Finding aid for the Resthaven Auxiliary records 0435

Finding aid prepared by Clay Stalls
USC Libraries Special Collections
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1999 September 24
Title: Resthaven Auxiliary records
Collection number: 0435
Contributing Institution: USC Libraries Special Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 1.25 linear ft. 3 boxes
Date (inclusive): 1956-1979
Abstract: The Resthaven Auxiliary records consist of correspondence, agendas for meetings, member lists, minutes, gift lists, benefit activities, financial records, and guest books, 1956-1979, that document the activities of the Resthaven Auxiliary, a volunteer organization important for its fundraising work for the Resthaven Psychiatric Hospital and Community Mental Health Center. There also exists a small amount of material directly related to the hospital.
creator: Resthaven Community Mental Health Center. Auxiliary.
creator: Resthaven Community Mental Health Center.
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Preferred Citation
[Box/folder# or item name], Resthaven Auxiliary records, Collection no. 0435, California Social Welfare Archives, Special Collections, USC Libraries, University of Southern California
Administrative history
Resthaven Auxiliary was a volunteer organization supporting Resthaven Psychiatric Hospital and Mental Health Center, located on College Street in downtown Los Angeles. Established in 1912 under the leadership of Mrs. Oliver Perry Clark, Resthaven Psychiatric Hospital was the oldest such non-profit institution in the city of Los Angeles and a leader in the treatment of mental health problems of women. (Not until 1961 did Resthaven begin to treat both men and women, children and adults.)

In the early 1960s Resthaven became the first private, non-profit, mental health institution to become a community health center, a change epitomized by the construction of a new facility, completed in 1970, at the site of the old hospital. Thus, Resthaven Psychiatric Hospital and Community Health Center served the central city, made up of such places as Echo Park, MacArthur Park, and Pico-Union; this area as a whole was one of the poorer and more ethnically diverse in Los Angeles. As such, and as a community mental health center, Resthaven provided its services free of charge to needy clients. This laudable philosophy unfortunately led to financial difficulties that shrinking government aid for the institution only compounded. Some accounts of the ensuing financial distress can be found in this collection's holdings, both in the limited holdings for the Hospital itself and in the material of the Resthaven Auxiliary.

As a private organization, Resthaven relied on volunteer support groups, one of which was the Resthaven Auxiliary, founded in 1959 and incorporated in 1960. Its duties were to develop interests in the field of mental health in its members and, most importantly, to serve the hospital and to raise funds. To accomplish these goals, Resthaven Auxiliary held benefits for the hospital, sold such items as cookbooks authored by its members or products made by Resthaven patients, solicited funds from businesses, etc. It was a large organization, boasting by 1976 some ninety-seven full and part-time members. When budgetary problems forced the closure of Resthaven Community Mental Health Center in the 1970's, the Auxiliary, of course, also disbanded.

All information in this history comes from material found in the collection.

Organization
The records are organized into two series: Resthaven Auxiliary, and Resthaven Hospital.

Scope and Content
The Resthaven Auxiliary records consist of correspondence, agendas for meetings, member lists, minutes, gift lists, benefit activities, financial records, and guest books, 1956-1979, that document the activities of the Resthaven Auxiliary, a volunteer organization important for its fundraising work for the Resthaven Psychiatric Hospital and Community Mental Health Center. There also exists a small amount of material directly related to the hospital. Noteworthy is the information related to Resthaven's demise.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Resthaven Community Mental Health Center. Auxiliary. -- Archives
Agendas (administrative records)
Community mental health services--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources
Correspondence
Fund raising--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources
Minutes
Psychiatric hospitals--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources
Reports
Schedules (time plans)
Voluntarism--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources

Resthaven Auxiliary

Box 1, Folder 1
Minutes, correspondence, reports, agendas for general and board meetings, forms for charity drives, and treasurer reports re Auxiliary 1974-1976

Box 1, Folder 2
Membership roster, brochures for baseball benefits, program for volunteer awards re Auxiliary; clippings re Resthaven Hospital 1966-1974

Box 1, Folder 3
By-laws and description of Auxiliary offices, "House Committee" reports, general meeting reports, minutes and agendas for meetings re Auxiliary 1956-1968

Box 1, Folder 4
Correspondence, schedules, agendas, treasurer's reports re Auxiliary and Coordinating Council meetings; flyers for Auxiliary activities 1972-1974

Box 1, Folder 5
Correspondence and gift lists re charitable activities for Resthaven Hospital 1959-1962

Box 2, Folder 1
Ticket sales ledger, financial report and statements, plans, correspondence, legal permits for ticket solicitation, expense sheet re Dodgers baseball benefit 1967

Box 2, Folder 2
Ticket sales ledger, promotional literature, expense sheets, thank you notices, correspondence, bus rentals, clippings, receipt books, legal permits for solicitation of money, correspondence re benefit baseball games 1963-1964

Box 2, Folder 3
Committee roster, notes, memoranda, reports, legal permits for solicitation of money, ticket and parking packet for game, receipt forms re baseball benefit games 1964-1966

Box 2, Folder 4
Ledger book of payments for lunch at Bel Air Country Club benefit 1959

Box 2, Folder 5
Reports, correspondence, calendars, clipping re press releases; new members lists and correspondence re same 1960, 1963-1967

Box 2, Folder 6
Correspondence re Auxiliary meetings; correspondence and clipping re closure of Resthaven and disbanding of Auxiliary 1972-1976

Box 3, Folder 1
Training manual entitled "How To" Work Book for Volunteer Trainers, written by Los Angeles Voluntary Action Center undated

Resthaven Hospital

Box 3, Folder 2
Brochures advertising Hospital and services; volunteer awards programs and brochures; clipping re new hospital; correspondence; photograph of new hospital 1971-1974

Box 3, Folder 3

Box 3, Folder 4
Papers re bylaws, volunteer groups, finances, board of trustees of Hospital 1974-1975

Box 3, Folder 5
Four guest books for Resthaven functions 1966-1979