



Guide to the National Council of Negro Women "Hunger USA" Program Ephemera, 1968-1970s

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Summary

Collection Title:

National Council of Negro Women "Hunger USA" program ephemera, 1968-1970s

Source:

John Hope Franklin Research Center for African and African American History and Culture; Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture

Creator:

National Council of Negro Women

Abstract:

The National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) was founded in 1935 by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune to empower Black women. Hunger USA was an NCNW program that began in 1968 and worked to alleviate hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity in Mississippi and Alabama by establishing community-run food centers and farms. Collection includes circular letters, leaflets, and brochures sent by the NCNW to raise awareness about hunger and malnutrition in the Deep South and NCNW efforts to alleviate it. Acquired as part of the John Hope Franklin Research Center for African and African American History and Culture and as part of the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture.

Extent:

0.1 Linear Feet

Language:

Materials in English.

Collection ID:

RL.13018

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m17j2q>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], National Council of Negro Women "Hunger USA" Program Ephemera, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

Collection includes circular letters, leaflets, and brochures sent by the NCNW to raise awareness about hunger and malnutrition in the Deep South and NCNW efforts to alleviate it. The materials summarize findings about poverty, hunger, and their impact upon children in the Deep South. Circular letters from Dorothy Height (NCNW President) and Fannie Lou Hamer (NCNW Coordinator, Sunflower County Hunger Program) document the progress made at NCNW-sponsored food production centers in Mississippi and Alabama, and the letters typically end with solicitations for donations.

Biographical/Historical

The National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) was founded in 1935 by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune. It is an umbrella organization with many smaller constituent groups, and its goal is to empower women of African descent in America by promoting and connecting them to information, resources, and each other. The NCNW focuses on social, political, educational, and economic empowerment of Black women and their families. Hunger USA was a program that began in 1968 and worked to alleviate hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity in Mississippi and Alabama. The program established community-run food centers and farms in Sunflower and Bolivar Counties (Mississippi) and Macon County (Alabama), and it eventually branched to include daycare centers for children.

Source: National Council of Negro Women website, accessed 2023 August 07.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

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Acquisition Information

The National Council of Negro Women "Hunger USA" program ephemera was received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase from Caroliniana Rare Books in 2023.

Processing Information

Processed by Leah Tams, August 2023.

Accessions described in this collection guide: 2023-0150.

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Related Materials

Related Material

Researchers may also be interested in the following collections:

The National Archives for Black Women's History (NABWH) at the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site.

National Council of Negro Women "Durham Section Records at the North Carolina Collection (Durham County Library).

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Names and Subjects

- Circular letters
- Hunger -- Prevention
- Malnutrition in children -- United States
- Agriculture, Cooperative -- United States
- Food security
- Sunflower County (Miss.)
- Macon County (Ala.)
- Bolivar County (Miss.)
- Social service, Rural
- Fund raising
- African American women -- Societies and clubs -- History -- 20th century
- Nonprofit organizations -- African Americans
- Social service -- African Americans
- Day care centers
- John Hope Franklin Research Center for African and African American History and Culture
- Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture
- Hamer, Fannie Lou
- Height, Dorothy I. (Dorothy Irene), 1912-2010

Collection Inventory

Circular letter, 1968 August 13	Folder 1
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Scope and Contents

Circular letter summarizing food insecurity and poverty statistics for the US and NCNW plans to help in Mississippi and Alabama. Includes "Hunger USA" leaflet.

Hunger USA leaflet (August 1968 letter enclosure), 1968	Folder 1
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Scope and Contents

Leaflet presenting results of "A Report by the Citizens' Board of Inquiry into Hunger and Malnutrition in the United States" and NCNW plans to create self-help food production programs.

Circular letter, 1969 April 23	Folder 1
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Scope and Contents

Circular letter from Lena Horne, NCNW's Life Membership Campaign Chairman, summarizing statistics on hunger and malnutrition and detailing the establishment of food production centers in Mississippi and Alabama.

Circular letter, 1969 December 29

Folder 1

Scope and Contents

Circular letter from Fannie Lou Hamer, NCNW Coordinator for the Sunflower County Hunger Program, giving updates on the "Freedom Farm Co-op" set up in Sunflower County, Mississippi, by the NCNW.

Circular letter, 1970 April

Folder 1

Scope and Contents

Circular letter from NCNW President Dorothy Height detailing the needs of children, including food, school supplies, and daycare centers.

Circular letter, 1971 February

Folder 1

Scope and Contents

Circular letter from NCNW President Dorothy Height giving updated statistics on jobs and food insecurity, and progress that NCNW food production programs have made in the South. Includes "Hungry children cannot wait" brochure.

"Hungry children cannot wait" brochure
(February 1971 letter enclosure), 1971

Folder 1

Scope and Contents

Brochure reporting facts from the Senate Select Committee on Food, Nutrition, and Health and then outlining the NCNW's Hunger USA "self-help food production" programs in Mississippi and Alabama.

Circular letter, circa 1970s

Folder 1

Scope and Contents

Circular letter from NCNW President Dorothy Height addressing food insecurity and the NCNW's plan to increase their community food farms and daycare centers in the Deep South.

"I am the child" leaflet, circa 1970s

Folder 1

Physical Description: 2 copies

Scope and Contents

Two leaflets featuring the poem "Child's Appeal" by Mamie Gene Cole on the front. The leaflets' reverse details program highlights from the NCNW, including a brief history of the organization, its values, and its current activities and programs.

Donation envelopes, circa 1968-1970s

Folder 1

Physical Description: 4 items

Scope and Contents

Business reply mail envelopes. Two envelopes include a printed quote from Fannie Lou Hamer, the NCNW Coordinator for the Sunflower County Hunger Program.