

Guide to **Family and Children's Service Collection**

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Collection Number V-64-5-5
Accession Number 2010.29

Compiled 2013

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Family and Children's Service of Ithaca, the oldest human service agency in Tompkins County, was formed in 1956 by the merger of two private organizations: The Ithaca Children's Home and the Family Society of Ithaca. Both antedated governmental services of this kind by many decades.

In 1885 the Ithaca Children's Home founded a residence for orphaned or destitute children, along with this city's first child day care nursery. The Family Society began life in 1912 as the Associated Charities of Ithaca, for financial aid to less fortunate residents, gradually expanding its role to become the singular source of welfare aid locally, including food, clothing and shelter, during the Great Depression.

Although government then entered the picture, F&CS now says the Family Society had strengthened its counseling services to become the primary family and marriage counselors in the community, and the Children's Home updated its operations with foster home and adoption services. The merged organization was well-launched on its long and remarkable career of adapting to meet changes in community needs, as these records show. Its purpose? As one leader put it, "To help people help themselves."

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

Description

Folders or Books

Ithaca Children's Home Financial Books:

Bank Accounts and Securities, 1911-1932
Receipts & Expenditures, 1918-1927

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Ruth R. Pettengill, 1958-72, F&CS executive director	
James Johnston, 1972-- F&CS executive director	
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