

# REPORT

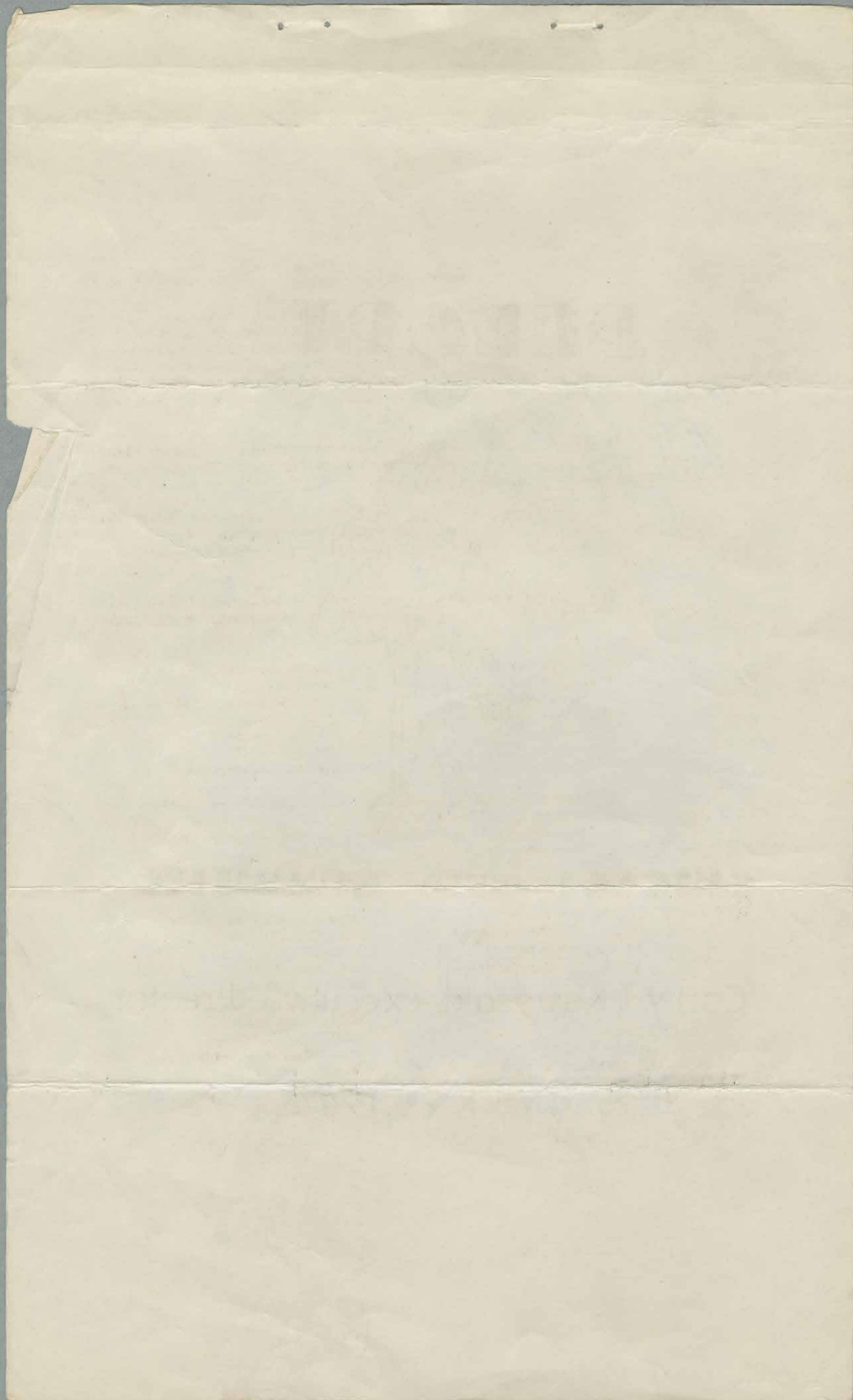


CHICAGO RESETTLERS COMMITTEE

BY

Corky T. Kawasaki, executive director

SEPTEMBER 28, 1946





THE CHICAGO RESETTLERS' COMMITTEE

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

September 28, 1946

Corky T. Kawasaki,  
Executive Director

How it Began In July, 1944, a small group of volunteers among Japanese Americans, assembled and conceived a plan for the need of interpreting the problems of evacuees (who were resettling into the Chicago area from relocation centers) to the War Relocation Authority and social agencies which had committed themselves to the assistance of resettlers. The group believed in the sound integration of resettlers and encouraged leadership to develop a program to work toward this goal.

Limited financial support, wartime conditions and restrictions, and the unsettled status of resettlers themselves made it difficult for the volunteers to function beyond an advisory stage.

The volunteers, however, foresaw the need for a continuing agency to attend to the unfinished problems of evacuation and resettlement. They desired an agency that would supplement the work of the W.R.A., and advise related agencies of resettlement problems.

The committee was formally organized in September, 1945. The Chicago Resettlers' Committee owes its existence to the leadership of the following persons:

Mr. Harry Mayeda  
Mrs. Ken Nishi  
Mr. Masamori Kojima  
Mr. Thomas Masuda  
Rev. Andrew Oyama  
Miss Grace Hagiya  
Mr. George Akahoshi

Mr. John K. Brenton  
Mr. Ryoichi Fujii  
Mr. G. T. Matsunaga  
Dr. Virgil Lowder  
Mr. Koichi Masunaka  
Mr. Tom Shibutani  
Rev. Albert C. Ronander

On November 5, 1945, a group of twenty men and women met at the W.R.A. Council Room and accepted the Constitution and By-laws drafted by a committee headed by Thomas Masuda and elected their officers. The officers, members of the Executive and Advisory Boards are as follows:

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Harry K. Mayeda, President  
G. T. Matsunaga, Vice-President  
Mrs. Ken Nishi, Secretary  
Kohachiro Sugimoto, Treasurer  
K. Masunaka, Auditor  
Corky T. Kawasaki, Executive Director

John K. Brenton  
Ryoichi Fujii  
Dr. William Hiura  
Haruo Ishimaru  
Ichikuro Kondo  
Rev. G. M. Kubose  
Rev. Virgil E. Lowder  
Y. Muruyama  
Joe Teiji Koide  
Dr. Matsusaburo Kuki  
Thomas Masuda  
Rev. Jitsuo Morikawa  
Rev. Andrew Y. Oyama  
Rev. Leslie T. Pennington  
M. Takemori  
Tom Teraji  
Sakae Toda  
Brother Theophane Walsh  
Dr. Harry J. Walker

ADVISORY BOARD

Russell W. Ballard  
Edward Eagle Brown  
Helen P. Bull  
Horace R. Cayton  
Earl B. Dickerson  
Dr. Arthur G. Falls  
William H. Haight  
Dr. S. I. Hayakawa  
Dr. Melville J. Herskovitz  
Joseph Keenan  
Leo Lerner  
Mrs. Emile Levy  
Michael Mann  
Judge John P. McGoorty  
George B. McKibben  
John Nuveen, Jr.  
Dean Robert Redfield  
Dean Curtiss W. Reese  
Dr. Harold W. Rupp  
Judge George L. Quilici  
Elmer L. Shirrell  
Dr. Edward J. Sparling  
W. Ellis Stewart  
Willard S. Townsend  
Philip Walsh  
Mrs. John H. Weddell  
Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein



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What It Is The Chicago Resettlers' Committee is, therefore, an organization of citizen and non-citizen Japanese Americans, Caucasians, and Negroes; Catholics, Protestants, Buddhists, and Jews; representative of business, labor, education, the press, and other occupations who believe that unless well-advised leadership is given to the problems of persons of Japanese ancestry, further physical and psychological isolation would become the trend.

What It Does The INFORMATION-REFERRAL SERVICE at 734 N. LaSalle Street assists close to 200 persons a month. Two-thirds of this number need special interpretive service in medical and social service referral, counseling in family and business problems, employment, and housing, because they are first generation Japanese who do not speak English adequately to go directly to other agencies. Veterans and other Nisei who, because of their ancestry and evacuation experience, need attention not given elsewhere also use the service.

More than fifteen hundred persons have gone through the office of The Chicago Resettlers' Committee during the past nine months of its existence. One of the basic purposes of the Committee is to encourage Japanese Americans to make use of community resources in aiding their adjustment in Chicago.

Miss Lucy T. Carner, Executive Secretary of the Division on Recreational Education of the Council of Social Agencies, recently said that the recreational needs of resettlers had become increasingly "dramatic" and charged that though the agencies had not discriminated, they had failed to take the necessary initiative in making it possible for these "complete strangers" in Chicago to enjoy agency resources.

Next year, we hope to employ a full-time worker to stimulate Nisei participation in the on-going recreational activities of Chicago agencies. The Community Referral Service in the loop has been extremely helpful to the Committee, but most Issei have difficulty in making direct agency contacts due to their language difficulty.

A countless number of these referrals have been made via telephone. The following figures of the number of interviews will give some idea of the importance of the Committee's work.

	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
Employment -----	101	83	121	119
Housing -----	14	25	29	27
Referral -----	56	30	18	50
Counseling -----	12	7	20	9
Business Opportunities -----	3	7	8	5
Total	186	152	196	210

A Calendar of Activities of the Committee to date is as follows:

- August 15, 1945      Sponsored entertainment at the Hull House. Approximately 100 people enjoyed the event.
- January 6, 1946      An Open House for the Committee was held at the C. Y. O. Nisei Center, and the Committee made its official debut as an Agency.
- January 12, 1946      The first "GO" Tournament was held at the Chicago Buddhist Church, and close to a hundred people assembled.
- February 12, 1946      English classes were organized with the assistance of the CYO Nisei Center and the Adult Education Department of the Board of Education. Approximately sixty-five persons are taking advantage of this activity on the North Side.
- February 16, 1946      A lecture on current events was held at the CYO Nisei Center, and some fifty people were in attendance.
- April 2, 1946      A South Side English class was organized through the courtesy of the Chicago Buddhist Church and the Adult Education of the Board of Education. Some twenty-five students are attending the class.
- May 5, 1946      Sponsored musical and tea in honor of the behind-the-scenes War Relocation Authority employees, and some one hundred and twenty-five persons attended the interesting program.



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REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

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- May 30, 1946 Participated in the gigantic Memorial Day Veterans' Testimonial Banquet, which was sponsored together with thirteen other Civic organizations.
- September 17, 1946 Started another English class at the South Congregational Church with the Board of Education making similar arrangements for an instructor.
- September 15 and 22, 1946 The second "GO" Tournament was sponsored by the Committee at the CYO Nisei Center. Approximately one hundred and fifty persons participated in the two-Sunday event.
- September 29, 1946 A city-wide golf tournament was scheduled by popular request, and a committee headed by Thomas Masuda arranged a good tournament for the golfers of the younger group.
- October 5, 1946 Music-lovers of Biwa (an old Japanese instrument) are getting a thrill from the announcement of a Biwa concert at the Olivet Institute.
- October 26, 1946 A Hobby Show is another of the much-anticipated events to be sponsored by the Committee.

The Chicago Resettlers' Committee is active in the following coordinating groups:

Executive Board of the Division on Education-Recreation  
Coordinating Committee on Welfare Services to Persons  
of Japanese descent  
Lower North Community Council  
Advisory Board  
Department of Social Service  
Church Federation of Greater Chicago  
Chicago Japanese American Council  
Chicago Council Against Racial and Religious Discrimination

The relationship with other agencies and organizations has been exceedingly good since the beginning and there is little or no duplication of effort. The Committee became a member of the Chicago Council Against Racial and Religious Discrimination to fight against the unfair practices against minorities.

How it is Financed Generous donations have been received from various organizations and individuals. Among them are the following:

The Chicago Congregational Union, Dr. Neil E. Hansen; the Unitarian Service Committee with headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts; Congregational Committee on Christian Democracy, Dr. Clarence S. Gillett, have been the major supporting organizations. Marshall Field and Edward Eagle Brown have contributed, indicating an appreciation of the problems of resettlers in the transitional period of adjustment in Chicago.

We believe that the Chicago Resettlers' Committee is the kind of organization that warrants the support of all people, inasmuch as the Chicago Community at large should be concerned with what happens to people who were uprooted from their homes and businesses on the West Coast, forced to confinement without charges, and who were resettled in strange urban communities. On the kind leadership and cooperative attention given to their problems today will depend whether the forced movement to the Middle West and East permanently created an intensely self-conscious minority group or hastened the assimilation of persons of Japanese descent.

The following Financial Report was prepared by Mr. Kohachiro Sugimoto and audited by Mr. Koichi Masunaka, who are Treasurer and Auditor respectively:

(See following page)

The Chicago Resettlers' Committee  
REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

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THE CHICAGO RESETTLERS' COMMITTEE  
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES  
From Dec. 18, 1945 to June 30, 1946

	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
* DONATIONS	\$2,812.25	
MEMBERSHIP FEE (148 Members)	296.00	
SALARY		\$1,525.00
OFFICE RENT		254.44
MAILING EXPENSE		53.50
OFFICE SUPPLY		155.58
TRIP EXPENSE		53.60
ADVERTISING		42.00
PUBLIC RELATIONS		99.42
TELEPHONE		97.26
MISCELLANEOUS		4.75
OFFICE FURNITURE		56.42
In Bank - \$536.28		\$2,341.97
On Hand - \$230.00 --		766.28
	\$3,108.25	\$3,108.25

* Donations	Booth, Mrs. Raymond	\$ 25.00
	Brown, Edward Eagle	50.00
	Chicago Congregational Union	700.00
	Chicago Japanese American Council	15.00
	Dearborn Glass Company	70.00
	Field, Marshall	100.00
	Hayakawa, Dr. S.I.	10.00
	Matsunaga, Taisei	60.00
	National City Lines	50.00
	Congregational Committee on Christian Democracy	700.00
	Ross, Prudence	15.00
	St. Mary's Girls' Dormitory	29.25
	Unitarian Home Service Committee	800.00
	Other Donors (38 persons)	188.00
		\$ 2,812.25

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 1946

Income:

MEMBERSHIP (296)	592.00
DONATION	3,523.25
	4,115.25

Expenses:

Salary	\$2,515.00
Mailing	133.78
Rent	364.66
Office Supply	236.12
Trip Expense	67.10
Advertisement	47.00
Public Relations	134.26
Telephone	157.26
Office Furniture	56.42
Miscellaneous	24.75
	3,736.35

TOTAL BALANCE - - - - \$378.90

Respectfully submitted,

*Corky T. Kawasaki*  
Corky T. Kawasaki  
Executive Director