Cork Children's Fresh Air Fund Association

IE CCCA/SM99

Descriptive List

Cork City and County Archives

IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference: IE CCCA/SM99

Title: Cork Children's Fresh Air Fund Association

Level of description: fonds

Date: 1932 - 1984

Extent: 2 boxes [56 items]

CONTEXT

Creator: Cork Children's Fresh Air Fund Association

Biographical/Administrative History:
Cork Children's Fresh Air Fund was set up under the auspices of the Cork Council of Women as a charitable fund to send underprivileged city children, especially sick children, for a fortnight's holiday to the seaside or country. Perhaps inspired by the Fresh Air Fund created in New York, USA, in 1877, the Cork Fund began its work in 1931. On 21 Dec 1943 it was incorporated under the Companies' Act as 'The Cork Children's Fresh Air Fund Association'. Annual reports continue to describe the Fund as being under the auspices of the Cork Council of Women until 1955. In 1953, the Irish Countrywomen's Association agreed that its members would accept the children as boarders in their homes. Assistance was also received from companies such as Dunlop's and Sunbeam, which provided wellingtons and clothing, Cork Rotary Club, which raised funds through card tournaments, and groups such as the Junior Chamber of Commerce, members of which drove children to and from their holidays. Income came mainly from subscriptions, while many donations, bequests, and other contributions were also received. The Fund was managed by a president or chairman and officers, and its committee. From 1939 the Lord Mayor of Cork acted as patron. Stella A Hill (Mrs WH Hill) was the first president, serving until 1944-5. Cynthia Treston served as chairman/president from 1951 until 1981, when the company was dissolved, in response to 'improved social conditions'. The Fund sent 442 children on holiday in 1932, 133 children in 1954 (up from 90 in 1952, before the ICA became involved), 138 in 1965, 67 in 1975 [down from 112 in 1974], and around 30 on the final holiday in 1981.
Archival History:
The records were evidently deposited in the Archives in the 1990s.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Scope and Content:
Records, including minutes (1969-81), and annual reports (1932-80 with gaps), of the Cork Children's Fresh Air Fund Association. The collection documents most of the existence of this charity and its work assisting poor and sick children in mid-20th century Cork city, and sheds light on the involvement of Cork Corporation, private clubs and organisations, other charities, and individual donors in its activities.

The records have been arranged into the following series:

SM99/1 Minutes, 1969-81 (1 vol)
SM99/2 Printed Annual Reports, 1932-80 (Gaps; 34 items)
SM99/3 Articles of Association and Certificate of Incorporation (2 items)
SM99/4 Reports and other records relating to Mrs Stella Hill, first president of the Fund, 1941-45 (10 items)
SM99/5 Order and related correspondence relating to the liquidation of the Association and its assets, 1981-84. (1 item, 1 file)
SM99/6 Scrapbook and newscuttings regarding the Fund and its work 1932-70 (1 vol, 1 file)
SM99/7 Photographs, 1937, 1957, 1968 (3 items)
SM99/8 Headed paper (blank), Cork Council of Women and Cork Children's Fresh Air Fund Association (2 sets)

Series SM99/4 gathers records relating directly to Mrs Hall, the Fund's first president, and includes three reports by her as President both of the Fund and the Cork Council of Women which supplement the secretary's reports contained in printed annual reports (series SM99/2).

PERSON/INSTITUTION INDEX:
Cork Children's Fresh Air Fund Association | 1931 - 1981
Cork Council of Women

SUBJECT/EVENT ETC. INDEX:
Charities
Children
20th century
Clubs and Societies
CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE

Conditions Governing Access:
Open by appointment to all holding a current reader’s ticket

Conditions Governing Reproduction:
Subject to rules governing reproduction of records at CCCA

Language:
English

Physical /Technical Requirements:
Two framed items (SM99/3/2 and SM99/7/2) and two photographs (SM99/7/1 & £) are stored in a separate box from the rest of the collection. Framed objects require careful handling.

Finding Aids:
Descriptive List

RULES /CONVENTIONS USED
ISAD(G)

ARCHIVIST’S NOTE

Prepared by: Timmy O Connor
Date: Jun 2014
DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Ref.  SM99/1  Date:  1969 - 1981
Title:  Minutes
Level:  series
Extent:  1 item

Scope and Content:
Volume of minutes of CCFAFA. Ordinary meetings, attended by chair and committee, generally occurred twice a year, in March/April and September-November, with some special meetings also occurring. Spring meetings discussed fundraising, the holiday period and number of children to be sent on holiday, cost per child (£3 from 1969-72, rising to £12 in 1980), and related matters. Autumn (annual) meetings read and approved the annual report and accounts, and elected the committee. At meeting of 1 May 1980 it was agreed that £100 be granted for transport for four children from Northern Ireland to holiday homes. At the meeting of 29 Jan 1981 it was agreed that the Association be wound up, as 'because of improved social conditions, it was felt that there is no longer the same need for the association's work, as there had been in the past'. The final meeting took place in St Vincent de Paul Rooms, No 2, Tuckey St, 8 Oct 1981 and discussed scheme for charitable distribution of funds.

Ref.  SM99/2  Date:  1932 - 1980 [gaps]
Title:  Annual Reports, printed
Level:  series
Extent:  34 items

Scope and Content:
SM99/2/1-35 Printed Annual Reports, 1932-80. Reports generally contain the secretary's or committee's report for the year, the audited accounts, a list of subscribers, and lists of officers and committee. The report notes the number of children sent on holiday each year, total receipts, and gives thanks to organisations or individuals who have assisted it particularly that year. Reports present for 1932-33, 1935, 1938, 1939, 1941-45, 1946-47 (1 item), 1948-50 (2 items), 1951-52 (1 item), 1953-65, 1969, 1971-75, 1980. Also present are audited accounts, 1980. 34 items.

Eg:
SM99/2/9 (1944-45) notes that the Fund, with Cork Rotary Club, and other friends, had purchased Monatrea Hotel in Youghal for its purposes, but had later sold it to Youghal residents. In that year 520 children, the largest number in its existence, were sent on holiday. Also, Stella Hill, first president of the Cork Branch of the National Council of Women, resigned as president. Balance to credit was £2475 3s 5d.
Ref. SM99/3 Date: 1943
Title: Articles of Association and Certificate of Incorporation
Level: series
Extent: 2 items
Scope and Content:
SM99/3/1 Printed Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Cork Children’s Fresh Air Fund Association, incorporated 31 December 1943 (Cork, 1943). The first object of the Association is stated to be 'To provide holidays free of charge at the seaside or in the country for children of poor parents from Cork city and district, and particularly for such of those children as are in urgent need of recuperation after illness or through delicacy'. Subscribing names are Cynthia F Treston, Anita Daly, Campbell McP. Harte, Stella A Hall, NA Graham, Dorothy M Daly, and TL Egan.

SM99/3/2 Framed certificate, No 10750, recording the incorporation under the Companies Acts on 31 Dec 1943.

Ref. SM99/4 Date: 1941 - 1945
Title: Reports and other records relating to Mrs Stella Hall, first President
Level: series
Extent: 10 items
Scope and Content:
SM99/4/1 [Draft] Typescript Annual Reports of the President of the Cork Council of Women and Cork Children’s Fresh Air Fund, 1941-42, 1942-43, and 1943-44. Also present is an agenda for the 1942-43 meeting. The three reports present were all delivered by Mrs WH Hill, President, Cork Council of Women, and are directed to 'My Lord Mayor, Rev Gentlemen, Ladies and Gentlemen'. The reports are concerned primarily with the Fresh Air Association. They differ from the Secretary's reports contained in printed annual reports. 3 items

SM99/4/2 Two typescript copies of Radio Appeals made from Cork Radio Station by Mrs WH Hill, President, describing the work of the Fund and calling for subscriptions. The first was broadcast on 1 Sep 1933. The second was broadcast on 27 Apr 1941. 2 items

SM99/4/3 Letters received by Mrs Hill as President of the Fund, including three from the Rotary Club of Cork, two forwarding proceeds from the Club’s card tournaments in 1941 and 1943, the other, dated 20 Jul 1943, nominating two Club members 'to act on your council' [Women's Council or Fund Committee not specified]. One of those nominated is TL Egan, and the other letter present is from him to Hill, dated 15 Jun 1944, regarding proposed purchase by the Fund of the Monatrea Hotel, Youghal. Extensive notes by Hill present, referring to the auction and a 'Sunshine Home'. 4 items.

SM99/4/4 Brief Illuminated Address by the Committee of Cork Children's Fresh Air Fund recording its appreciation of the 'exceptional services' and 'inspiration' given by Mrs Stella A Hall, President of the Cork Branch of the National Council of Women. Easter 1945. In woven cloth cover with coloured cloth design ['SAN'].

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Ref. SM99/5  Date: 1981 - 1984
Title: Order and Correspondence relating to the liquidation of the Association
Level: series
Extent: 1 item, 1 file
Scope and Content:
SM99/5/1 Order, 19 Jun 1984, by the Commissioners for Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland, authorising the trustees of Association funds (£6,662 82s) to divide them equally, under a 'cy-pres' scheme, between the Cork Spastic Clinic and School of the Divine Child of Lavanagh, Ballintemple; Cork Branch, Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children; and the Cork Polio and General After Care Association.


Ref. SM99/6  Date: 1932 - 1970
Title: Scrapbook and Newscuttings
Level: series
Extent: 1 vol, 1 file
Scope and Content:
SM99/6/1 Scrapbook containing newscuttings relating to the Fund and its work, including many showing groups of children. 1931-76.
SM99/6/2 Folder containing 6 cuttings showing groups of holiday children, and one cutting referring to Mary Hanley, an Association officer. 1960-67.

Ref. SM99/7  Date: 1937, 1957, 1968
Title: Photographs
Level: series
Extent: 3 items
Scope and Content:
Three photos are present: (1) Cork Rotary Club Dance at Imperial Hotel, Cork, 2 Apr 1937, with names of those shown, including Mrs WH Hill; framed photo, 'The Secretary Mrs McCormack with a party of young holiday-makers, City Hall, Cork, July 1957'; (3) Cork Examiner print, group of children with four adults [outside City Hall], marked 1968 on reverse.

Ref. SM99/8  Date: nd [1940s]
Title: Headed Paper [blank]
Level: series
Extent: 2 sets
Scope and Content:
Blank headed paper of the Cork Council of Women (with officers' names) and Cork Children's Fresh Air Fund Association, City Hall, Cork.