CHICAGO RESETTLERS COMMITTEE

Japanese American Service Committee of Chicago

# 6th ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY

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# CHICAGO RESETTLERS COMMITTEE

1110 North La Salle Street Chicago 10, Illinois DElaware 7-1076

### 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, 1951.

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### PREFACE

1951 was a most memorable year for us. There is every indication that the Japanese Americans are becoming adjusted and useful citizens of Chicago. It seems that activities and services of the Chicago Resettlers Committee are still in demand by the community. It is my sincere wish that everyone concerned will help us in every way possible to achieve our objectives socially, economically, and spiritually.

In 1951, we bought our building. When we started the fund raising campaign for its purchase we were afraid that it would take at least three years to raise the amount needed. It was amazing that our goal was attained within the first six months after the campaign was started. It is encouraging to find such broad support from the entire community.

Through the years the Chicago Resettlers Committee has endeavored to help Japanese Americans. I hope that 1952 will be a year of greater accomplishment and a year in which we will draw nearer to the high ideals we have set before us.

Jack K. Yasutake Executive Director

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### INTRODUCTION

1951 marked the tenth anniversary of American entry into World War II. Within ten years, great changes have come to pass in the world -- within one decade, vast strides have been made in the status of Japanese in America.

In 1941, most Japanese Americans lived on the West Coast in self-contained, segregated communities with very little contact with the outside world. Pearl Harbor brought suspicion of these people, and culminated in a wholesale evacuation of 115,000 people solely on the basis of their ancestry. The year 1941 is indelibly printed in the minds of Japanese Americans as the start of a hysterical period of their rejection...1951 CLOSED WITH A GREATER DEGREE OF ACCEPTANCE THAN EVER BEFORE EXPERIENCED!

There are many reasons why this change came to pass -- the efforts of understanding Americans, of principled individuals of all walks of life, of governmental and private agencies, and the Japanese Americans themselves. In Chicago, ALL worked together to support and guide an organization, the Chicago Resettlers Committee help in the adjustment of people from the relocation camps. The Chicago Resettlers Committee has played a small part in the large and rich story of resettlement -- and this annual report will present the role of one agency in one city in 1951.

### II WHAT IS THE CHICAGO RESETTLERS COMMITTEE?

### a. background

One of the great centers of Japanese American relocation was Chicago -because its vast industrial concentration spelled jobs, and its warm friendliness meant security to the \*\*acuees. And to this large metropolis came
over 20,000 people...many from rural areas, some with bitter memories of
relocation camp life, others who suffered severe financial losses -- people
who had experienced the psychological strains of enforced detention.

To help interpret relocation problems to governmental and private agencies, the Chicago Resettlers Committee was organized in 1943 as an informal, advisory committee. In September 1946, the agency was accepted into the Council of Social Agencies (now the Welfare Council) and given the task of aiding in the resettlement of Japanese Americans,

It's program has been a dynamic one, reflecting the changing needs of resettlers. Thus, housing, employment, recreation, social wolfare, and community relations each became spotlighted in different phases of agency growth.

### b. aims

The purpose of the Chicago Resettlers Committee to "encourage Japanese Americans become useful and responsible members of the community through social, economic, and cultural activities" remains the same today. Our principal aim is to integrate the Japanese into Chicago life, and to help them work with other Americans for the realization of democratic goals.

### c. services offered

Because immediate needs are of great concern to the agency, the Chicago Resettlers Committee has continued its referral service in employment, housing, financial and legal problems. It offers counseling and casework referrals on family, personal, and educational problems, and works as a consultant on many cases. It provides recreational, educational, and cultural activities in addition to encouraging participation in community affairs. It works with numerous agencies in the city, interpreting problems of Japanese Americans to them, and in turn bringing information about these agencies to the Japanese. It assists applicants on old age pensions and unemployment compensation, serves as an information center, and provides facilities for many groups in the city.

### d. location

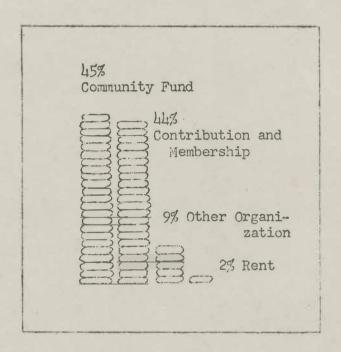
In 1950, the agency was given authorization by the Welfare Council and the Community Fund to purchase its building at 1110 North La Salle. The overwhelming response to the fund drive enabled the agency to reach its goal of \$20,000 and the building is now paid in full.

Although it is situated on the lower north side, the agency serves Japanese Americans from all parts of Chicago, It has been interesting to note that in past months, some non-japanese in the neighborhood have utilized some of its services.

### e. finances

Whether an agency has the support of the people it services can generally be determined by examining the financial resources of the organization. In 1951, the total income was 18793.77 (see Appendix A) an increase of 8% over 1950 despite the added burden of running a building fund drive for \$20,000. However, it should be noted that the financial burden on the 13,000 Japanece in Chicago was high, and that it was only through the persevering efforts of the Finance Committee, Board members and friends of the Chicago Resettlers that the high degree of membership dues and contributions was maintained.

How We Are Financed



### III WHAT WAS THE PROGRAM FOR 1951?

### a. highlights

1951 ushered in a new type of activity for the Chicago Resettlers Committee. Most Japanese Americans are living in changing communities -- characterized by a movement of Negroes into the area, a fear of new comers by old-time residents and concern of deteriorating conditions. Such a neighborhood is Oakkand - Kenwood.

This area was of special interest to the agency because it is the largest single area of Japanese American resettlers in the city and the experience encountered in the community would have a great effect on the rest of the Japanese in the city.

Worried by the movement out of the Oakland - Menwood area by Japanese Americans partly because of fear of newcomers, the Community Relations Committee recommended the technique of block organization through a civic group, the O-KPA. It was felt that block groups working for civic improvement would 1) stabilize the community and increase its standards; 2) help residents meet and become acquainted -- thus promoting sound intergroup relations; 3) give residents a sense of belonging to a group; 4) help residents gain experience in social and civic affairs.

Hence, at the end of the year, the Chicago Resettlers Committee stimulated the Oakland Kenwood Planning Association to work on community problems. This type of activity was clearly in line with the basic purpose of the agency to promote integration and participation in community affairs.

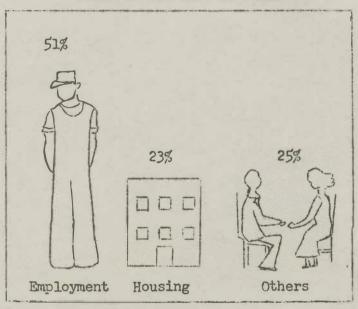
The agency also played an active role in the Human Relations Committee of the Lower North Community Council to aid Japanese Americans work with their neighbors on common problems.

Realizing that one agency serving one minority group is ineffective in dealing with the over-all problem of discrimination, the Resettlers Committee pursued a vigorous policy of working with other groups. For the first time, the agency became an active member of the Employment & Guidance, the Youth and Government Committees of the Welfare Council, the Employment Committee and Board Member of the Chicago Council Against Racial and Religious Discrimination, the Community Organization and Employment Committee of the Commission on Human Relations, the Human Relations Committee of the Lower North Community Council, and the Federation of Settlements. It also cooperated with the Church Federation of Greater Chicago, local churches, social agencies and settlement houses to carry on its program. It consulted and worked with the Mutual Aid Society, the Japanese American Citizens League, and the Ellis Community Center.

# b. Meeting immediate needs

The immediate problems of Japanese Americans have always been of great concern to the agency, and in 1951 this meant help in employment, housing, social welfare, counseling, and information. In 1951, 2333 people visited the effice (see Appendix B). Because many of the routine informational requests were unrecorded, it is difficult to compare the figure with those of previous years.

TYPES OF SERVICES RENDERED



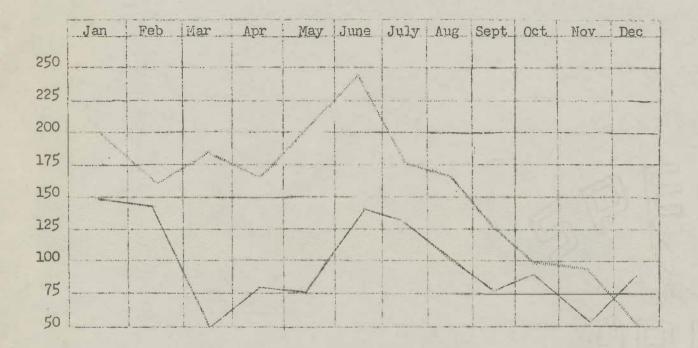
EMPLOYMENT -- 1192 HOUSING -- 556 OTHERS --585

others include financial, counseling, information, advice, educational and recreational referrals, social case work.

Dealing with statistics in an agency such as the Chicago Resettlers is cold and objective -- it cannot be overly stressed that each one of the 2333 total represents a unique individual with a special problem. Statistics and graphs cannot reveal the glow of happiness of an aged man helped to regain his place in family life, or the sigh of relief of a newcomer to the city assured of a job and an apartment. Moreover, where interpretation of services and referrals constitute a large bulk of the work, statistics can never express the broad scope of agency work.

In 1951, services offered in the office building were carefully examined, and new methods of procedure and new content were added to existing practices.

### NUMBER SECKING EMPLOYMENT SERVICE



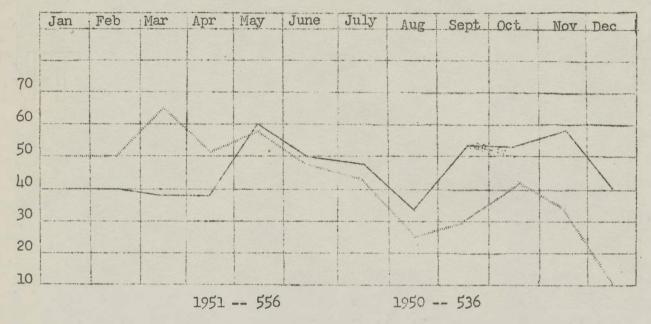
With employment in the United States at an all time high, Japanese American workers found many opportunities open to them. Skilled and professional people were at a premium, and graduates of colleges found lucrative employment. However in the unskilled category, the job picture was spotty and wages were low.

In 1951, 1192 people sought help on employment referral. The drop of 551 people or 31% less than 1950, or 50% less than 1949 reflects 1) the general high level of employment, 2) the fact that Japanese are utilizing other resources in Chicago. The peak in January and June follow the traditional layoffs at the beginning of the year and the mid-year influx of students into the labor market.

During the year, contacts were made with labor unions for the first time, so that the agency was able to get their help in broadening job opportunities. Professional, business organizations, and college vocational offices were tapped as resources. Through cooperation with the American Friends Service Committee and Employment Committees of city-wide groups, the employment field was widened, especially in the loop stores and in insurance.

Individual counseling for college trained and skilled people was offered with special attention given to their placement. In order to help youth realize the great potentialities for professional and trained people, a vocational guidance conference was instituted to present not only "experts" on employment trends, but successful Japanese in diverse fields.

### NUMBER SEEKING HOUSING REFERRALS



Housing is Chicago's number one problem -- and the most pressing one for resettlers. One of the reasons for the migration of Japanese to the West Coast is the lack of decent housing. During the year there was also much movement in the city, and it is our belief that the largest concentration of Japanese are now on 1) the south side -- Oakland-Kenwood, advancing further south or moving to the far north; 2) lower north -- around Clark and Division with its Japanese shops and restaurants; and 3) far north -- near 4800 and Broadway.

In 1951 there was an increase in the number of people seeking housing referrals. Contacts were made with the Chicago Housing Authority to press for openings in public housing; however, most of the applicants had higher incomes than were allowed under the CHA. Apart from utilizing the file on apartments (most of which are owned by Japanese landlords), very little was done because of lack of time and funds, and because it was felt that this problem was so broad in scope it could not be solved by one small agency for one group of people. Thus the Resettlers participated in some of the activities of the Housing Conference of Chicago.

Several cases of discrimination in housing were settled satisfactorily with the cooperation of the Commission on Human Relations.

### social welfare

A conference of social workers and agency people was called to determine the social welfare problems of Japanese Americans. The conference revealed 1) there are Japanese American social workers serving in many agencies throughout the city; 2) Japanese are beginning to utilize agencies and are more aware of the services that are available; 3) juvenile delinquency is very low; 4) more adoptive homes by Japanese are received now by children's agencies.

In the office, there was an increase in case work necessary to make the proper referrals. Extensive consultation was carried on with other agencies on some cases. The single largest group of clients are the Issei aged who seek help for old age pensions, OASI, and unemployment compensation. recreation and education Recreation for Issei and Nisei was considered an important function. With Nisei group workers employed in various settlement houses and agencies, and with the continuation of the policy of encouraging use of community facilities, the Resettlers Committee did not operate an extensive recreation program for Nisei in the building. GROUPS USING FACILITIES Humber Sessions Attendance Nisei clubs and activities 16 1.08 137/1 5887 Issei activities 10 222 Other organizations Issei 48 1155 32 531 Nisei 684 Individuals 21 31 534 Agency committees, conferences, etc. Issei recreational needs were met mainly through activities in the building. Sunday Goh sessions remained very popular, and groups interested in poetry, literature, health, song, and drama continued to meet. It is interesting to note that 70% of the activities in the building were for Issei groups and organizations, 19% for Nisei clubs and organizations, 6% mixed agency committees, board meetings, etc., 5% individuals. The City Wide Recreation Council focused its attention on the recreational needs of the young adult age group, sponsoring socials, outings, educational and service projects. The Recreational Leadership Training Program attracted 168 leaders, with the program emphasis on understanding individual and group behavior as a way of solving organizational problems. The Girls Inter Club Council was reactivated to give concrete guidance to the nine girls clubs in the city. The Council sponsored dances, and a tea for college graduates, discussed club problems, and exchanged ideas for social and service projects. Sponsored activities drew a marked increase in attendance, almost  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times more people attracted to the picnics, talent show, Christmas program, and other events during the year. (See Appendix C).

### IV WHAT ARE THE UNFINISHED TASKS?

Although the status of Japanese Americans has improved and many are beginning to feel accepted and a part of Chicago life, our goal of integration and participation in the communities is still in the future. A start has been made in helping Japanese Americans relate their problems with those of other groups, and to seek a common solution beneficial to all. In 1952, this type of activity must be carried more vigorously, with the utilization of new techniques of community organization and education.

Attention must be paid towards improving the services of employment, housing, and social welfare referrals. With Chicago the center of expansion of different types of industries, with the tight labor market in skilled and professional work, the agency should 1) be prepared for newcomers from other area seeking employment; 2) shift its attention towards encouraging young and old workers to increase their knowledge and skills to take advantage of new job opportunities; 3) bring to the attention of youth in high schools and colleges the importance of training. Individual counseling and special attention towards the placement of skilled and professional people should be continued.

In housing, interpretation of low cost housing, cooperative housing, and the efforts of organizations such as the Housing Conference of Chicago should be brought to the attention of the Japanese Americans. Intergroup tensions should be noted and worked out. The listing of apartments has been valuable and more apartments should be notified of the agency service.

One of the projects recommended by the social service conference was a series of discussions focusing on the effects of culture on Japanese American personality, and an interpretation of these problems to social agencies. Another source of concern to the agency is the special problem of the Issei aged, and it is felt that a study should be made so that intelligent and realistic recommendations can be followed. Attention should be brought on foster homes, adoptive homes, the services of different agencies through newspaper and magazine articles, talks, and other media.

The City Wide Recreation Council will continue its activities with young adults. However, emphasis will be on smaller groups and more effort will be directed towards intergroup activity. A new type of leadership training program will be instituted reaching groups on their level.

The agency will hold a series of discussions on the role of the club advisor, the developmental needs of adolescents and young adults, and on other subjects for the advisors of all clubs and organizations in the city. The Inter Club Council is planning to develop interesting programs on club problems, acquainting clubs with agencies and facilities in the city, etc. and will put out its own newspaper.

Problems of the kibei and Japanese war brides have not been touched by the agency. An awareness of their problems and exploratory discussions should be made to determine how the agency might help.

We have set ourselves many tasks for 1952. This may well be the year which will see even greater strides in Japanese American integration in Chicago. With the help of all the agencies, and above all the Japanese Americans themselves, the Chicago Resettlers can play a part in the still incomplete story of resettlement.

# THE CHICAGO RESETTLERS COMMITTEE

# BALANCE SHEET

# AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1951

# ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS: Cash on hand - General Fund Cash in bank - General Fund Cash in bank and on hand - Buildi	ng Fund			\$	50,00 1383,73 3956,54
Total Current Assets FIXED ASSETS:	R <b>e</b> se	rve for De	preciated	\$	5390,27
		eciation	cost		
Building Building Improvements Furniture & fixtures-	\$19825;41 \$ 775•00 1	\$ 16.25	19825.41		
building Furniture & fixtures	436.00 1939.99 5	87.06	436.00 1352.93		
	\$22976,40 07	03.31 \$	22273,09		22273.09
Unexpired Insurance				-	200,67
Total Assets				\$	27864.03
LIABILITI	ES AND NET WORTH				
LIABILITIES: Accounts payable - current Accrued Federal insurance contrib 4th Quarter 1951 Employee withholding tax - 4th Qu Bank loan - unsecured					861.12 30.45 157.80
				-	421,00
Total Liabilities				\$	1470-37
SURPLUS: General Fund surplus balance at J Add: Net income for year ended	anuary 1, 1951	\$	1971.89		
December 31, 1951 (Exhibit II)		- Marie 1871	203.82		
Total General Fund surp	lus, 12/31/51	\$	2175,71		
Building Fund surplus (Exhibit II	I)		24217.95		
Total Surplus					26393:66
Total Liabilities and S	urplus			\$	27864,03

# THE CHICAGO RESETTLERS COMMITTEE

# STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

# FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1951

# GENERAL FUND

INCOME:  Membership dues  Donation from individuals and firms  Donation from Chicago Congregational Union  Donation from Community Trust Foundation  Donation from lodgers and users of institutional  premises  From Community Fund  From rents (Temporary residents)  Total income		\$ 6;375,00 1;249,77 1;200,00 500,00 531,00 8;395,00 543,00
EXPENSES PAID: Salaries and wages Federal insurance contribution Gas, electricity and water Fuel oil Insurance - expired Organization dues Repairs Stationery and printing Pestage Sundry office expense Telephone and telegraph Fund raising and publicity Transportation Auditing and legal Household expenses Education and recreation Conference Interest on loan to purchase equipment Total expenses paid Depreciation on furniture and equipment Total expenses (see Note B)  Net income to surplus (Exhibit I)	\$12,764,43 91,38 418,07 552,11 97,57 78,00 571,92 232,76 441,81 161,15 846,03 679,61 189,31 106,00 204,48 597,42 262,50 30,34	18,589.95
NOTE A: Does not include cash disbursement for capital expenditures during year 1951 as follows;  Furniture & fixtures Payment on bank loan to purchase oil burner (\$775.00)	\$ 128.78 230.00 \$ 358.78	

# EXHIBIT III

### THE CHICAGO RESETTLERS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

# FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1951

### BUILDING FUND

Income from contribution to building fund - collected	\$24,239.50
Interest on savings account fund	15.68
Total income	\$24,255.18
Expensesinsurance expense pro-rated	37.23
Net income to surplus (Exhibit I)	\$24,217.95

# ANALYSIS OF SURPLUS

Cash in bank and on hand		\$ 3,956.54
Building: Cost of building Legal and title fee Fund-raising expenses	\$16,000.00 91.50 3,733.91	19,825.41
Improvements - fixtures (folding doors)		436,00
Total		\$24,217.95

## THE CHICAGO RESETTLERS COMMITTEE

# COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES WITH APPROVED BUDGET OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

# For the Year Ended December 31, 1951

	ACTU	ΛL	вир	GET
INCOME:  Membership dues  Donation from individuals and fire Donation from Chicago Cong. Union Donation from Community Trust Four Donation from lodgers and users of institutional premises	ndation	\$ 6,375,00 1,249,77 1,200,00 500,00		\$ 6,215,00 1,000,00 1,200,00 500,00
Total donations Income from Community Fund Income from rents		\$ 9,855.77 8,395.00 543.00		\$ 95915.00 8,395500 480.00
Total income		\$18,793.77		\$18,790.00
Clerical 4	\$36.20 \$780.00 148.23 \$764.43 91.38 418.07 552.11 97.57 78.00 571.92 232.76 441.81 161.15 846.03 679.61 189.31 106.00 204.48 597.42 262.50 295.40		\$ 7,500,00 4,620,00 750,00 \$12,870,00 450,00 450,00 450,00 450,00 425,00 260,00 750,00 600,00 250,00 110,00 200,00 600,00	
Total expenses		\$18,589.95		\$18,790,00
Net income to surplus (Exhibit I)		\$ 203.82		sa- O-a

# APPENDIX B

# Volume of Service for 1951.

Total number	of persons served	2333
Problems for	which help was sought:	
	Employment       1192         Housing       556         Translation       138         Financial assistance       87         Recreation       81         Education       63         Health       37         Others       179	
Services pro	vided: Total:	2237
	Referred directly to employment or housing 1254 Information or advice 511 Recreation - education 81 Referred to other social agencies 76 Referred to agency already active 64 Referred to organization other than social agency 72 Could not or unable to help 59 Others	

# 'APPENDIX C

# Sponsored Special Events

EVENTS	FACILITIES	JA PARTICIPATION
Winter Outing	Robbins Lodge	33
Raffle Dance	McCormick Y.W.C.A.	300
Open House	North Avenue Y.M.C.A.	100
Recreation Workshop	Resettlers, Lawson Y	168
Talent Show	Olivet Institute	650
Vocational Conference	Chicago Resettlers	28
Summer Camp for children	Camp Reinberg 19 Tower Hill 10	29
Cancer program	Chicago Resettlers	35
Camp program	Chicago Resettlers	25
City Wide outing	College Camp	55
Girls Club outing	Forest Beach	83
Picnic	Dan Ryan Woods	4000
Art Exhibit	Chicago Resettlers	400
Annual Meeting	Chicago Resettlers	60
Dance	McCormick Y.W.C.A.	350
Social Work Conference	Chicago Resettlers	15
Christmas program	Museum of Science & Indus	try 20
Christmas party for Japanese students and young adults	Olivet Institute	75
	TOTAL:	6426