripts
Social service--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources
Social work administration--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources
Social work with immigrants--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources
Social work with teenagers--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources
Youth--Services for--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources

By-laws 1954-1979

Scope and Content
This series contains the Agency's by-laws from the 1950s through the 1970s. There are numerous drafts of by-law amendments with hand-written notes on the margins of the drafts or on memos attached to the drafts. It seems this folder was created in preparation for the 1978 split between the National Council of Jewish Women and the Agency soon to be renamed El Nido Services, since it also contains legal documents pertaining to the official name change from the "Council of Jewish Women" to "El Nido Services." (See also Series 5 for more Name Changes Documents.)

Box 1, Folder 1
Bylaws documents 1954-1978
Box 1, Folder 2-3
Bylaws drafts 1976-1977
Box 1, Folder 4
Name change documents 1978-1979

Tax Status 1932-1979

Scope and Content
This series contains correspondence from the Internal Revenue Service and California State officials granting the Agency, under its various names, tax exemption. There is also correspondence between the Agency and other local and federal government agencies regarding clarification of bank laws, property tax, and information for the tax return filings of various board members. Also in this series is a 1973 letter from a board member urging Governor Reagan to pass the Tax Exempt Bill.

Box 1, Folder 5
El Nido Lodge tax exemption 1942-1971
Box 1, Folder 6
IRS classification status 509(a) 1933-1971
Box 1, Folder 7
IRS admission tax dues 1932-1933
Box 1, Folder 8
IRS exemption from bank and corporate franchise tax 1936-1954
Box 1, Folder 9
Board members' tax returns 1966-1974
Box 1, Folder 10
Property tax exemption 1955, 1979
Box 1, Folder 11
Exemption for unemployment insurance 1938-1960
Box 1, Folder 12
CA state exemption requests 1943-1973
Box 1, Folder 13
FICA Social Security tax 1951-1956
Box 1, Folder 14
Exemption from sales tax 1941, 1954
Box 1, Folder 15
Regulations information on tax exempt organizations 1945, 1953

Property Management 1964-1981

Scope and Content
The Property Management series contains property titles; blueprints of the various properties; leases; correspondence and memos regarding building safety, building payments, and building insurance. There are also statistical reports on the number of girls served at each lodge. Other information indirectly relating to the properties held by the Agency such as freeway zoning in the area and maps are included, too.

Box 1, Folder 16
El Nido Lodges fire prevention systems 1974-1977
Finding aid for the El Nido Services and Lodges records 0409

**Budget 1949-1983**

Scope and Content
This series contains reports for staffing, program revenue, estimated spending projects, tables showing expenditures, financial statements, and statistical charts on the number of girls served at each lodge.

**Board of Directors 1964-1985**

Scope and Content
This series makes up the bulk of the collection. There are separate folders for the various Board Committees, and most folders are roughly in chronological order. Most folders contain minutes of either Committee or annual Board meetings. Announcements and invitations of the Agency’s meetings and special guests are included, as well as slides from a 1980 meeting and a guest signature book for meetings held between 1981-1984.

**Public Relations 1980-1986**

Scope and Content
This series contains news articles about El Nido, press releases from the Agency, and brochures. It also contains Publicity Committee memos and scripts of television spots and contact information for broadcasters.
Box 2, Folder 25  El Nido News 1982-1986
Box 2, Folder 26  El Nido draft press releases 1981-1985
Box 2, Folder 27  Broadcasting information 1983-1986

Correspondence 1973-1986

Scope and Content
This series contains general correspondence and correspondence with other members of the California Association of Residence Centers.

Box 2, Folder 28  Correspondence 1984
Box 2, Folder 29  Correspondence 1985-1986
Box 2, Folder 30  Correspondence 1973-1980

Programs 1969-1980

Scope and Content
This series contains statistics of children served at the El Nido lodges, childcare agreements with Los Angeles County, and a guide for counseling techniques utilized by the Los Angeles County elementary schools. Interestingly, there is a Masters thesis included in a folder evaluating the effectiveness of residence center program of El Nido lodge, that indicate several weaknesses of El Nido Services.

Box 2, Folder 31  Dues 1975-1978
Box 2, Folder 32  Information on other CRC centers 1979-1980
Box 2, Folder 33  El Nido exploratory study [Master's thesis] 1969
Box 2, Folder 34  "Evaluating an Agency-School Group Counseling Program" 1974
Box 2, Folder 35  Evaluation--El Nido 1974-1976
Box 2, Folder 36  El Nido program review 1975-1978
Box 2, Folder 37  Los Angeles County 1975-1979
Box 2, Folder 38  Reports on evaluation of El Nido 1970-1980
Box 2, Folder 39  "A Guide to Group Counseling in Elementary Schools" 1969

Fundraising 1981-1984

Scope and Content
This series contains copies of fundraising membership appeals and memos requesting donations. There is also information on an El Nido program to consolidate health services for "at-risk youth" and a grant rejection letter.

Box 2, Folder 40  Information cards 1984
Box 2, Folder 41  Drew Medical School grant 1981
Box 2, Folder 42  Gardena Employee Assistance program 1983

Publications 1970s

Scope and Content
This series contains brochures that the Agency produced for families going through divorce and gives the families advice on how to deal with potential conflicts with their former spouses. Presented from the perspective of helping the child adjust in these situations, the brochures provide very practical information.

Box 2, Folder 43  Conciliation court brochures 1970s
Box 2, Folder 44  [Article on role of grandparents during divorce] 1979