

ALPHA New Vocations Project (Minneapolis, Minn.).
Project records, 1972-1976.
1.75 cu. ft. (2 boxes).

HISTORICAL SKETCH

New Vocations Project, a nonprofit enterprise organized in late 1971, was a part of the 1970s emphasis on regenerating community life--including neighborhoods, housing, small businesses, environmental concerns, arts, and newspapers--in St. Paul and Minneapolis.

The Project's aims were to find the means whereby individuals could gain greater control over their own vocational and occupational welfare; to celebrate community life; to create congenial workplaces aimed at community needs; to utilize community resources to solve local problems; to organize and develop skills in starting community-based businesses; to provide vocational training; and to develop women's resources. Much of the funding came from private foundations headquartered in the Twin Cities.

Its publication, the magazine *Common Ground* (edited by Ken Meter), carried articles written, for the most part, by non-professional writers in the community who related activities and events in their neighborhoods. The magazine acted as a means to link neighborhood interests, to protect neighborhood environments and ensure neighborhood survival, and to interest individuals in the history of their communities.

Box 1 contains a folder that provides more background information.

Kathryn A. Johnson
September, 1994

14,982

DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

The records are organized into three sections: grant files, New Vocations Project files, and *Common Ground* files. There may be overlapping of materials within the sections.

The records begin with files documenting grant proposals submitted by *Common Ground* and the New Vocations Project to various foundations and other granting organizations in the Twin Cities (1972-1976). These files contain drafts of proposals, some correspondence, newspaper clippings, published materials, and related records. Some of the foundations approached include the F.R. Bigelow, Otto Bremer, Bush, Minneapolis, and Saint Paul foundations. Also included are requests to two religious groups: Christian Sharing Fund of Minneapolis and the United Methodist Voluntary Service, New York City.

Administrative records for the New Vocations Project include correspondence, a few financial records, copies of its directories (1973 and 1974/75), and subject files containing information on community newspapers, the councils, the Southside Community Garage (Minneapolis), Elliot House Gay Community Center, Hennepin County Bicentennial history proposals, and three articles written by Ken Meter for other publications.

The remainder of the collection relates to *Common Ground* and consists of articles for the magazine arranged alphabetically by author or, if anonymous by title. They cover all aspects of the Project's activities and contain details on individual neighborhoods, environmental concerns, arts organizations, and book and movie reviews. At the end of the collection are *Common Ground* subject files containing information on similar topics.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1.

147.A.6.4F

Grant Proposals:

General File (including drafts of proposals), 1975-1976.
F.R. Bigelow Foundation, St. Paul, 1976.
Otto Bremer Foundation, St. Paul, 1975.
Bush Foundation, St. Paul, 1975.
Christian Sharing Fund, Minneapolis, 1972-1975.
H.B. Fuller Company, St. Paul, 1975.
Hoerner Waldorf Corporation, St. Paul, 1975-1976.
Joint Strategy and Action Committee, New York City, 1973-1974.
The Minneapolis Foundation, 1975-1976.
Ober Charitable Fund, St. Paul, 1975-1976.
The Saint Paul Foundation, 1975-1976.
United Methodist Voluntary Service, New York City, 1972-1976. (2 folders)

New Vocations Project:

Background Materials.
Correspondence, 1973-1975.
Financial Records, 1972-1973.
Directories: Vocational Skills, 1973, 1974-1975. (2 v. in folder)
American Freedom from Hunger Foundation, Inc., New York City, 1973.
The American Lutheran Church, 1972-1973.
Community Events, 1975.
Community Newspaper Training Session, 1975-1976.
Cooperative Print Center, 1974.
Council of Community Councils, 1975.
East Side Housing Action Committee, Milwaukee, 1975.
Elliot House Gay Community Center, 1972-1973.
Funding Proposals (New Vocations Project), 1972-1975. (3 folders)
Hennepin County Bicentennial History Proposals, 1976.
Meter, Ken:
 Article for *Youth Magazine*, 1975.
 Article for Institute of Self-Reliance, undated.
 Article for *Communities Magazine*, 1975.
The Southside Community Garage, Inc., Minneapolis, 1972-1974.
Common Ground:
 Background Information.
 Correspondence Supporting Publication, 1974-1976.
 Notes and Budgets, 1973-1976.
 Covering Letter to Foundations, 1975.
 Community Councils Booklet, undated.

Box 1. (cont.)**147.A.6.4F**

Outreach and Publication, 1975.

New Directions Budget, 1976.

Drafts and Notes of Magazine Articles:

Ampah, Kokayi and Others, "Open Space for The People," undated.

Amussen, Diane, "Cedar-Riverside Checklist," undated.

Baker, Mark J., "Homewood Neighborhood," undated.

Barnum, Anne, "Luxton Park (Prospect Park)," undated.

Bartell, Susan, "Seward Community Cafe," undated.

Bowen, Sandy and George, "Chautauqua Circuit," undated.

Branan, [?], "Stevens Square," undated.

Bransberger, Barb and Others, "Model City Mini-School," undated.

Brennan, Helen, "Clearview, Cooperative," 1974.

Caan, Jack, "Housing and Open Space," undated.

Caan, Jack, "How Development Makes Money," undated.

Caspar, Tom, "Towns Meetings," undated.

Chorn, E. J., "Community Councils," 1975.

Collier, Clay, "Christian Action Ministries," undated.

Coyle, Brian, "Hubert H. Humphrey in '76?," [1975?].

Coyle, Brian, "Some Questions About Pornography in our Community," undated.

Gehan, John, "Community Councils," undated.

Hartgen, Steve, "Community Councils," undated.

Hatton, Bill, "Minneapolis Self-Reliance Project," 1976.

Hinkle, Lynn, "Adventure Playgrounds," undated.

Johnson, Jeff [?], "Interview with Lynn Hinkle," undated.

Keillor, Steve, Bicentennial Article, [1976?].

Kempton, Bill, "Freewheel Bicycle Shop," Minneapolis, 1974.

Kranz, Rachel, "A New Kind of Art," undated.

Kuester, Lanny, "A Tour of Three South Minneapolis Neighborhoods," undated.

Lefko, Todd, "Community Councils, St. Paul," undated.

Levering, Ed, "Ouroboros East Housing Rehabilitation, St. Paul," undated.

Madolf [?], Steve, "The Lexington-Hamline Community Council, St. Paul," undated.

Matlack, Carol, "Full Cycle Women's Restaurant," undated.

May, Jeannette, "Northeast Gardening, Minneapolis," 1975.

Meter, Ken, "Preventative Medicine (Cedar-Riverside)," undated.

Meter, Ken, "Wind Power," undated.

Nelson, Ken, "Crime and Community," undated.

Niedenfuier, Jeri, Review of *Building the Future from the Past* (St. Paul's Historic Hill District), undated.

Nyberg, Polly and Jerome Bette, "Swede Hollow, St. Paul," undated.

O'Connell, [?], "Southside Community Enterprises, Inc., Minneapolis," undated.

Prokop, Kathee, "St. Anthony Park East, St. Paul," undated.

Robinson, Daniel, "Nicollet Island History, Minneapolis," 1975.

Rutan, [?], "Household Energy Use," undated.

Ryan, [?], "Linden Hills Neighborhood, Minneapolis," undated.

Box 1. (cont.)

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Selvaggio, Joe, "Neighborhood Rehabilitation, Minneapolis," undated.
Shapiro and Hinkle, "Phillips Neighborhood," undated.
Thayer, Darryl, "Solar Energy," undated.
Tordoff, James, "Bluegrass Music," undated.
Trimble, Steve, "Populist History," undated.
Venfel, [?], Movie Review: *The History Book*, undated.
Waterhouse, Ann, "Energy Overview," undated.
Weeks, Lois, "Caravan Dance Collective," undated.
White, Ric, "Community Council Bill, Legislature," undated.
Wroblewski, Al, "South St. Anthony Park Playground, St. Paul," 1974.
Wroblewski, Al, "New Alchemy Institute, Woods Hole, Mass.," undated.
Wroblewski, Al, "Metro Council Eyes Open Space," undated.
Wroblewski, Al, "A False Prophet Comes to Town, undated.

Drafts and Notes of Anonymous Magazine Articles:

"Alive and Trucking Theatre, Minneapolis," undated.
"*Community Cooking: An Uncommon History of Summit-University*: Book Review," undated.
"Community Garden Program, undated.
"Criticism/Self Criticism," undated.
"Energy Conservation: Insulation," undated.
"Group Contracting for Services (Neighborhoods)," undated.
"Lexington-Hamline Neighborhood, St. Paul, undated.
"Maryland House Cafeteria, Minneapolis, undated.

Box 2.

147.A.6.5B

"Merriam Park History, St. Paul," undated.
"Minneapolis Cab Drivers Strike," 1975.
"*Minneapolis Homefires Calendar*: Review, undated.
"Neighborhood Councils," undated.
"Payne Avenue-Lake Phalen Neighborhood, St. Paul," undated.
"People's Clothing, Minneapolis," undated.
"Powderhorn Puppet Theatre, Minneapolis," undated.
"Walker Community Video, Minneapolis," undated.
"Wittier Coalition, Minneapolis," undated.
"Women in Films, Portrayal of," undated.

Other Records:

Notes and Drafts for Issues No. 3 (1974), No. 4 (1975), and No. 7 ([1976?]). (3 folders)
Article Ideas and Suggestions, 1976.
Article Submissions, 1974.

Box 2. (cont.)

147.A.6.5B

Subject Files:

- Back to the City Conference, 1975.
- Coalition Building, 1973-1974.
- Community Councils, 1975.
- Community Development Corporation, 1974.
- Community Newspapers, 1974.
- Community Resources Project Draft Proposal, by Tom Dewar, 1976.
- Cooperative Organizations, 1976.
- Cooperative Ownership in Housing, Summit-University, St. Paul, 1976.
- Hennepin County Bicentennial History Project Proposal, 1975.
- Local Groups, 1973-1974.
- Local History Conference, 1975.
- Moline 60 Coalition, 1973.
- The Naberhood Store, Minneapolis, 1973.
- Neighborhood History, 1973-1974. (2 folders)
- Parade of Neighborhood, Minneapolis, 1975.
- Piedmont Avenue Neighborhood, Minneapolis, 1975.
- Ramsey Action Programs (including assessment of publications), 1975-1976.
- Wisconsin Neighborhoods, 1975-1976.
- Workers' Control Book Research, 1974-1976.
- Youth Employment Program: Urban Coalition, 1974-1975.
- Correspondence and Miscellaneous Records, 1974-1975.