

HowardCenter

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May 12, 2010

HowardCenter Donates Historic Documents to UVM Libraries Special Collections

Historic documents of two of Chittenden County's oldest service organizations will now be catalogued, preserved, and open to the public for research, thanks to a gift from HowardCenter to University of Vermont Libraries Special Collections. HowardCenter made the gift so that valuable records documenting services to children and adults during past eras will be maintained for future generations.

The collection includes annual reports and newspaper clippings from the 1800s from Howard Relief Society, now HowardCenter. Also included are corporate records from the Home for Destitute Children, which later became the Baird Center for Children and Families and is now HowardCenter Child, Youth and Family Services. These records include the first secretary's report (1865), charter and rules and regulations (1866), and donation records (1867). The Family Record of the Home for Destitute Children lists admissions of children beginning in 1865 when the home served orphans, including Civil War orphans, as well as children whose families were unable to provide a suitable home and education.

According to Mary McKearin, HowardCenter Planning and Development Director, "Our agency has roots that can be traced back to our community's very early organized efforts to ameliorate poverty. These documents provide insights into those efforts to provide care and comfort to citizens in need as well as how that work has evolved over the years. We are pleased that these resources will now be accessible to the community."

Chris Burns, Curator of Manuscripts, Special Collections, said, "We are very excited to add this rich documentation of HowardCenter, the Baird Center, and the Home for Destitute Children. The records will be of great interest to historians, social scientists, and anyone seeking a fuller picture of the history of Burlington."

The Special Collections Department of the Bailey/Howe Library houses the Wilbur Collection of Vermont materials (published books and periodicals, manuscript collections, maps, and photographs) as well as other collections and archives. The Special Collections reading room and offices are located on the ground floor of the Bailey/Howe Library.

HowardCenter, a non-profit agency, provides developmental, mental health, substance abuse, and child, youth, and family services to approximately 15,000 children and adults each year.