

CHICAGO
RESETTLERS
COMMITTEE

1953

7th ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared By

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7th ANNUAL REPORT

CHICAGO RESETTLERS COMMITTEE

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A RED FEATHER AGENCY

Affiliated with the WELFARE COUNCIL OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO,
THE COMMUNITY FUND OF CHICAGO, INC., and endorsed by the
CHICAGO ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY for the year
ended December 31, 1953.

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P R E F A C E

1953 found the services of the Chicago Resettlers Committee very much in demand.

The nature of the problems, however, have changed over the years. When Japanese Americans first began to re-make their homes in Chicago from the various relocation centers, the agency was more concerned with problems of large groups of people. Today our orientation is in the nature of working with relatively more isolated segments of the community.

This trend is indicative of the fact that some of our objectives are being approached. Chicago's Japanese Americans have become, relatively more, "a part of the whole". Indeed, looking back a decade, the process of adaptation has been rapid.

But there is much to be desired in terms of the work of the Resettlers Committee. We realize a need for more skillfulness in dealing with the specificity of the problems we now perceive. We also realize a need for greater sensitivity and versatility correlated with "looking ahead" in our programing in order to accomplish sound social and economic progress.

But we know that the realization of our objectives can surely only be made an actuality through the people of the community who have so conscientiously supported the Chicago Resettlers Committee.

Kenji Nakane
Executive Director

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Japanese Americans in Chicago now number approximately 13,000. They are like any other minority group, except that they have had a common experience of evacuation from their homes on the West Coast in 1942 during the early days of World War II, of life in relocation camps situated in dreary areas, and of adjustment to the larger world in a strange city near the end of the war.

The Chicago Resettlers Committee is an integral part of this story - - an agency organized in 1943 by resettlers with the help of welfare, governmental bodies and interested civic leaders, and accepted into the Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago in 1946. Its program of meeting immediate needs of Japanese has been a dynamic one, changing in emphasis throughout the years of its existence, but always keeping in mind its basic aim of integration, rather than the establishment of segregated "Little Tokyos" of the West Coast variety.

Due to many factors, the Japanese in Chicago are finding a degree of acceptance never before experienced in their lives. Although discrimination exists, they have been able to find employment in industries and professions, in areas formerly prohibited to them. Dispersal in housing is gradually changing the character of neighborhoods formerly concentration points for resettlers. Japanese names are becoming more common in neighborhood and community organizations. In short, during the past few years, Japanese Americans have been assimilating at a pace considered remarkable by social scientists.

But many problems still remain for the Japanese in Chicago. Acculturation is a process which takes several generations, the psychological scars of rejection leave deep impressions, the breaking up of families accelerated by evacuation have important implications, and complete acceptance into Chicago life is an aim to be translated into concrete reality.

This is, then, a part of the story, of the people who came for help to the Chicago Resettlers Committee, the work of the agency in stimulating resettlers to solve their own problems, and the activities of the Japanese Americans through the agency in promoting integration.

P H I L O S O P H Y

The basic purpose of the Resettlers Committee, as stated in its by-laws, is to "encourage Japanese Americans to become useful, responsible members of the community through social, economic and cultural activities".

S E R V I C E S

The paramount function of the Chicago Resettlers Committee has been that of a referral agency. Employment and housing referrals constitute a major portion of services provided (see appendix). Referral service has been continued with respect to financial, legal, health, unemployment and old-age problem. The agency offers counseling and casework referrals pertaining to family and personal problems and maintains active contact with these cases after referrals have been made (see appendix).

The Resettlers Committee functions as a resource agency to the recreational and educational activities of various groups as well as to institute and encourage cultural activities.

The agency offers facilities to many groups in the city and also conducts classes in citizenship, English and Japanese. Individuals of various ethnic backgrounds participate in these activities offered by the agency.

The Resettlers Committee cooperates with various other agencies and organizations in interpreting the needs of the Japanese Americans. The agency also works in conjunction with other groups whose interests lie in civic and socio-economic betterment.

HOW WE ARE FINANCED

In 1952 the agency carried an approved budget of \$20,083 as compared to an approved budget of \$20,488 for 1953 (see Appendix).

The Chicago Resettlers Committee received its financial support from:

THE COMMUNITY FUND OF CHICAGO.....	43%
MEMBERSHIP FEES AND CONTRIBUTIONS.....	47%
CHICAGO CITY MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES.....	6%
COMMUNITY TRUST.....	3%
RENT.....	1%

The membership in 1953 was approximately 1100.

THE PROGRAM IN 1953

The agency program did not altogether follow a previously proposed frame of reference with regards to planned programing.

Due to various factors, changes at the administrative level of the staff personnel were necessitated. The agency was without an associate director during the month of January and a portion of February due to the resignation of Mrs. Chizu Iiyama. Mr. Kenji Nakane was appointed to fill that vacancy in February. On March 30, Mr. Jack Yasutake, then the executive director, suddenly succumbed to an illness. Mr. Nakane then became acting director without an associate director until the appointment of Mr. Dan Kuzuhara in May, at which time Mr. Nakane was appointed as executive director.

E D U C A T I O N

The agency sponsored classes in Americanization, English and Japanese. The largest of these classes were the Americanization classes held under the joint auspices of the agency and the Japanese American Citizens League. 325 students were graduated during the year. The latter part of 1953 saw the Issei becoming American citizens for the first time.

R E C R E A T I O N

The Resettlers Committee has continued to work closely with the City-Wide Recreation Council, an organization of young men and women, affiliated with the agency. The group's monthly meetings have been of an educational nature. Social affairs, work projects and summer and winter outings were some of the major activities of the group. During the summer the agency sponsored a retreat for the old and new officers in order to evaluate the program of the City-Wide Recreation Council, and, to plan for future events.

The group has grown in number.

The Cosmo Club, a group consisting of Japanese war brides, has been closely assisted by the agency in an advisory and resource capacity. The relatively new group was provided orientation in citizenship and a relatively broad program is gradually being established with respect to general awareness of American citizenship and practical social and domestic living in a new country.

Various other groups and individuals have been assisted by way of information and referral concerning recreational activities.

S U M M E R A C T I V I T I E S

The summer program included a camping experience for boys and girls with children of various other ethnic groups at Camp Reinberg.

The Resettlers Committee Annual Community Picnic drew approximately 3500 people, a major project.

C O M M U N I T Y A F F A I R S

The Resettlers Committee participated in a number of civic programs sponsored by various groups through providing Japanese talent and assisting in the planning.

The agency has cooperated with other agencies such as the Citizens of Greater Chicago, The Lower North Community Council and The Council Against Discrimination and other bodies in promoting civic and socio-economic betterment. The Resettlers Committee has encouraged Japanese Americans to more actively participate in community affairs.

H O U S I N G A N D E M P L O Y M E N T

The Resettlers Committee has maintained activity in encouraging and assisting Japanese Americans to secure housing in areas where Japanese have not been previously represented, when such a wish was made known, through contacting appropriate agencies and individuals in a particular community

concerning such matters.

New fields in employment were established for Japanese Americans through necessary contacts. During the summer the agency was able to secure employment for a good number of foreign students coming from such countries as Thailand, Formosa, India and Japan

S.O.C.I.A L W E L F A R E

There has been a noted increase in social welfare cases coming to the agency, particularly during 1953. A large portion of the problems concerned Japanese war brides, of whom there are an estimated 400 in the city of Chicago. The nature of the problems has varied a great deal.

A fairly even number of Issei, Nisei and Sansei welfare records have also received the attention of the agency.

The Resettlers Committee functions primarily as a referral agency with a few exceptions where language constitutes a distinct barrier to adequate communication. Often the agency works jointly with a case-work agency, or, with a number of other appropriate agencies or institutions. In the case of a direct referral, contact is maintained to follow the disposition of the problem.

Old age problems, mental illness, financial need, family disruptions, delinquency, non-attendance in school and marital difficulties, describe the nature of the various problems related to the social welfare contacts of the agency.

L O O K I N G A H E A D

What are some of the problems we see in the future?

The Issei, numbering approximately 3000, with an average age of roughly 67 years, faces the ultimate phase of living when he can no longer be as productive and self-sustaining as in earlier years. His old age problems are not particularly unique as a whole, but, because of his cultural background, does present problems peculiar to the Issei alone. The kind of food he eats, and distinct language differences, are two factors which make the Issei's problems of old age unique in various aspects. The agency plans to study the situation carefully under the social welfare committee and determine the needs as well as approaches to fulfilling those needs.

Due to an increasing number of Japanese wives of former soldiers stationed with the occupational forces in Japan, the agency plans to structure a more systematic program in assisting the new citizens to become adapted to the American cultural way of life. The program, as it is presently perceived, should be more constructively realized in terms of both the group and individual problems of the Japanese wives. With approximately 13,000 Japanese wives presently residents in the United States, and with roughly 100 visas a week being applied for by Japanese wives married to soldier husbands in Japan, Chicago can anticipate a fair increase in the number of adjustmental problems among its new residents.

The recreational picture related to Chicago's young teen-age Nisei as well as to the increasing number of Hawaiian Nisei, are other areas to which the agency program will direct more attention.

As in the past, the agency hopes to continue to encourage greater participation, on the part of the Japanese American, in community affairs and inter-group activities. The Resettlers Committee will maintain its effort to widen opportunities in employment and housing.

It is these problems we perceive as being in need of important consideration in the function of the Chicago Resettlers Committee in 1954 and in the following years.

A P P E N D I X

V O L U M E O F S E R V I C E - 1 9 5 3

Total number of persons served 2274

Problems for which help was sought:

Employment	698
Housing	605
Financial Assistance	63
Health	71
Recreation	76
Education	119
Translation & Interpretation	111
Others	531

Services Provided:

Referred directly to employment or housing	1253
Information or advice	440
Recreation & education	64
Referred to other social agency	105
Referred to agency already active	82
Referred to organization other than social agency	77
Could not or unable to help	179
Others	63

APPENDIX

The Chicago Resettlers Committee

BALANCE SHEET AND APPROVED BUDGET

as of December 31, 1953

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
INCOME:		
Membership Dues	\$ 5,829.50	
Contributions (Individual)	3,200.55	\$ 9,380.
Community Trust Foundation	500.00	500.
Chicago City Missionary Society	1,200.00	1,200.
Community Fund of Chicago	8,393.25	8,643.
Rent (Temporary Residents)	<u>359.00</u>	<u>360.</u>
Total Income	\$19,482.30	\$20,083.
EXPENSES:		
Salaries and Wages	\$12,697.51	\$14,085.
Federal Insurance Contribution	183.23	198.
Gas. Electricity, Water and Fuel	874.87	890.
Insurance - expired	253.70	300.
Organization Dues	66.00	75.
Repairs and Decorating	771.19	600.
Stationery and Printing	503.96	550.
Postage	353.91	400.
Sundry Office Expense	282.62	260.
Telephone and Telegraph	861.93	700.
Fund Raising and Promotional	621.08	600.
Transportation	284.74	200.
Auditing and Legal	131.00	110.
Household Expenses	244.84	175.
Education and Recreation	528.12	530.
Conference	316.52	300.
Interest	<u>2.10</u>	10.
Total Expenses Paid	\$18,977.32	
Depreciation on Furn. & Equip.	<u>307.16</u>	<u>100.</u>
Total Expenses	\$19,284.48	\$20,083.
Net Gain to Surplus	<u>\$ 197.82</u>	<u>-0-</u>