Way Center Collection
M/A 2000.178.01

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October 25, 2016

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library
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## Summary Information

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<tr>
<th>Repository</th>
<th>James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Way, Inc. (Minneapolis, Minn.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Way Center Collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>1967-2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
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<td>Language</td>
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History

The Way Center, sometimes referred to as The New Way Center, began in August 8, 1966 after an outbreak of violence on the North Side of Minneapolis on August 4, 1966. Its short range purpose was to help calm the neighborhood by providing an off-the-street facility for youth and a meeting place for residents; its long range purpose was to mobilize the North Side of Minneapolis through youth activities, education, employment referrals, housing, and law enforcement.

The Center was originally located at 1913 Plymouth Ave. N and in 1984 it moved to 12th Ave. and Humboldt Ave. N. Early supporters included Minneapolis Mayor Arthur Naftalin and local businessman Ray Plank of Apache Corp.

Early leaders were Syl Davis, who was the director until November 1970, Gwyn Jones-Davis (later Jonesdavispyle), Rev. Rolland Robinson, Milton Williams and Willie Mae Dixon. Bert Davis was director from 1970-1974. Harry (Spike) Moss was director from 1974-1986.

The Center was noted for reaching out to people who were affiliated with gangs or were involved in criminal activities.

The Way Center faced ongoing fundraising challenges and in December 1986 they closed. In September 1990 a new youth center opened in the same location at 12th and Humboldt. City-Northside was operated by a south Minneapolis youth agency called The City, Inc. Many of the former employees of the Way Center became employees of The City-Northside.

Description of the Collection

One box. Collection consists of newspaper clippings and organizational materials concerning The Way Center.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library
Related Materials


Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

• Minneapolis (Minn.) -- Race relations.
• Near-North Community (Minneapolis, Minn.) -- Race relations.
• Near-North Community (Minneapolis, Minn.) -- Social conditions.

Subject(s)

• African American youth -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
• African Americans -- Civil rights -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
• African Americans -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis -- Societies, etc.
• Civil rights movements -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
• Community organization -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
• Community power -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis.
## Collection Inventory

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**Organizational materials undated, 1969-1970, 2016**

**Scope and Contents note**

Includes a program from the organization's 50th anniversary celebration.