100 YEARS OF CONCERN FOR HUMAN NEEDS

1866-1966
When the work of our agency began 100 years ago, the colossus of poverty rested almost entirely on the shoulders of private charity. The societies that joined forces to form our present organization came into existence because something had to be done to relieve the intolerable misery of Brooklyn's poor. In the early years, the Brooklyn Bureau of Charities and the Brooklyn Children's Aid Society carried the burden virtually alone. Today, we are part of a larger network of voluntary and public agencies working together. We can take pride in the part our organization has played in helping bring this about.

In this hundred-year review of work with children and families is found an inspiring record of social progress. For in helping people overcome adversity, our societies participated in—and often led—important social movements. Many of the conditions of life that we take for granted today came about after long uphill struggles that, at times, must have seemed hopeless.

Yet this is more than an accounting of services performed. It is a document of a century of man's humanity to man. Voluntary activity has been the life-blood of our organization. Of course, the role of the citizen has changed considerably since the early days when nearly all of our services were performed by volunteers. Today, we strive for the highest standards of professional service, but the need for broad, non-professional participation in guiding our efforts and in gaining community support for our programs remains as important as ever.

We have learned much in a century to help us do a better job of helping people. But we have not yet found a push-button system to take care of human needs. In 1903, Alfred T. White, one of our distinguished founders, observed that the elimination of poverty in a big city was necessarily a slow process since the relation of the individual to the individual remains the cornerstone of our work. This is as true in today's jet-propelled age as it was in the day of the horsecar.

As we begin our Second Century, we are strengthened by the experiences of those who prepared the way. Out of yesterday's struggles, we find insight for the work that is yet undone.

In carrying forward the agency's tradition of dynamic pioneering service, we still need all the help we can get.

Paul F. Ely, President
Brooklyn Bureau of Social Service
and Children's Aid Society
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
October 1, 1966

Dear Mr. Ely:

For one hundred years the Brooklyn Bureau of Social Service and Children's Aid Society has set a noble example for the nation to pursue in its quest of health and well-being for all our people.

The Bureau's care for the poor, the handicapped and the deprived has spurred public and private agencies across the land to new ambitions in social service.

It has challenged and expanded the conscience of the country.

On this centennial I am proud to extend my congratulations and best wishes for success in the Bureau's unending effort to replace distress with help and hope.

Sincerely,

Mr. Paul F. Ely
President
Brooklyn Bureau of Social Service
   and Children's Aid Society
285 Schermerhorn Street
Brooklyn, New York
Several societies that had their beginnings shortly after the Civil War came together in the course of their work to form the Brooklyn Bureau of Social Service and Children's Aid Society.

The Brooklyn Children's Aid Society was founded in 1866. In 1920, it absorbed the work of the Sheltering Arms Nursery, founded in 1870.

The Brooklyn Bureau of Charities was founded in 1878. It had a long cooperative work relationship with the Union of Christian Work, founded in 1866. The latter was consolidated with the Bureau in 1901.

The Brooklyn Bureau of Charities changed its name in 1945 to the Brooklyn Bureau of Social Service. Three years later, in 1948, it was united, through merger, with the Brooklyn Children's Aid Society.
What is it then between us?
What is the count of the scores of hundreds of years between us?
Whatever it is, it avails not—distance avails not, and place avails not,
I too lived, Brooklyn of ample hills was mine,
I too walk'd the streets of Manhattan island, and bathed in the waters around it,
I too felt the curious abrupt questionings stir within me...

Walt Whitman
crossing brooklyn ferry

The Ferry is gone, Walt Whitman. The islands you sing about are bound together by tunnel and bridge. The crowds that move from shore to shore are multiplied a hundredfold.

There are some who would tell you that the count of years between us is reckoned by the speed with which man-launched satellites race around the earth or by the distance an earth-controlled rocket travels to reach its target on the moon.

But there are others who would also measure the century between us in the number of neglected and lonely children who roam our streets, or in the count of households where there is fear and hunger, or in the number of people broken in spirit and body who are unable to share in the abundant opportunities that surround them in this computer age.

This is the story of a hundred years of concern for human needs. It is also the story of a continuing search for better ways to help people overcome adversity.
Immigrants flocked to the Williamsburg, Bedford and Brownsville sections of Brooklyn.
When this story begins, at the close of the Civil War, Brooklyn, with a population of 295,440, was the third largest city in the United States. It was recognized as the “terminus of the great trans-Atlantic, South, and Central America and domestic shipping lines.” Fourteen ferries carried working people back and forth from Brooklyn to Manhattan. Brooklyn was already big and growing fast. So was its poverty.

The New York Times, June 30, 1866: “There are certain wards and districts in Brooklyn where, as is well known, dirt and filth and poverty reign triumphant—quarters which in misery, squalor and wretchedness . . . equal the lowest quarters of New York, or of any civilized city. Here homeless and vagabond children, ragged and dirty, wander about; here the utterly poor congregate; and here accumulate all of the causes of pestilence or disease.”

All along the waterfront, crowded into shacks and hovels, lived impoverished families of dock workers, immigrants from Italy, Ireland and the Scandinavian countries. Later, with the opening of the bridges over the East River, there was an overflow from Manhattan’s congested Lower East Side into Brooklyn’s northern district bringing large numbers of immigrants from Eastern European countries, mostly Jewish families, to the Williamsburg, Brownsville and Bedford sections.

In the years that followed, each new wave of immigrants brought an influx of the most destitute to take the place of those who had moved up on the economic ladder. Today, these same areas and the areas adjacent to them are still Brooklyn’s pockets of poverty. The newcomers are mostly Spanish-speaking families from Puerto Rico or Negro families from the rural south for whom there is no other place to live but the decaying tenement or neglected old brownstone. Here the density of population is greatest; here is found the largest number of people receiving public assistance; here, despite a concentration of public funds to build new homes, the majority of families still live in substandard housing.

Today Brooklyn has a population of 2,627,319. It is New York City’s largest borough. Consequently it has the largest number
of people needing help. About one-third of New York City’s families receiving public assistance of one kind or another (213,000 people) reside in Brooklyn.

The necessity for material help is only the outer manifestation of far more complex needs. Behind each relief case is a family or individual with problems. The Bureau strives to provide many of these families with services that will help them stay together and get them back on their feet. From the Department of Welfare rolls also come most of the children needing foster homes and foster care until their own family life can be rebuilt. The Bureau’s goal is to help mothers, fathers and children achieve strong, loving family relationships.

From 1955 to 1963 delinquency in Brooklyn increased at a faster rate than in any other New York City borough. Since then it has levelled off. Nevertheless, Brooklyn’s over-all rate, in 1964, of 61.6 offenses per 1000 youths was second only to that of Manhattan.

Delinquency prevention, therefore, is another major concern of the Bureau which works in cooperation with the New York City Youth Board in providing counselling, psychiatric, casework and other services to troubled young people and their parents.

In an age of specialization, the Bureau is a comprehensive agency—one of the few. Here, in the bosom of a family-serving society is a children’s service with an equally distinguished history. Both have much to contribute to each other. A child is helped within the context of a family. The skills of both the family caseworker and the children’s worker are called upon to rebuild and strengthen the foundations of the family.

In its special services to the blind and handicapped, for which the Bureau is noted, the agency is concerned with the total person, not just his handicap. The specialists in the workshops help him develop skills leading towards independence. Caseworkers, psychologists and psychiatrists and vocational counselors who are concerned about his emotional strengths, his family life, his opportunities for social and cultural experiences, are also part of the treatment team.
Here, under one roof, is a whole spectrum of vital services to help the city's victims of adversity. A phone call tells of a stricken mother, and a homemaker is sent to take care of a houseful of children until the emergency is over; a deserted mother has a mental breakdown, and a new home is needed for her three children; a working woman, whose husband is incapacitated by a stroke, is going blind and needs help in facing her future; a marriage is on the verge of breaking up because the husband has been unable to find employment; a schoolgirl is going to have a baby and does not know where to turn; a mother wants help in understanding her delinquent teen-age son; a young man recently discharged from a correctional institution needs guidance in his return to the community; an elderly man, alone and ill, needs someone to look after him; a mentally retarded boy, rejected by his family, needs help in finding acceptance and training for independence; a woman recently blinded, asks for help to learn to cook and keep house so she can be useful to her family again.

Currently active in the files of the Bureau are 1500 individual cases like these. The services that flow from the agency's one center spread out over all of Brooklyn from Greenpoint to Coney Island, from Red Hook to East New York, and into Manhattan and Long Island.

In its sheltered workshops, the Bureau trains people with a wide variety of handicaps to perform jobs for which they receive wages. It is the only business in the world that "fires" its most efficient workers. As soon as they are skilled enough to enter the labor market, they are helped to find jobs where they can become part of the normal life of the community and take their place as useful and self-supporting neighbors and citizens.

The blind work beside the sighted; an orthopedically-handicapped man assembles simple components alongside a recuperating heart patient. Side by side on the workbench are the young woman recovering from mental illness . . . the school dropout needing work training and shop experience . . . the middle-aged man incapacitated by a stroke . . . the teenager suffering from a neurological affliction.
The workshops make no profits. Their object is to help people help themselves. Production goals are secondary.

In 1965, through funds provided primarily by the New York State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Bureau was able to add a modern evaluation unit to the workshop program and to remodel completely and modernize its workshops. As a result, the Bureau is now able to accommodate 50 per cent more worker-clients in its training and shop experience service, and through its evaluation work to upgrade the range of their work skills. Upon admission to the program, the client-worker spends a period in the Evaluation Service. Here his potential work skills are observed as he performs a series of simple tasks. Those who are found to have higher potentials than can be developed in the agency’s shops are helped to achieve them in job training elsewhere.

The homework program for the severely handicapped is one of many special services available through the Bureau. Bedridden or severely paralyzed men and women who can use their hands, or those who are both blind and crippled—and others too incapacitated to leave their homes—are helped by home teachers to perform simple piecework jobs. Materials are brought to their homes, a suitable work space is set up, and the client can perform the work at his own speed. Whether the earnings are small or significant, this program provides an incentive for the invalided and relieves some of the fears they may have of being a drain on their families. For many of these persons, it is the first time in their lives they have been able to work and earn money.

The many in our community who are cut off from others because of age or handicap are a special concern of the Bureau. For those who wait for time to relieve them of their loneliness and despair, for those who reach out for help or for a sign that they may be useful to someone, the Bureau’s program has a special meaning.

The aged are reassured that this is a time for peace of spirit, for satisfaction and for doing. Two weeks at the Bureau’s Camp Shelter Island on eastern Long Island may make a whole year
In the Bureau's modern sheltered workshops the blind and handicapped learn they can be useful and productive.
meaningful and worthwhile. The friendships formed, the interests developed, are sustained in the Bureau's year-round recreation program.

Sewing classes, crafts, dancing, evening parties, singing and special entertainment for the blind and handicapped give these men and women opportunities to enjoy the stimulation of meeting and sharing good times with others.

The Bureau considers long-term homemaker services invaluable in keeping troubled families together.

In its work with the many families referred by the Department of Welfare, the Bureau has been able to convince the City of the merits of caring for children in their own homes wherever possible. Frequently when a mother becomes disabled, the father has to give up his job to take care of the children, and the family requires welfare assistance. A homemaker permits the father to continue to support his family, frees him from the burden of child care (which he is rarely able to handle properly), and keeps the family intact until the mother is able to resume her duties, at a cost to the community that is far less than the institutionalization of children during such emergencies. More than half of all public assistance is for aid to dependent children.

The City underwrites part of the cost of homemakers while the Bureau provides family casework, the services of a home economist, and any other professional help that may be needed.

The Bureau's services to children in its Foster Home Department have a three-pronged focus: on the child himself; on his substitute family; on his natural family. Because the Bureau is able to draw upon the skills of both its family caseworkers and its children's workers, a child coming to the Bureau for placement has a better chance to go back to his original home. While the child is being helped to find security and a feeling of being loved in his substitute home, every effort is made to rehabilitate the family that had to give him up.

Both in its work with young people and adults, the Bureau was a pioneer in the technique of group counseling. This is proving of exceptional value in helping people gain insight into their own
problems and in strengthening their ability to take steps towards changing the conditions that created their problems. By bringing into the open their anxieties and sharing their problems with others, the troubled feel less alone and gain greater confidence in themselves.

In another innovation, the Bureau has added to its staff a number of case aides—college-trained workers with an interest in social work who are able to perform a number of non-professional tasks which must otherwise absorb much of the caseworker's time. This frees the professional worker to spend more time with the client in situations that call upon his skills and judgment. These aides are particularly helpful in work with children. They take them to clinics, confer with their teachers in the public schools, supervise their special recreational and cultural activities and perform countless other valuable services.

This program is opening the way to a whole new career in a social service agency, one that is satisfying and has rewards. It is one which has been widely duplicated in other agencies.

In these brief descriptions of some of today's services can be found a glimmer of the measure of distance we have come in our first hundred years. Before this point could be reached, there was much to overcome.
It avails not, time nor place—distance avails not,
I am with you, you men and women of a generation, or ever so
many generations hence,
Just as you felt when you look on the river and sky, so I felt,
Just as any of you is one of a living crowd, I was one of a crowd,
Just as you are refresh'd by the gladness of the river and the
bright flow, I was refresh'd,
Just as you stand and lean on the rail, yet hurry with the swift
current, I stood yet was hurried,
Just as you look on the numberless masts of ships and the thick-
stemmed pipes of steamboats, I look'd.

Walt Whitman
Crossing Brooklyn Ferry

The Civil War was over and the rebuilding had begun. Across
the land, families had been torn apart, many never to be united
again. Gangs of homeless and orphaned children roamed the city
streets, slept in doorways, lived by their wits and fists, respected
no law.

In New York City, the Children’s Aid Society had been opening
lodging houses for working boys, helping to get many of them
off the streets and putting a semblance of order into their dis-
ordered lives. In Brooklyn, where statistics of the number of
vagrant children in relation to the population were even more
startling than in New York, there were those who wanted to do
the same.

The Brooklyn Children’s Aid Society was incorporated on
January 31, 1866. A distinguished Brooklyn citizen, Simeon B.
Chittenden, was elected President. Other officers were: James D.
McKenzie, Vice President; Edward Cary, Secretary; and Cornelius
D. Wood, Treasurer.

The Certificate of Incorporation contains the following descrip-
tion of the Society’s objectives:

“... the protection, care and shelter of friendless and vagrant
youth, furnishing them with food and raiment and lodging, aiding
them, and ministering to their wants, providing them with occu-
pation, instructing them in moral and religious truth and in the rudiments of education, and with such means as the Society can properly employ, endeavoring to make them virtuous and useful citizens . . .”

On September 1, 1866, within eight months of incorporation, the Society opened its first lodging house for boys, which was called the Newsboy's Home, at 69 Poplar Street. “Not a single boy had been asked to come in; no public notice had been given; and yet the first night found over 20 boys beneath our roof,” wrote the superintendent of the Home in the Society's first annual report.

In the first five months, 274 different boys had been admitted, “the newsboys and bootblacks and errand boys who earn their living in the street.

“You cannot 'bind them out'; they are too old; they are their own masters. You cannot offer them steady employment that will remove them from the streets; they are too young. You can't entice them into any orphan asylum; after their free life in the street, the asylum is, to their minds, a children's jail. You cannot get them into the public schools; no healthy boy will go to school if he can help it.”

The Newsboy’s Home attracted these boys by virtue of its solid advantages: a warm meal, a decent place to sleep, and a free suit of clothes.

The following from an early report conveys the human quality of the work:

“It is sometimes hard to separate two such old friends as the boy and his native soil. It is a kind of surgical operation, and the best energies have been directed on a single patient for two hours before the boy could be freed from dirt and vermin.

“After the bath and a suit of new clothing came supper which consisted of soup, bread and tea. And then an hour of steady application of the mind.”

There was much to be done. And the Society's early years were crowded with doing. By September, 1867, a second lodging house was opened in South Brooklyn at Van Brunt Street between
President and Carroll Streets. A new Department of Special Relief was established to procure homes for boys and girls in the city and country. Two industrial schools were organized at the lodging houses. A kindergarten was started for children of working mothers.

In 1867, 1,077 different boys had been lodged, fed, taught and clothed; 200 students were in daily attendance at the industrial schools; children were being placed in city and country homes at the rate of 600 a year.

Despite this heavy burden of care, each child was regarded as a precious charge. Each failure to help a child, each loss by death was mourned. The following is from the annual report of 1867:

"John Joy slipped from a horsecar and was killed. A street boy, the street gave him his living, and gave him his death. Sooner than to lose him, perhaps. We lost him, and so did his poor sister, his only friend. Three other boys died of fever . . . ."

In these years the West was wide open. Young men in Eastern cities were heeding the advice of Tribune editor Horace Greeley and were going West to seek their fortunes. Ranches needed cowhands; farmers needed harvesters; homesteads were available to settlers; acres and acres of fertile farmland could be bought for as little as $3.00 an acre.

For boys for whom the city had nothing to offer but its streets, the children’s societies found wisdom in Greeley’s advice. To the West they sent scouts who diligently sought out homes for boys where they would be treated well and could make a useful contribution. Thousands of youths plucked from the streets of Manhattan and Brooklyn followed the stagecoach trails to begin new lives in Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas and to become part of the folklore of the West.

In the reports of the Society are scores of letters from boys telling what they found of which the following are examples:

**Illinois, July 1, 1881**

**Dear Friend,**

. . . . We are getting on first rate. We are neither hungry nor have trouble. I have a house with land for $3.00 per month,
and I bought a cow and two pigs on time to pay off. Butter costs 10¢ a pound... I want father and brother to come out here. Father don't need to work. He can live with me as long as he lives. Susie can earn $10 a month, and Elizabeth might get a good husband and farm.

Kansas, October 12, 1879

Dear Mr. . . .

This is a very small place, only lately inhabited; it is flourishing fast. Since I came here, I have saved the price of a lot of ground...

Tell all who come to you, if they are sober and inclined to work give them encouragement to come here. Tell them I toiled in Brooklyn and never was a cent better off.

Land is easy purchased here . . . rolling prairie land, without a stone as big as a tea cup, where the soil is 3 feet deep.

The disintegration of families was but one reason hordes of children took to the streets. There were no laws prohibiting child labor, and the exploitation of the young was one of the evils of the times. Another was the deplorable state of public education. In 1867, out of 68,825 children of school age, only 35,000 were in the schools, the capacity of which was put at 28,206. New York State had no compulsory education law until 1874, and even then little attempt was made to enforce it. Children had to pay for textbooks which were given free only to those who could prove poverty.

The lodging houses which gave the street boys refuge by night became schools by day. The Society reported: “The public schools are entirely inadequate to accommodate the scholars who apply and had we room we could have a school of 500 children. There are thousands of children in our city who cannot attend public schools even if there were room to admit them. Many cannot speak English; they are too poorly clothed, too hungry, too dirty to find a place with children in our common schools. Our schools receive just such little neglected children.” By 1870, the Society reported that it had taught 1,033 children in its schools.
In 1868, a Sewing Machine Department was opened at the Van Brunt Street center to prepare girls for a trade. “What our poor girl wants who has to support herself is a trade. Something which every woman cannot do and somebody is ready to pay her for knowing how to do well. This skill is what our Sewing Machine School holds out to these poor girls from 12 to 18 years of age as the best shield we can give them against poverty and shame,” reports the Society. In its first 25 years, the Society taught 10,192 girls to operate sewing machines and become self-supporting.

In its tenth year the Society reported: “When we began this work there existed in Brooklyn a class of boys which was a terror to the community... By influence brought to bear upon this class by our Society, it has largely disappeared... We claim credit today for having drawn 100 boys every year from the ranks of vagrancy and crime.”

A contemporary historian, writing of those years, assessed the Society’s work thus: “No other private charity in Brooklyn could match either the scope or intelligence of the work of the Children’s Aid Society. Furnishing lodging, food, clothing, recreation, education and employment, it was the poor child’s best friend.”

The next major thread of our story picks up in 1878 with the founding of the Brooklyn Bureau of Charities. Alfred T. White, a founder and for thirty years its president, recalled the conditions that gave rise to the new agency at an anniversary dinner some years later:

“The small public doles begun in Brooklyn without warrant of law, about 1850, had grown by 1870 into a system under which nearly one-tenth of the population of Brooklyn received each winter weekly rations from public storehouses in different parts of the city. During this time all forms of private charity were hampered and dwarfed. It was the very magnitude of the evils resulting from the system which finally wrought its overthrow.”

The Association of Volunteer Visitors was set up to call upon families receiving public dole to ascertain their need. It was found that one family out of six did not qualify for public assis-
tance and that many families were receiving at the same time material aid from the city as well as private charities.

Public relief collapsed in 1878. Out of the Association of Volunteer Visitors naturally evolved the Brooklyn Bureau of Charities. The prime movers were two young men: Seth Low, age 28, and his life-long friend, Alfred T. White, age 32.

On November 13, 1878, a small group of civic and church leaders gathered at a meeting and adopted a resolution “to secure a system of registration, as far as practicable, of the persons receiving aid and to arrange for such intercommunication between the givers of aid as will prevent imposition on the one hand and at the same time secure for the deserving poor adequate relief.”

In setting up a registry of families, the Bureau performed a valuable community service. Help got to the needy more quickly and duplicate giving by voluntary agencies no longer prevailed. The remarkable thing about this enormous undertaking was that it was carried on entirely by volunteers with an efficiency and humanitarian approach heretofore unknown in the care of Brooklyn’s needy families.

The founders of the Bureau were men who were deeply committed to social betterment. Seth Low, its first president, became the Mayor of Brooklyn in 1882, and in two terms in that office was to institute many reforms in city government and in public education. Negro children were admitted to public schools for the first time; textbooks were provided free to every pupil; higher standards were established in teachers’ training. Low went on to become President of Columbia College in 1889, and following the consolidation of Brooklyn into New York City (1898) served one term as Mayor of Greater New York (1901-1903).

Alfred Tredway White devoted much of his life to the work of the Bureau. From 1871 he was associated, also, with the Brooklyn Children’s Aid Society and served two terms as its vice president. He was not only a leading worker but a leading benefactor to both societies, frequently contributing centers and hospitals to enable them to carry on their work. He was a pioneer for better housing, and the model tenements which he built along the Brook-
lyn waterfront in 1877 gave impetus to the tenement house reform movement of 1879. He was once described as the “brains and heart” of Brooklyn because there was hardly a social movement or an educational or cultural endeavor from the Academy of Music to the Botanical Gardens, from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children to serving as a volunteer teacher to poor children who could not attend public schools, with which he was not identified.

Darwin R. James, another Bureau founder, served as treasurer for the first ten years and later as president, being active in the work of the agency until his death in 1908. He was one of the original “friendly visitors” who called upon families to learn of their needs. His son, Darwin R. James Jr., succeeded him in office and carried forward a line of family association with the Bureau that continues to this day.

Charles Pratt, a trustee and active leader from the beginning, began another unbroken line of distinguished family participation in the work of the Bureau that still continues. Members of the Pratt family and the Pratt Institute played a significant role in shaping the work of the Bureau.

Another founder, Father Joseph Fransioli, was pastor of St. Peter’s R.C. Church and founder of St. Peter’s Hospital. Isaac H. Cary, father of William Cary, who later served on the Bureau’s Board, headed the industrial committee which supervised the woodyards and other means of self help. Thomas W. Hynes was president of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

In its first year, the Bureau investigated over 200 cases and had a registry of 2,205 families needing subsistence. The Brooklyn Bureau differed from similar organizations in other cities (it was the fourth to be organized in the United States) in that it did not give material aid during its early years. The belief was that work, not handouts, was what poor families needed most to get them on their feet.

“It was our thought at first to make it a clearing house,” declared Mr. Low to a meeting of his colleagues some years later. “But we very soon found that no such work could be maintained
on a negative line of action. There is something far too sacred in this work of trying to help one another to permit one to labor only for the sake of preventing fraud; so this society very shortly made the positive work which it undertook its main effort.”

By 1882, the Bureau’s purposes had been considerably broadened. Many ward conferences were organized and out of these the Bureau’s district offices emerged. The Bureau began to provide emergency work opportunities to men and women to help them get back on their feet. These included woodyards, laundries, workrooms employing unskilled women to make rag rugs, and other services to enable the unskilled to maintain themselves until permanent employment could be obtained.

Within three months of the founding of the Children’s Aid Society, in 1866, some 35 children had been placed in carefully selected private homes; and by 1899 the Society was operating a foster care service. The Bureau reported for 1905 that its work had saved 150 children from institutions. From 1898 to 1945, three years before the merger of the two societies, the Children’s Aid Society had placed 16,477 children in foster homes.

In the early days, the line between public and private charity was drawn in such a way that the City took care of all persons in institutions and private charity serviced them in their homes. Here is one description of conditions in public institutions:

“Paupers in alms houses received neither sheets nor towels. Knives and forks were unknown luxuries. Out of 40 children admitted within a half year to the baby ward for foundlings, 36 died. The deplorable conditions in county institutions compelled the grave diggers to place 250 corpses in a ten-foot pit, with children between tiers. Little wonder the voluntary agencies were eager to keep people out of the city’s care!”

Home visiting was basic to the work of both the Bureau and the Children’s Aid Society. Out of this personal contact with families came the impetus for their pioneering services. In visiting destitute families, the Bureau’s volunteer visitors were soon to reappraise their views on “charity” and to search for ways to help these families overcome the handicaps of poverty. In their early con-
ferences where methods were developed and experiments tried on how best to help these families are found the roots of today's social casework.

During the first 25 years of the Bureau's existence, virtually all casework was carried on by volunteers. By 1895, there were 585 "friendly visitors" enrolled in 13 district conferences. This was the peak of volunteer participation. Gradually their numbers declined as the Bureau began to employ specially trained caseworkers.

Underlying the move towards employing trained workers was the growing realization that social service was evolving a science; that the treating of social ills required more than devotion—it required skilled practitioners who were at the same time sensitive to human needs. The Bureau recognized early that special training was necessary for the performance of a modern agency.

In the summer of 1876, 390 children under five years of age died of cholera infantum in a single week in Brooklyn. Between June and September of that year the figure had gone beyond 3,000 deaths. This was a typical health report for summer months during those years and followed generally the national pattern for big cities. But the Children's Aid Society that year had taken steps to do something specific to lower the "appalling" infant death rate. Believing that many lives could be saved if infants could be removed from pestilent-ridden tenements and provided with fresh sea air, the Society opened a Seaside Home for Mothers and Children at Coney Island, then a fashionable bathing area available to New Yorkers by boat or railroad. The home was dedicated to "the service of little children, the healing of the sick, the strengthening of the weak, the refreshing of the weary."

Later a hospital was added, equipped to give full medical and surgical treatment to the more seriously ill children. This was to be the first of a number of seaside homes and a wide range of fresh air and vacation services the Society was to offer in the years to follow to keep infants alive and to prevent illness among children of all ages.

The benefits were observed from the beginning. After the Sea-
side Home’s first season, the Society reported: “It is reckoned that not less than 300 lives were saved during the past season in caring for 1,921 children and 648 mothers.”

The Bureau joined in the drive to bring down the high rate of infant deaths. The diseases that claimed so many babies’ lives each summer were traced directly to impure milk. Pasteurized, modified milk was needed, especially by the poor in whose homes there was no refrigeration. Pasteurized milk was available but the high cost kept it out of reach of those families in the community that needed it most.

The Bureau and the Children’s Aid Society both distributed sterilized milk to poor families. The Society operated a medically-supervised pasteurization plant under the Brooklyn Bridge, established the first baby health station in Brooklyn and operated milk distribution centers from 1900 to 1912 when the City, through its Public Health Service, took over this function. In the first 10 years of operating baby stations, the Society distributed 2,739,217 bottles of purified milk.

Disease was one of the creators of poverty and one of its byproducts. The care of the sick was high on the list of needs in Brooklyn’s poor neighborhoods. Long before the existence of a Public Health Service, both the Bureau and the Society were deeply involved in bringing health services to families and children. Nursing care was provided early in the histories of both agencies. By 1898, the Bureau had a District Nursing Committee with a staff of two nurses. In 1920, with a corps of 42 nurses, the Bureau’s Nursing Service became the Visiting Nurse Association of Brooklyn, an independent agency. In the intervening years the Bureau’s nurses had been available to meet all emergencies growing out of epidemics, disasters, and economic depressions. Their service was valued especially during the epidemic of infantile paralysis in 1916 which took nearly 1200 lives in Brooklyn and the influenza epidemic in 1918 which orphaned hundreds of children and filled every available hospital bed in the city.

Tuberculosis—“The White Plague”—was regarded as a disease of poverty because of its high incidence among those who lived
in crowded, ill-ventilated homes; worked long hours in sweat shops; and could not afford enough nourishing food.

The death rate from tuberculosis in 1900 was about 200 deaths for 100,000 persons; today it is less than 7 per 100,000. The war on T.B. was to occupy an important part of the Bureau’s work for over forty years. This included education for its prevention, clinics for diagnosis and treatment, the distribution of milk and eggs to families with members suffering from the disease, and a variety of fresh air programs. The Society also gave much special attention to the prevention of tuberculosis among children and to the care of children crippled by it. The Bureau’s services were directed by its Committee on the Prevention of Tuberculosis, formed in 1905. Later, in 1920, the committee became the Brooklyn Tuberculosis and Health Association which was operated by the Bureau until 1946 when it became an independent organization.

Through efforts of leaders of both agencies, Brooklyn became the first city in New York State to pass a Tenement House Law. Later, in 1910, the Bureau, under Alfred T. White’s presidency, organized a Housing Committee and gave initiative to the movement for housing reforms. New homes were not being built fast enough to take care of Brooklyn’s burgeoning population resulting from the opening of the Williamsburg and Manhattan bridges and the tunnel with its first subway connection to Manhattan. Overnight, single family houses were converted into multiple dwellings without adequate sanitation and fire protection. Violations were so commonplace that public pressure was needed to press for the enforcement and improvement of existing housing laws.

To dramatize this, the Bureau sponsored a large public rally on February 13, 1911, at the Academy of Music. Former President Theodore Roosevelt had been part of a delegation that toured Brooklyn’s slums, and their findings were presented at the rally. One of the Committee’s early drives was to let light and air into 172,000 windowless inside rooms in Brooklyn tenements. Later this Committee helped frame New York City’s model Multiple Dwelling Law.
To protect the interests of the poor in the Courts, legal aid was made available by both agencies almost from the beginning. By 1898, the Bureau had 25 volunteer lawyers available to clients without cost.

Similarly, they were concerned with the wretched conditions of the lower courts where young people and families have their first contact with the law. Children were hauled before a Judge alongside derelicts, prostitutes, drunks and hardened criminals. Often they were thrown into the same prison cells.

The Bureau’s Courts Committee, established in 1912, carried on a continuous campaign to improve the condition of the lower courts. Over the years, gains were made, but the climax did not come until 1935, when after eight years’ planning, the Brooklyn Adolescents’ Court was set up, firmly establishing a separate tribunal for cases involving the young.

Little or nothing was being done for the handicapped when both societies began to provide services for crippled children. The Bureau began with clinic care for orthopedically handicapped boys and girls, most of them paralyzed by infantile paralysis. In 1913, a bequest from George L. Fox of nearly a half million dollars enabled the agency to open a new division for the handicapped people.
and the blind. Two years later, Victor G. Bloede, of Baltimore, donated the residence of his mother at 287 Schermerhorn Street, to be used as a center for training and employing the blind. Here the agency's work for the blind was housed until 1927 when the Bureau erected on this site its present seven-story headquarters providing space for sheltered workshops for both the blind and handicapped.

New York's worst infantile paralysis epidemic, in 1916, gave impetus to both agencies' work with crippled children. In Brooklyn, where it struck first, there were 5,000 victims. In this emergency both the Children's Aid Society and the Bureau mobilized their full resources. 3,607 cases were referred to the Bureau for care. The Bureau provided 19 orthopedic nurses to treat the children and four automobiles and two ambulances to carry them regularly to hospitals and clinics for therapy.

The Children's Aid Society turned over the Seaside Hospital for year-round care of children. 160 patients came directly under this agency's care. Many children remained in bed six months, some as long as a year. Muscle training was carried on during this period and many ingenious forms of apparatus were devised. Therapy and care developed here were credited with preventing deformity in a large percentage of cases. From that time on, the Society's seaside hospitals became centers for care and treatment of polio victims. Both agencies provided recreation and rehabilitation services for children handicapped by polio.

As an outlet for products produced in its workshops, the Bureau opened, in 1918, a Craft Shop for the Blind and Handicapped at 306 Livingston Street which has remained in operation to this day. In 1923, as more and more handicapped became trained to compete in the normal work market, the Bureau opened a Placement Service which was continued until the State Employment Service opened a Division for the Handicapped in 1932.

In 1929 the agency established the Bureau Mailing Service, which at its peak trained and employed an average of 150 young men and women weekly. This shop grew so successful that the Bureau enabled a group of its workers to take it over as their
own cooperative business venture which they continue to operate with success.

Among its vacation services, the Bureau opened a camp at Shelter Island for crippled and sickly children in 1920. When work with handicapped children was discontinued in 1943, this camp became the vacation resource for the blind and handicapped as well as the elderly.

In the depression of the 1930's, the services of both agencies underwent change to meet the emergencies of the times. The Bureau's emphasis had always been on services to help people help themselves, with financial assistance secondary. But with nearly a half million people needing relief, and no public assistance available, emergency action had to be taken. Directors of the Bureau helped form the Citizen's Family Welfare Committees which raised millions of dollars for aid to families in Greater New York.

From 1930 to 1933, the Bureau dispensed material relief totaling $1,770,000, compared with $406,000 for the four prior years. A yearly average of 12,301 families, or 61,505 individuals, passed through the agency's doors. The Bureau's 11 district offices, then in operation, were centers for neighborhood assistance.

During this time, the agencies helped set up what was subsequently to become The Home Relief Bureau through which the City and State took over the burden of assisting the unemployed and destitute.

In order to carry on their services, both agencies had to dip deeply into reserves during the decade of the depression. The work relief programs and other emergency measures provided by the government enabled them to eliminate some of their own services and permitted them to concentrate more fully on casework and home placement services.

Thus began the modern era of social service, the developing of special skills, the introduction of psychiatric services. Out of this grew the framework for the Bureau's present-day services to families, children and the handicapped.
As the emphasis of its work changed, the Bureau felt its original name was no longer suitable. Thus, in 1945, the agency changed its name to the Brooklyn Bureau of Social Service. Its philosophy remained the same: to help people find their own strengths. Its methods of making this possible had evolved with the times.

In 1948, the paths of the Bureau and the Children’s Aid Society converged, and the two agencies that had shared in developing so many of the social services of our city became one. Born out of the same age and need, responding to the same social problems of a changing and expanding community, and often sharing the same leaders, the two societies had much history in common.

In all humanitarian work, people are the bridge from the past to the future. Continuity of service by families has been the strength of the Bureau’s societies. On the Bureau’s Board today are members whose forebears were among the founders and early volunteers. This has kept the roots of our societies deep in the soil of Brooklyn.

Brooklyn’s institutions also have provided a continuity of service. For many years, The Young People’s Association of the Church of Pilgrims supplied the volunteer teachers for the Society’s schools. In 1886, the “Country Fortnight” was established by the Society, in cooperation with the Tribune Fresh Air Fund, which took several thousand children each summer out of the city to farms in New York and neighboring states. This vacation service was continued into the 1940’s. The Brooklyn Eagle, for many years Brooklyn’s leading newspaper, also contributed to the fresh air work of the Societies. Abraham and Straus appears early in the reports with participation of its founder, Abraham Abraham, on the Bureau’s General Committee, and through numerous contributions for special needs. Its executive officers have continued through the years to serve on the agencies’ boards and to give leadership to their work.

Pratt Institute, as mentioned earlier, has been a friend of both societies from the beginning. It provided volunteer teachers for the schools; its students of dietetics in 1898 gave classes in cook-
ing, canning and sewing to women in the Bureau’s Williamsburg district office. In 1900, the Society reported that Pratt set up ten home libraries in poor neighborhoods “to lead children to the pleasures of reading and influence the families with whom the books are placed.”

The New York Times, through its “Hundred Neediest Cases,” has been a continuous source of help to children and families in New York City since 1912 when this annual appeal was started. The agencies, as participating societies, have benefited substantially from this effort which enables the community to contribute directly to cases described in the Times in December of each year.

The warmheartedness of the community always contributed much to the growth of the societies and to the dimension of their services. Doctors gave generously of their time and druggists provided medicines to children under the Society’s care during the early years. Merchants have always donated gifts of clothing, toys and entertainment; transportation companies took children to beaches and on boat rides in the summer without cost in past years. The following notation in a Society report for 1879 describes the generosity of Coney Island Concession owners to children at the Seaside Home and Hospital:

“Each Monday afternoon the managers of the Aquarium invited all to their entertainment. On Tuesdays, Mr. Bauer treated each child to a cake and a glass of milk. On Wednesdays or Thursdays, the merry-go-rounds were placed at their service. Mr. Uffner opened his doors to all to see the midgets, and Mr. Burtis sent frequent gifts of flowers and offered free rides in his rowboats at Sea Beach. Occasional rides to Brighton Hotel were given by the proprietors of the Stage Lines on the Concourse.”

Driving across the Brooklyn Bridge to Manhattan one might notice on the heights of Brooklyn the triangular dormers of a red brick building in the gothic revival style typical of many of the homes of historic Brooklyn Heights. In the sunset, the bricks of this aging building are burnished red. But there is no reflection of light from its many windows, for they are sealed by large sheets of dull gray metal.
Few would know that here once was shelter for some 20,000 homeless boys who roamed the streets and slept curled up in doorways; and that it was also the only school that thousands of other ragged little children ever knew.

The building, erected in 1884 at 69 Poplar Street, still bears the name of the Children's Aid Society, through the Newsboys' Home was closed some sixty years ago and the building sold. When the Society closed its doors in 1906 and moved its work elsewhere, the purpose for which it was established no longer existed. The Society's report that year noted:

"There are not the same number of fatherless and homeless boys blacking boots and selling papers at all hours on the streets ... School attendance laws prevent many conditions that formerly existed ... Moreover, the Society has come to believe that better results can be obtained by boarding boys and girls in private homes ..."

A chapter in the history of the Society had come to an end; but another was already well under way. Characteristic of both the Society and the Bureau has been the readiness to give up a service when it no longer served a need, or when a public agency was able to take it over. In the years between the Newsboys' Home and today's modern services to families and children flowing from one central building, there have been many services offered from many locations. It is this ability to change with the times that has kept the Bureau in continuous touch with the needs of the community throughout a century of service.

This is one measure of the distance we have come—and the distance yet to travel.

Text by Esther Goldman
To help families achieve strong and loving relationships remains the cornerstone of our work.
Some Milestones In Bureau History


1867 Established industrial schools to train young people. Opened kindergarten for children of working mothers.

1878 Brooklyn Bureau of Charities organized November 13 by Seth Low, Alfred Tredway White, Darwin R. James and representative borough leaders. Early central office at 177 Montague Street; in 1855 moved to 91 Clinton Street; in 1888 to 69 Schrammerhorn Street. Present headquarters at 285 Schrammerhorn Street erected in 1927.


1884 Western Woodyard organized as work test and employment for jobless. Northern Woodyard 1891. Bedford Woodyard 1892.

1885 Central Laundry and Training School opened to teach women domestic skill, provide work.

1886 Central Workroom opened to employ unskilled women making rag rugs, mending, etc. Bedford Workroom 1887.

1887 Central Day Nursery for children of women working in laundry and workrooms; later opened to public. Bedford Day Nursery 1892; Northern 1895.

1887 Central Lodging House for homeless women opened. Closed 1913. (Municipal lodging house opened 1910.)

1898 Red Cross instruction and District Nursing Society affiliated with Bureau as District Nursing Committee. In 1919 it carried staff of 42 nurses. Legal aid for needy started with 25 volunteer lawyers.

1900 Began distribution of Pasteurized milk to infants during Summer. Raised funds to enable City to operate its plant for sterilizing infants' milk.

1903 Committee on Prevention of Tuberculosis formed.

1906 Jewish Branch formed through committee representing seven Jewish charitable societies in Northern District. In December, 1908, this branch left Bureau to become United Jewish Aid Societies, now Jewish Family Service.

1910 Housing Committee organized to arouse public to better housing standards.

1912 Courts Committee organized to protect interests of poor in lower courts. Tuberculosis Committee organized school lunches for anemic children. Started free employment service for needy, working in cooperation with other agencies. (State Employment Service opened 1915.)
1913 Workshops, home teaching for blind and crippled, launched through bequest of George L. Fox.

1916 Infantile paralysis epidemic left 4,329 victims in Brooklyn, of whom 3,607 were referred to BBC. Bureau increased orthopedic nurses to 19, maintained 4 automobiles and 2 ambulances, to carry paralyzed children regularly to hospitals and clinics. 1918 and 1919 Bureau financed post-operative care of crippled children in two Brooklyn hospitals.

1920 Tuberculosis Committee becomes Brooklyn Tuberculosis and Health Association. Instrumental in organizing Queens Tuberculosis and Health Association. Shelter Island Camp for Convalescents given by friends of Navy Yard — now used for blind and handicapped.


1927 Workshops opened in new central building, 285 Schermerhorn Street.

1929 Bureau Mailing Service established.

1930 Rapid expansion of BBC to meet unemployment emergency. Material relief for four years totaled $1,770,000 compared with $406,000 for same period prior to depression. Total families aided grew from yearly average of 6,330 to 12,301.

1933 Brooklyn Council for Social Planning established through joint effort of borough agencies led by BBC.

1935 Brooklyn Adolescents’ Court established following 8-year agitation by the Bureau’s Courts Committee.

1938 Cooperating with major agencies of Greater City, Bureau helped create Greater New York Fund to raise supplementary support from industry for health and welfare agencies.

1948 Former Brooklyn Children’s Aid Society merged into Bureau to become BROOKLYN BUREAU OF SOCIAL SERVICE and CHILDREN’S AID SOCIETY.

1952 Group Counseling Program added as an auxiliary service.

1954 Long-term Homemaker Service instituted as 3-year demonstration project through special grant from the Greater New York Fund.

1963 Former Brooklyn Days for the Blind merged to become Women’s Committee for the Blind and Handicapped.

1964 First Printing of the BBSSS Cookbook of Convenience Foods in Braille.

Evaluation Unit in the Department for the Handicapped established through special grant from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

1966 Major building program increases capacity of sheltered workshops by 50 percent (grant from New York State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation).
Presidents and Administrative Directors
1866-1966

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY
1866-1948

President
Simeon B. Chittenden, 1866
James R. Taylor, 1870
Dwight Johnson, 1874
Henry R. Jones, 1876
Charles H. Denny, 1878
James P. Wallace, 1879
Michael Snow, 1881
William W. Wickes, 1884
Charles K. Wallace, 1891
William C. Kellogg, 1899
Charles H. Edgar, 1903
Howard O. Wood, 1911
Rudolph Reimer, 1934
Alexander M. White, 1939
Guy Du Val, 1944

Director
W. A. Wallace, 1873
R. D. Douglass, 1874
C. A. Smith, 1885
George R. Phillips, 1886
Francis H. White, 1887
Elliott R. Downing, 1898
Francis H. White, 1899
Arthur E. Wakeman, 1903
Edward W. Macy, 1930

BROOKLYN BUREAU OF CHARITIES
BROOKLYN BUREAU OF SOCIAL SERVICE (Change of name 1945)
1878-1948

President
Seth Low, 1878
Alfred T. White, 1881
Manly A. Ruland, 1883
Alfred T. White, 1884
Darwin R. James, 1893
Alfred T. White, 1896
Darwin R. James, 1900
Alfred T. White, 1908
Darwin R. James, Jr., 1920
Mrs. Mary Childs Draper, 1938

Director
George B. Buzelle, 1883
George B. Safford, 1893
William I. Nichols, 1896
Thomas J. Riley, 1912
Douglas P. Falconer, 1932
Frederick I. Daniels, 1938

BROOKLYN BUREAU OF SOCIAL SERVICE & CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY
1948-1966

President
Mrs. Mary Childs Draper, 1948
Leland B. Bonnett, 1953
Michael C. O'Brien, 1955
Paul F. Ely, 1960

Director
Frederick I. Daniels, 1948
Lester Peddy, 1963
OFFICERS
President, Paul F. Ely
Vice-President, Mrs. Mary Childs Draper
Vice-President, Mrs. Alfred H. Everson
Vice-President, Leonard P. Moore
Vice-President, Michael C. O'Brien
Vice-President, David S. Hunter
Treasurer, Wilmer F. Lucas
Secretary, Stuart H. Steinbrink

DIRECTORS
Andrew R. Armstrong
Frank A. Barrera
Robert S. Bird
John R. H. Blum
Mrs. George E. Brower
Mrs. Francis T. Christy
Duncan W. Clark, M.D.
Mrs. Mary C. Draper
Paul F. Ely
Mrs. Alfred H. Everson
John W. Faison
Mrs. Edwin L. Garvin
Miss Elizabeth A. Goodman
David H. Gray
Mrs. F. Warren Hellman
David S. Hunter
Mrs. Raymond V. Ingersoll
Aaron L. Jacoby
Mrs. Darwin R. James, III
Wilbur A. Levin
Wilmer F. Lucas
Leonard P. Moore
Michael C. O'Brien
Charles Pratt, Jr.
Roy M. D. Richardson
J. Folwell Scull, Jr.
Howard A. Seitz
Miss Arrietta H. Smith
Stuart H. Steinbrink
Harold J. Szold
Mrs. John F. Thompson, Jr.
Alexander M. White
Richard C. White
Executive Director, Lester Peddy
Congressional Record
United States of America
PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 89TH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Brooklyn Bureau of Social Service and Children's Aid Society—100 Years of Service to the Community

EXTENSION OF REMARKS
OF
HON. EMANUEL CELLER
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 17, 1946

Mr. CELLER. Mr. Speaker, this year the Brooklyn Bureau of Social Service and Children's Aid Society is observing its 100th anniversary. As a lifelong resident of Brooklyn, who has watched this worthy organization grow, I pay tribute to its founders and to those totally dedicated men and women who have carried on the bureau's original stated purpose of helping people meet their problems with courage, with hope, and with dignity.

The Brooklyn Bureau of Social Service and Children's Aid Society is a nonsectarian, voluntary welfare agency, which offers guidance to men, women, and children regardless of race, religion, or economic status. For a century, the bureau has been in the forefront of social service organizations, reaching out to help the poor and distressed. It has been a pioneering agency whose activities and techniques during this time have influenced social services throughout the Nation. Today, as throughout the years, its program and services reflect the current, individual community needs and problems of a complex society.

The importance of family and home is a prime concern of the bureau's trained caseworkers, who guide parents and children to more understanding relationships and the development of new and more constructive attitudes. With its family counseling, the bureau helps families to resolve their problems and, with its homemaker services, it keeps families together during emergency periods, when a mother may be ill or absent from the home.

The problems of the aged are increasing as our lifespan increases. Here again, the bureau is concerned with trying to help the aged maintain their self-respect and dignity by assisting them to function in their own homes as long as possible and to participate in community activities.

The vocational counselors and teachers of the bureau, who participate in its comprehensive work evaluation, workshop, and homework activity programs for the emotionally and physically handicapped, know the gratification of bringing a feeling of usefulness to formerly unproductive, meaningless lives. For those too incapacitated to leave their homes, the bureau provides work-at-home projects. Others are trained to work in the bureau's sheltered workshops, and still others are prepared for employment in private industry.

There hardly seems to be an area of human concern into which the bureau has not reached. The activities beak the imaginative and all-encompassing, interrelated steps taken in behalf of human beings, whether they be infants or aged. For example, as much emphasis is placed on aid to the blind as is placed on obtaining foster care or adoption for abandoned and troubled infants. The helpless of all kinds, when helped, means that the family as a unit is helped. This can plainly be seen when we consider how a marriage can be held together by lifting from it burdens that are individually unmanageable. Services of this nature are like pebbles thrown into the waters, where the ripples spread forward even unto the farthest shores. The benefits are incalculable, affecting those who are as yet unborn. Some measure of insight into the work of the bureau can be gleaned from the outline of some selected highlights of this past hundred years of service to the community:

1884, opened lodging house for homeless boys. Established foster children services.

1885, established industrial schools to train young people. Opened kindergarten for children of working mothers.

Year 1890 started program to distribute pasteurized milk to infants.

1895, legal aid for needy started with 25 volunteer lawyers.

In 1908, Jewish branch reorganized as Independent Jewish Aid Societies, forerunner of Jewish Family Service.

In 1910, organized housing committee to improve housing conditions.

In 1912, established school lunch program for undernourished children.

In 1912, started free employment service for the needy.

In 1913, established home teaching for the blind and disabled, and sheltered workshops for the handicapped.

The year 1916 provided nursing, ambulance and other medical service to 3,600 victims of Brookly's worst infantile paralysis epidemic.

In 1919, nursing affiliate reorganized as independent Visiting Nurse Association of Brooklyn.

In 1920, established Shelter Island summer camp, now used for the aged and handicapped.

In the years 1930-33, distributed $1,770,000 in relief to victims of the depression.

In 1946, tuberculosis committee reorganized as independent Brooklyn Tuberculosis & Health Association.

In 1954, established homeless service to help families disrupted by illness or poverty.

In 1956, printed first bimonthly book of convenience foods.

In 1958, major building program increases capacity of sheltered workshops by 50 percent—grant from New York State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Society is indebted to the Brooklyn Bureau of Social Service and Children's Aid Society. Remember that in this mobile society, the beneficiaries of their services may long have left Brooklyn and moved to other States. As rehabilitated citizens, they serve their newly adopted States in a way they could not have done before. Hence, the significance of the work of the bureau reaches far beyond the boundaries of Brooklyn and even the State of New York.

As John Wise—how apt a name—said in 1776:

Man is not so wedded to his own interest but that he can make the common good the mark of his aim.