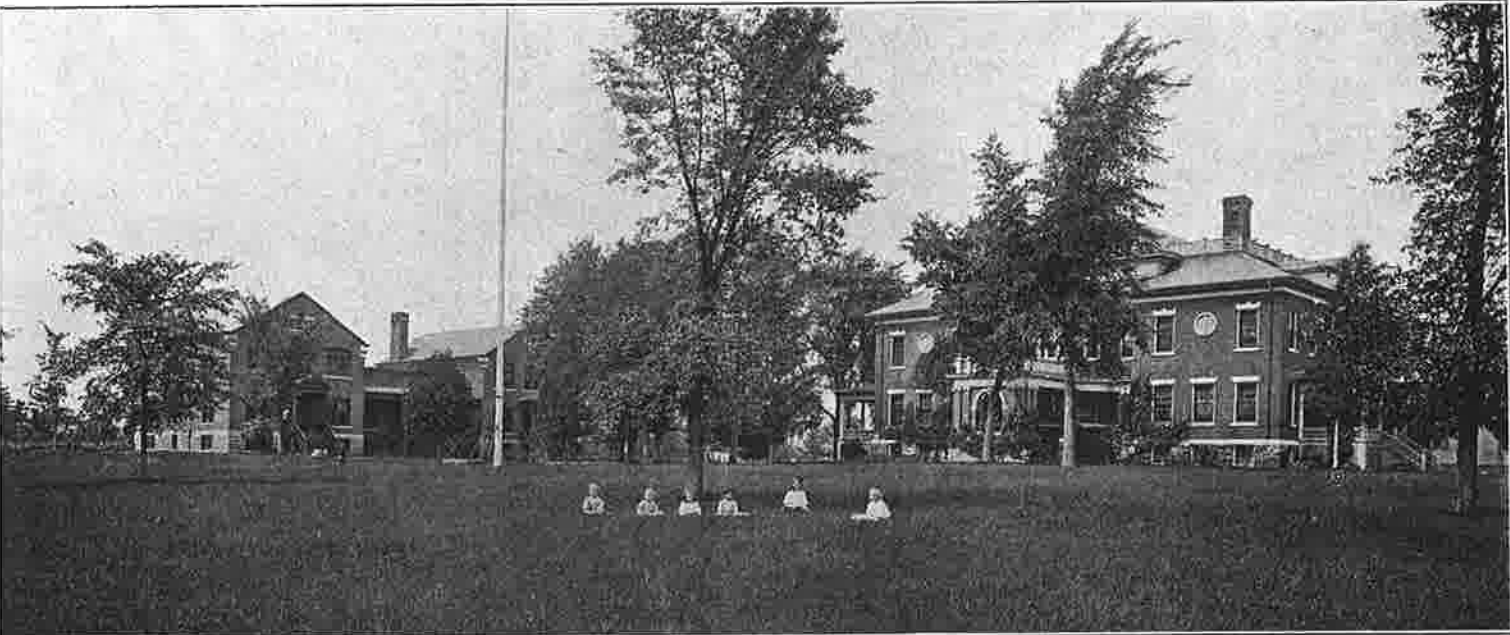


ANNUAL REPORT

Home for Destitute Children

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

Year Ending October, 1925



HOME FOR DESTITUTE CHILDREN COMPLETES
60TH YEAR OF ITS EXISTENCE

OFFICERS, 1925-1926

President, Mrs. J. E. Taggart.
First Vice-President, Mrs. R. L. Soule.
Second Vice-President, Mrs. L. M. Simpson.
Secretary, Mrs. G. P. Burns.
Treasurer, Mrs. B. J. Andrews.
Advisory Committee, Levi P. Smith and A. L. Sherman.
Auditor, Richard H. Holdstock.

COUNTY MANAGERS

Addison County, Mrs. John A. Fletcher of Middlebury.
Bennington County, Mrs. Edw. Bradford of Bennington.
Caledonia County, Mrs. C. W. Steele of St. Johnsbury.
Franklin County, Mrs. Daniel Moren of East Berkshire.
Grand Isle County, Mrs. M. P. Landon of South Hero.
Lamoille County, Mrs. O. W. Reynolds of Cambridge.
Orange County, Mrs. E. T. Salisbury of Randolph.
Rutland County, Mrs. Edwin W. Lawrence of Rutland.
Washington County, Mrs. Newton P. Nye of Montpelier.
Windham County, Mrs. E. L. Stickney of Brattleboro.
Windsor County, Mrs. Franklin S. Billings of Woodstock.

The sixtieth annual meeting of the Corporation of the Home for Destitute Children, was held on Thursday afternoon, October 8, reports were read and officers chosen. Mrs. J. E. Taggart was re-elected president, and a board of managers elected as follows: Mrs. C. G. Crane, Mrs. G. G. F. Tobey, Mrs. W. G. Wears, Mrs. C. A. Pease, Mrs. R. L. Soule, Mrs. M. S. Vilas, Mrs. R. E. Bingham, Mrs. J. R. Wheeler, Mrs. A. G. Crane, Mrs. Eda A. Safford and B. J. Andrews.

Richard H. Holdstock was elected auditor. The report of the president for the past year was read. It follows:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Home has just completed the 60th year of its existence. During these years thousands of children have passed through its doors. A great many of these children have made good and we like to feel that their stay at the Home has been a real factor in whatever degree of success they may have attained. In the earlier days the Home faced the same problems in a different way. There were no welfare agencies for the betterment of life among the needy and unfortunate. Each town dealt with its own poor and contact between the child and the Home was established more readily. There is red tape to be unwound nowadays, as we have to consider each case carefully in order to give the help to the one who really needs and deserves it.

There seems to be a number of people who wish to shirk the responsibility of bringing up their own children. These people come to us with plausible stories and it is very easy to be fooled by them. Consequently a thorough investigation of every case is necessary. That, of course, takes more or less time. We cannot lose sight of the fact that the one we must consider is the child, although in doing so we often help an unworthy parent.

The work at the Home has not varied to any great extent this past year from the year preceding it, yet it never grows monotonous. Last spring we were unfortunate enough to have an epidemic of whooping-cough in the babies' nursery. This was hard not only on the babies, but on those who cared for them as well. Fortunately, no serious trouble resulted, although one little fellow had pneumonia, causing much anxiety. The whooping-cough got into the second nursery also, but the children being older and several of them already having had it, it did not seem so serious. However, it is a disease much dreaded in private families, and our hearts sank when we realized that we were facing it in a group of 35 children. I think our staff of physi-

cians will agree with me that our children are, as a rule, very healthy. I am sure they have required very little medical attention during the year.

The big porch south of the nursery has been enclosed and we feel that the money spent in doing it was well invested. The babies have had their naps in the open air all summer and were never in better condition than at the present time. It is really amusing to see how pleased these little tots are when visitors appear. They seem to realize that they are the center of attraction and thoroughly enjoy it. As usual, the second nursery is our liveliest department. Several of these children are not old enough to go to kindergarten and are obliged to exercise their lungs and muscles there at home, which they do very freely.

We have a very interesting group of older girls in the south house. Five of them are going up town to school this year, four to junior high and one to high school. Here is an opportunity for generous friends to help us. Going up town to school means money for car fares and books and we have, at present, four boys as well as the five girls who are attending junior high and high school. These boys and girls must be well dressed in order to feel comfortable and happy and we would appreciate contributions of clothing from people having boys and girls of high school age. Even though some of these children are boarders, they can be furnished only with the barest necessities by their parents or guardians. In two cases the Home has the entire responsibility.

The boys in the south house as well as those in the cottage are fine, manly chaps, in whom one cannot help being interested. Quite often we are asked why we do not place out our boys of 13 and 14. We would gladly do this if good homes could be found for them. We realize that living in a good private home is better for most children than life in an institution, however good it may be. Unfortunately, we rarely have a call for a boy or girl of 12 years old, or older, and when we do, investigation usually shows the home to be unsuitable. The responsibility of a boy or girl, in whose early training a person has had no hand, is some-

thing the majority of conscientious people hesitate to assume. The older boys are doing a good bit of farm work and we are employing no extra help in summer as in former years. They are also receiving a training that will make them useful when they go out into the world.

The garden has yielded its usual supply of vegetables and the matron has row upon row of canned corn, beans and tomatoes. Apples have been sent in and from these she has made jelly to use among the little children and in cases of sickness. The cottage also has a supply of canned vegetables for winter use. We have gradually made repairs and improvements so that the Home property is in very good condition. These have been made possible by gifts from interested friends. There is, however, much that could be done if we had the means at hand to do with. The children have been remembered in many ways by people of the town. These various attentions have made the children very happy and are much appreciated by the managers.

Our Board has suffered a great loss in the death during the year of two valued members, Mrs. Horatio Hickok and Mrs. A. G. Whittemore. Their interest and help will be sorely missed. The number of admissions during the year is 26. Twenty-seven children have been returned to friends and seven have been placed for adoption.

Respectfully submitted,

ANNIE L. TAGGART,

President.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR OCT. 1, 1924, TO OCT. 1, 1925

RECEIPTS

Amount on hand October 1, 1924.....	\$ 208.04
Received for board and admission of children	3,825.00
Received from Trustees	19,500.00
Received from friends	1,060.00
Received from City Trust Company.....	1,500.00
Received from discounts and refund on bills	9.73
Received from legacies	14,142.06
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	\$40,244.83

DISBURSEMENTS

Paid balance due on coal bill, 1923 and 1924	\$ 3,252.44
Paid coal bills, 1924 and 1925.....	4,311.14
Paid for salaries and labor.....	8,888.50
Paid for telephones and telegraphs	141.26
Paid Burlington Light & Power Company	306.89
Paid for water tax.....	240.56
Paid for miscellaneous expenses	4,695.80
Paid for dry goods	792.76
Paid for foodstuffs	6,219.06
Deposited in City Trust	6,392.06
Deposited in Home Savings Bank.....	5,000.00
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	\$40,240.47
Balance on hand October 1, 1925.....	4.36
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	\$40,244.83

Respectfully submitted,
 ANGIE F. ANDREWS,
 Treasurer.