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A study of eleven children served by the Providence shelter for colored children and the Rhode Island Children's Friend Society

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A STUDY OF ELEVEN CHILDREN SERVED BY THE
PROVIDENCE SHELTER FOR COLORED CHILDREN AND
THE RHODE ISLAND CHILDREN'S FRIEND SOCIETY

A THESIS
SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF ATLANTA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL
WORK IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE
OF MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

BY

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Study

This study is being made to determine the work done by the Rhode Island Children's Friend Society, a child placing agency in Providence, Rhode Island, for the Providence Shelter for Colored children. The Providence Shelter for Colored Children was the first institution of its kind in the United States. The purpose and function of the Rhode Island Children's Friend Society and the Providence Shelter for Colored Children were studied. The study was made to learn how long the children were supposed to remain in the Colored Shelter and how long they did remain, to learn if there was a definite plan to continue their supervision when they left the institution, and to learn some of the difficulties and obstacles that the institutionalized child had to overcome when placed with a foster family.

Scope

The investigation covers eighteen children living in the Providence Shelter for Colored Children from January 1922 to December 1929 who were referred to the Children's Friend Society for study in order to plan for their future.

The disposition of the children in the Providence Shelter for Colored Children when it closed in 1940 was also studied.

Method of Securing Data

Information was secured, first, by going through old day books of the
Providence Shelter for Colored Children, which are really records of admissions to the institution. These provided the name, date and place of birth of each child, the name, date and place of birth of the parents and their addresses, and the disposition of the child in some cases. In many instances this information was missing.

Second, all of the Annual Reports of the Providence Shelter for Colored Children and of the Rhode Island Children's Friend Society were read.

Visits were made to the Rhode Island Historical Society and books pertaining to the period from 1835 to 1865 in Providence, Rhode Island, were read.

The records of the children in the files of the Rhode Island Children's Friend Society who were in the Colored Shelter were examined. Persons who were connected with the Colored Shelter and the Children's Friend Society were consulted.
CHAPTER II

THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD WELFARE PHILOSOPHY

The evils that gave rise to the early welfare movements were the human casualties of industry, industrial migrations, the simplification of processes in manufacture presenting the opportunity to use these children in the factories at low wages;\(^1\) the inhuman treatment received by children for violations of the law as though they were adults; and the treatment given to the handicapped individuals, such as the blind, deaf, dumb or crippled.

Because of the many evils destroying youth, the churches began fostering interest in their patrons to do something for "poor, unfortunate children", and so there was developed the idea that giving alms paved a direct road to heaven.

The church's doctrine of the religious merit of alms giving was fundamentally selfish and drew attention away from the needs of the unfortunate to the spiritual hopes of the favored.\(^2\) It dealt with the suffering that was obvious and made little effort to find and eliminate the causes.

Some of the improvements from these beginnings may be noted in the following:

The child labor law in 1904 forbade crippled and sick children from working in factories. Agencies for the prevention of cruelty to child-

\(^1\) Stuart A. Queen, Social Work in the Light of History (Philadelphia 1922) p. 145.

\(^2\) Ibid., p. 308.
were developed in 1874. The public care of orphans in asylums for children began in Charleston, South Carolina in 1794.\(^1\) Wayward children were cared for so they would not be treated severely and would not be placed in adult reformatories. The first institution for delinquent children was the Lyman School at Westboro, Massachusetts, founded in 1848. More recently systems of parole and probation have developed. The schools for the training of the handicapped have grown.\(^2\)

Throughout the last one hundred years of child welfare work two tendencies seem to stand out above all others. One is the giving way of a more or less sentimental interest in 'child-saving' before the gradual rise of scientific study and provision for all children. The other is the gradual taking over by the public service of methods and agencies which were experimentally developed and demonstrated under private auspices. We see the passing of charity and the growth of professional public service as the change in the attitudes through the years.\(^3\)

Institutions were first considered the answer to the problem of caring for dependent children. Dependent children were those children whose parents temporarily or permanently delegated responsibility for rearing their children to others.

Almshouses were overcrowded and many children were indentured or apprenticed to some one in the community. During the early 1900's the community as a whole became interested in specialized care for children. The White House Conference of 1909 resulted in the emphasis upon the family unit as being essential to child development. The fact that no child shall be removed from its parent or family because of poverty was emphasized at this Conference.\(^4\)

\(^1\)Ibid., p. 150.
\(^2\)Ibid., p. 158.
\(^3\)Ibid., p. 160.
\(^4\)The White House Conference in 1909 called by President Hoover
Institutional care for children gradually increased up to 1937. Mother's aid which is aid from the community to assist a widowed mother in bringing up her children did much to keep children in their own homes.

The Federal Social Security Act, in 1935, which gave assistance to a child who was able to live with a close relative, in his own home, was the greatest influence in slowing the growth of institutional care for children.

The child guidance movement, focusing on the child-parent relationship, has done much to decrease the population of institutions.

The trend is definitely toward foster home placement. However, the institution still has its place in the training and education of children. The child in need of a controlled environment, or the child who needs short time care seems fitted for institutional care.

Institutions today are considered effective as study homes, when they are equipped with a staff that has broad professional experience and specific training. A child is happiest when in his own home. It has been the plan of child welfare workers to keep as many children as possible in their own homes and with their own families.
CHAPTER III

THE PROVIDENCE SHELTER FOR COLORED CHILDREN

Origin

Mrs. Anna R. Jenkins gathered together a few women of her acquaintance in Providence, Rhode Island, for the purpose of doing something worthwhile for Colored children. This group of Quaker women, to whom Mrs. Anna R. Jenkins appealed, united into an Association for the Benefit of Colored Orphans in 1838.¹

A constitution was drawn up and adopted, and subscriptions made to the amount of $317. However, "so great was the prejudice against the color of the children, it was found impossible to obtain a house for either love or money in which to commence their work".² Mrs. Jenkins offered a house of her own. In April, 1839, however, the house was opened with six children under the care of two sisters.

It was later agreed that a building should be erected to house the children so they would not have to be moved around and be subjected to animosity because of their color. In 1848 the building at 20 Olive Street was completed and the children moved in.

By economy and frequent appeals to the public for aid in clothing, staples, and other items, the Board succeeded in sheltering, feeding, clothing several hundred children.

¹The One-Hundredth Annual Report of the Providence Shelter for Colored Children, 1939, p. 10.
²Ibid., p. 6.
Purpose

The purpose of the Providence Shelter for Colored Children, according to the Second Annual Report of the Providence Shelter for Colored Children, is:

Providing for the support and education of indigent colored children of both sexes not otherwise provided for, and who for want of paternal care are in a suffering and dangerous state.

Policies and Program

The policy of the Shelter was to accept children in need of care in the Shelter until the boys reached ten years of age and the girls reached twelve years of age. The Shelter then placed them with private families. Parents who could do so, paid a small amount of board for their children.

The Managers intended this institution to resemble as nearly as possible a well-regulated private family. A maternal interest was taken in the children and means were employed to secure their comfort and happiness as well as their improvement. The day began with prayers and hymns at 7 a.m. Breakfast was at 8 a.m.; dishes were washed and rooms were tidied by those already taught to do so. School was held from 9 a.m. until 12 Noon. After the dishes were washed, the children returned to school. In the afternoons after school, they played games in the yard. The children had to walk six or seven blocks to the nearest playground which was on Bates Street.¹ Both girls and boys were taught to sew and knit. The boys were allowed to do minor carpentry work when the need arose.

The religious training of the children was uppermost in the minds of

¹According to one of the girls (Iola Small) who grew up in the Shelter and who gave this information to investigator.
the Board and so the children were taught to prepare themselves for the life hereafter.¹

Occasionally the children were supplied with tickets to attend the Fays' Movie Theater in Providence.

In 1922 the Staff of the Providence Shelter for Colored Children consisted of the following: a superintendent, an assistant matron, a cook and a laundress.²

It was the custom,³ to train the children for useful work, and to place them out in work homes when they arrived at the age of ten for boys and twelve for the girls. The Board took care in the selection of homes and endeavored to supervise the children after placement to some extent.

Cooperation with Children's Friend Society

With the increase in the complexity of every day life, however, and in view of the growing tendency toward cooperation among social agencies, it was decided by the Board in 1928 that the Children's Friend Society should be asked to take over the initial investigation of applications to the Shelter.⁴ Before that there had been a committee of laymen, members of the Board, appointed to decide on admissions. Very little factual information was received and set down on record as these well-meaning persons who were on the Board of the Providence Shelter for Colored Children were

¹The religious philosophy taught was mentioned in the Second Annual Report of the Providence Shelter for Colored Children: 1841, p.8.

²This information was obtained from the Superintendent who came to the institution in 1921 and remained until it closed in 1940.


⁴Correspondence dated 4/22/28, in files of Rhode Island Children's Friend Society. Unpublished material.
not trained in the art of securing information from those seeking to place their children in the Shelter.

In March 1929 this experiment was to be carried out for one year. At the end of this time the Colored Shelter Board felt that it was not quite ready to work in such close cooperation with the Rhode Island Children's Friend Society, and this arrangement, though successful for one year, was not continued. It was found, while talking with Board members of the Shelter, that the reason for discontinuing this service was a clash of personalities of the Superintendent and the investigator for the Children's Friend Society.¹

In the following pages will be found the results of this year of the Children's Friend Society's investigation of children living in the Providence Shelter for Colored Children. The study done in 1929 was made of all those living in the Colored Shelter who were referred to the Children's Friend Society by the Colored Shelter Board for a future plan or to collect board. The Colored Shelter from 1930 to 1939 took care of all their own applications for admission. It was not until late in 1939, when new officers were elected, that the Colored Shelter Board again requested the Children's Friend Society to take over initial investigations of applications and do the home-finding, placement and supervision. These new officers were younger, had different ideas and could see the advantages of using trained case workers.

In 1939 the Colored Shelter Board members felt that they were not financially able to continue the institution and make the necessary improvements, as the contributions had declined. There were only fourteen

¹Explained by the Executive Secretary of the Rhode Island Children's Friend Society - also a member of the Colored Shelter Board.
children at the time living in the Colored Shelter. In a meeting between the two members of the Children's Friend Society Staff and the Colored Shelter Board on January 15, 1940, a discussion was held on the role which the Colored Shelter had played in the community. The real problem was to determine which needs could best be filled by the Colored Shelter. It was felt that there were innumerable needs for colored children and that the children in the institutions lived too protected a life. Therefore, it was advocated that the children be discharged more promptly from the Colored Shelter. "It would seem that one of the best uses would be to serve as a temporary home in which a child could be studied and then placed out in a foster home as promptly as possible."\(^1\)

It was also decided that the Children's Friend Society would make intake and discharge studies for the children at the Colored Shelter, who would be held there for a temporary period only.

The relationship of cooperation developing through their Boards and the working executives of both agencies enabled the Colored Shelter to close as an institution and resulted in the placement of the children in foster homes or with relatives.

The Colored Shelter building was reopened one year later for use by the Rhode Island Children's Friend Society.

\(^1\) Statement of an administrator of the State Department of Public Welfare.
CHAPTER IV

THE RHODE ISLAND CHILDREN'S FRIEND SOCIETY

Origin

"Providence had been a city only three years when, in the year 1835 under the guidance of Miss Harriet Ware, the Children's Friend Society was founded." Miss Ware was a teacher who had been employed as an instructor in a poor, degraded part of the city. Through her labors in that location she became convinced of the necessity of taking children from their undesirable surroundings in order to do them permanent good. A charter was granted on November 4, 1836 by the General Assembly of the State Legislature.

A large brick building was built in 1863 at 47 Tobey Street. It was then called the Children's Home and cared for white children only. Children between two years and 12 years were admitted either as boarders at $2 a week or without charge, if necessity required. If orphans or friendless, they were indentured. They attended the public schools in the vicinity of the Home.

The feeling was growing that further provisions for dependent children were necessary and, in April, 1884, an act was passed to establish a State Home and School for children who were public charges but sound in mind and body. As the Children's Friend Society had been a pioneer in 1835, so again they undertook in 1926 a new field with the help of the Council of Social Agencies of Providence, Rhode Island, and the Child Welfare League of America. It was decided to sell Tobey Street Home and develop the caring

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of children in foster homes on a basis of careful case work in connection with each application. In November, 1926, the last child was placed, and Tobey Street Home was closed. The Children's Friend Society started in offices at 75 Westminster Street. A staff of two workers selected for their experience in child placing work were in charge. The name was changed from Providence Children's Friend Society to Rhode Island Children's Friend Society and the scope of its work was much broadened. By so doing, the Society was able to serve a greater number of children than if activities were confined to an institution.

In 1926 the Children's Friend Society became a member of the Providence Council of Social Agencies.

In 1927 the Society became a member of the Child Welfare League of America and, in 1929, a member of the Providence Community Fund. In 1941 the Society moved to 20 Olive Street where it is now located.

Purpose and Philosophy

The purpose of the Rhode Island Children's Friend Society is: "Providing for the support and education of indigent children of both sexes not otherwise provided for, and who for want of paternal care are in a suffering and dangerous state."¹

The present philosophy of the Rhode Island Children's Friend Society is the same as it has been for over one hundred years. Emphasis is placed on family life to furnish to children the material out of which they will help to build tomorrow's world. Good health, religious and secular education and recreation are also stressed; the experience of living in homes

¹ The One-Hundredth Annual Report of the Rhode Island Children's Friend Society, 1935, p. 8
which furnish love, understanding and kindness is promoted. Emotional deprivation affects the normal development of children as adversely as the lack of food, clothing and shelter. Therefore, it is the practice of this agency to be concerned about the emotional development of the children under its supervision.

Policies and Program

The placement of children away from their own families is an unique feature of the child caring agencies. This is done when there is no possibility of keeping the child in his own home. These foster homes are chosen on the basis of the foster parents' understanding and interest as well as their standards of living. These foster homes must meet rigid requirements, and the well-being of the child is not left to chance. The trained case worker who recognizes the child's needs, helps the child to adjust to the life of the family and community in which he has been placed. The case worker also keeps in touch with the child's own relatives, encourages visiting and helps plan for the time when the child may return to his own home. The family is encouraged to utilize its own community resources and to make the life of the child more satisfying and complete. This may sometimes involve the interpreting to the family of special needs of a child.

Other Services

Other services of the Rhode Island Children's Friend Society have developed for the most part either in an attempt to remove the necessity of placement, or to make certain that the values derived from placement are continued after the child's return to his own home. Readjustments in
the school and a well rounded medical program are arranged when necessary. Delinquent behavior and serious personality difficulties arising from emotional needs may be modified by the skilled understanding of a trained children's case worker. Service is given to unmarried mothers to assist them in making decisions and plans for themselves.

Service is also given to parents who have no children of their own and would like to undertake the care of a child, or to families who want to add another child to their homes. These parents are studied along with the child to make the best possible placement for the child.

Cardiac children are cared for under the State Children's Cardiac Program by providing convalescent care in foster homes for children with rheumatic heart disease.
CHAPTER V

ANALYSIS OF THE ELEVEN CHILDREN LIVING IN THE COLORED SHELTER WHEN IT CLOSED IN THE YEAR 1940

Economic Situation

The economic situation of the families of the children in the Colored Shelter at the time of its closing was poor. Four of the children were total orphans and had no money or possessions. Six were partial orphans whose single parents had a difficult time paying the small sum required for the children's maintenance in the Shelter.

Family Structure

The family structure in all the cases was weak. In some instances the one parent they had died. In other instances the children had been deserted.

In the case of Elizabeth Ton the father had died and the mother was immoral. Gene and Mary Mes each had different fathers whose whereabouts were unknown. Their mother was a mental defective.

Iola Small's father had deserted and the mother was at Wallum Lake tuberculosis hospital. She died shortly after the child was placed in the Colored Shelter. Babs Brow, Aubrey Hass, Elizabeth Pale, Roy and Ordell Ison each had one parent or relative that was attempting to care for them while they were in the Colored Shelter.

In other cases the children had but one parent, the father being either dead or unknown, and the mother being immoral or physically disabled.

The factors causing these children to be in the Shelter were mainly economic except in the case of total orphans when the factor was dependency.

Effect of Shelter upon the Children

In many instances there was no way of finding out how the children's stay in the Shelter affected them. In the instances where the children...
lived in the Shelter for a long time and were adolescent on leaving, they did not wish to leave and found it difficult to adjust.

Mary Mes found it difficult to live in the wage homes in which she was placed. She began to stay out late at night and became quite saucy when spoken to. She found a person that knew her mother and she went to live with her, finally making a good adjustment.

Iola Small continued to find it difficult to live in the community, and wished she could return to an institution either to live in or to work in.

Jessie Hall found it difficult to live at home with her maternal grandmother after leaving the Shelter, and is a behavior problem.

Elizabeth Pale had difficulty in making new friends after leaving the Shelter. She felt more at ease and at home with the people she knew while living in the Shelter.

Changes in the Home Situation

Many changes in the children's family situations took place while they lived at the Shelter. In most instances changes were detrimental. Seven of the children became totally dependent while in the Shelter. The father of one secured a job and was able to maintain a better standard of living and to contribute more to her care.

Aubrey Bass lost his maternal grandmother, then his mother deserted and he became dependent.

Elizabeth Pale's mother had another child and could not care for Elizabeth at all. Therefore the girl became dependent.

Roy and Ordell Ilson's mother remarried and her economic status was improved but not her morals. Yet she contributed to the support of the children.

Jessie Hall's family condition remained about the same. The mother had another child. The grandfather died. Maternal grandmother was dominating and expected the Colored Shelter attendants to work miracles with Jessie.

Disposition of the Children

Four of the children were sent to the State Home and School at Providence, Rhode Island. One was sent to a foster home secured by the father and approved by the Rhode Island Children's Friend Society. One went to the
maternal grandmother and one went to a foster home provided by the Children's Friend Society. Two of the children were sent to a wage home. Two of the children went to their own mother and stepfather in another State. The factors that influenced the disposition of the children when the Shelter closed as an institution in 1940 were:

a. Did this child have any relative to whom he could be sent after proper investigation?

b. If the child was a total orphan was he already a State ward?

c. Would the State accept the child as a ward?

d. Of those that the State would not accept because of age, would they live in a wage home or a boarding home?

e. The funds of the Providence Colored Shelter could not maintain many children in foster boarding homes for any long period of time.

Attitudes toward the Disposition of the Children

The attitudes of the children toward their disposition after leaving the Shelter were hard to determine. Most of the instances involved children who had no families to object to their disposition when the Shelter closed. However, the grandmother of one child objected to the closing of the Shelter and to the idea of placing the child in any other home but her own. The other children's families wanted to have their children with them.

Present Status of the Children

The present situation of the children is as follows:

1. Elizabeth Ton, 15 years old, was adopted by foster parents in the third foster home in which she lived. This was a foster home of the Children's Bureau of Rhode Island Public Welfare. Out of care.
2. **Alicia Ham**, 17 years old, is at the State Home and School. She does well with children and is being considered for placement as a nursemaid. Under care.


4. **Aubrey Hass**, 13 years of age, is in the same foster home as he was in 1940. Under care.

5. **Babs Brow**, 11 years of age, is living with her father and stepmother and getting along well. Out of care.

6. **Jessie Hall**, 16 years of age, living with maternal grandmother under supervision of the Probation Department of Providence, Rhode Island. Under care.

7. **Mary Mes**, nearly 21 years of age, is living in the home of mother's friend. She works in a war plant and has six girls under her supervision there. Under care until July 1945.

8. **Iola Small**, 21 years of age, is living in a private boarding home of her own selection. She works part time. Under care, but not strict supervision of the Rhode Island Children's Friend Society.

9. **Elizabeth Pale**, 19 years of age, lives in a foster home of the Children's Friend Society. She has adjusted well in home and community but does not make new friends. Under care.

10. The whereabouts and the present status of Roy Ilson, 11 years of age, and of Urdell Ilson, 13 years of age, are unknown.
ADJUSTMENT OF THE FOUR CHILDREN UNDER SUPERVISION OF THE CHILDREN’S FRIEND SOCIETY

1. Jessie Hall, a Protestant child, was 12 years old when Colored Shelter closed in 1940. She was placed in the Shelter at the age of three years because her grandmother was working to support herself and the child and she had no one to care for her during the day. Grandmother had been responsible for Jessie ever since she was one year old as she was born at the State Institution, Howard, Rhode Island. Jessie’s own mother was 14 years of age at the time of Jessie’s birth. Jessie lived at the Shelter for nine years and during that time was no serious trouble to those in authority. She got along very well with the children. She was interested in school.

In 1940 when the Colored Shelter was to be closed, maternal grandmother complained that the Shelter should not close, that it was needed. Grandmother became belligerent, defensive and suspicious when she was advised to continue taking Jessie to a doctor for treatment. Grandmother stated that conditions of the blood and heart were not congenital and it was up to the Children’s Friend Society to see that treatment was continued. The grandmother finally decided to see that treatments were continued.

It was felt that Jessie would have difficulty in adjusting to life with her grandmother because of the many years spent in the institution. Grandmother seriously considered placing her in a foster home at one time. Things were gradually getting beyond grandmother’s control and finally Jessie was sent to Oaklawn, a training school for girls. Jessie was promiscuous and drank alcoholic beverages to the extent of becoming in-
toxicated. In Oaklawn her behavior was good. It was felt that the four
months Jessie was in Oaklawn tended to make her smooth and that her ways
were not changed. She is no longer under the care of the Children's
Friend Society, but is under the care of the Probation Department. The
Probation officer keeps in close contact with her and is attempting to
affect a change.

2. Iola Small, a 17 year old Protestant girl, was placed in the
Colored Shelter at the age of five years in 1927 because her mother was
very ill in a hospital for tubercular patients. The father had deserted a
year ago. Iola was the second of three children. The other two were boys.
Mother died four months after the children were placed in Colored Shelter.
Maternal aunt and uncle were the only living relatives known, and they
had their own family so could not help or take the children. It was later
learned that Iola's father spent his early days in the Colored Shelter.
He provided well for his family at first. He left Providence but he con-
tinued to care for his family. Nothing was heard of him after mother died
in 1927. In 1939 a foster home placement was suggested as a plan for Iola.
After much discussion it was decided that Iola should remain in Colored
Shelter.

In 1940 there was considerable discussion as to what should be the
plan for Iola since the building was to be closed. It was felt that al-
though Iola was a decided asset in the institution, it was also felt that
the child needed to get away from its sheltering environment.

Iola was most anxious to try a housework job as she wished to earn
money. She finished the second year of high school at 18 years, not car-
ing particularly for school. She decided not to return to school.

In the first foster home placement, which was in the country, she was
happy for a while but missed the children so much that she visited in Providence frequently. Iola was cooperative and always did as she was told. In the second foster home she was unsatisfactory because she was lonely. She complained of loss of memory when told to do things. Iola's manners were very bad. She would stand at the foot of the stairs or at the top and yell up or down in a boisterous manner. Foster mother had to go away suddenly so she was replaced.

Iola dresses well, works, but does not save. In her second foster home she was treated definitely as a servant, but when opportunity came for her to leave she was ambivalent. Another wage home was secured for Iola -- one in which she would receive more pay and foster mother would be less strict. This foster home placement seemed to be working out well. Then Iola took a vacation and did not return. She was quite independent at that time and resented parental authority. Children's Friend Society would not help to finance her vacation and she became angry.

Iola is easily swayed and seems to use little judgment when choosing her friends. However, since she is so easily swayed, anything one says does not have a lasting affect as the next person can sway her equally as easy. This girl is still under supervision. First, because her brothers are in the service and she has no other relatives; second, because she has no real foster home of her own and has conflicts over this; third, she is still quite immature.

Recently Iola has been allowed to live where she pleases to ascertain if the lack of supervision would have any effect on her behavior. She stays out quite late at night and has many acquaintances of both sexes. She has not voluntarily come to the Children's Friend Society office to see worker. Therefore, lack of supervision or close supervision has no effect
on her behavior.

3. Mary Mes, Protestant, was 16 years old when the Colored Shelter closed in 1940. Mary was placed in the Shelter in 1933 at the age of 9 years by the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children of Providence, Rhode Island. Mother was immoral and was neglecting the children. Mother had several other children— all by different fathers, and finally was sent to Exeter, training school for feeble-minded, because of her low I.Q. She finally died there in 1942. While in the Colored Shelter, Mary was of great help to the Matron. She was a good student in school. She had many friends among her school mates and acquaintances.

Mary's first foster home was a wage home because of her desire to finish school and because of her age. The work was too much for her. She began staying out late at night with her boy friend. One night she did not come home at all. She was found to have stolen men's wearing apparel and jewelry from the person with whom she was living. Mary became acquainted with a person who knew her family. This person, upon investigation, proved to be desirable and her home was accepted as a foster home for Mary. The undesirable behavior gradually decreased and within six months Mary became trustworthy. She is in charge of a group of girls working in a war plant. She is engaged to a young man who is in the service and is planning to marry him as soon as he is discharged. She will be released from Children's Friend Society's supervision when she becomes 21 years of age, which will be in a few months.

This is the one example of a good adjustment in foster home placement made by a girl after she had lived in Colored Shelter for seven years.

4. Elizabeth Pale, Protestant, was 14 years old when the Colored Shelter closed in 1940. Elizabeth was placed in the Shelter in 1930, her mother being unable to care for her because of a deformity. Mother had
been assaulted by a fellow she had been out with two or three times. Mother was below par mentally and always attended ungraded classes. Elizabeth was not a problem at the Colored Shelter. She was a dependent child and was recommended for commitment to State Home and School. This was not possible as the Children's Division of the Department of Public Welfare had no foster home for a girl of her age (14 years) and so Children's Friend Society placed her in a foster home and supervised for the State.

The first foster home placement was of five years' duration. The foster parents are too old to really give the child guidance, but they give her the affection she craves. She has the desire to complete high school, but it is doubtful whether she can do so because her I.Q. is 72. She is willing to cooperate and responds to kind treatment.

Elizabeth developed a nervous cough and uses this to gain attention when too much attention is given to the younger child in the foster home. The doctor who has examined her has stated that the cough is due to hysteria.
CHAPTER VII

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The Providence Shelter for Colored Orphans began as a small institution with six children in 1839. The Shelter accepted children in need of care between the ages of three and twelve years of age. Parents, who could, were asked to pay a small amount for the board of their children. This institution attempted to resemble, as closely as possible, a well regulated private family. The children went to school, to church and had recreational opportunities.

All persons dealing with the children in the Shelter were lay persons. In 1926 the Children’s Friend Society Board, after studying modern methods of child care, became convinced that foster homes were preferable to institutional care.

In 1927 the Rhode Island Children’s Friend Society became a member of the Child Welfare League of America, and a member of the Providence Community Fund in 1929.

In 1929 the Children’s Friend Society was asked to do a one year experiment on intake applications by the Colored Shelter. This was done, but not continued. The policy of the Rhode Island Children’s Friend Society was to accept all children in need of care. It supervised them in their own homes or in foster homes that met the rigid requirements set by the agency. The Society used trained case workers who recognized the many needs of a child and attempted to help the child to adjust to the life of the family and community in which he was placed.

The Society encouraged families to utilize their community resources
to make the life of the child more satisfying.

There were eleven children in the Shelter when it closed in 1940. Four were committed to the state for care, one was already a state ward, three went to live with relatives, and two were placed in wage homes.

Four of the children found it difficult at first to adjust to the life outside the institution. They had lived in the institution so long they were over-protected. One of the girls became a behavior problem and is now under the supervision of the Probation Department of Providence, Rhode Island. Several of the children have difficulties but have finally adjusted after leaving the institution. One of the girls has presented a pattern of instability. She moves from one house to another, does not pay her bills, does not save any money and objects to supervision of the agency even though she now makes a good wage.
1. What was the family structure of the children before arriving at the Shelter?

2. What was the economic situation of the families of these children?

3. What were the factors that resulted in their being placed in the Shelter?

4. How did the stay in the Shelter affect the children?

5. What changes took place in the home situations during the children's stay at the Shelter?

6. What was the disposition of the children on leaving the Shelter?

7. What factors influenced this disposition?

8. What were the attitudes of the children toward their disposition after leaving the Shelter?

9. What were the attitudes of the children's own families toward their disposition when the Shelter closed?

10. What supervision did the Children's Friend Society give to the children after the closing of the Shelter?

11. What is the present situation of the children?
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