



FOR SUCH AS THESE

FRESH AIR HOME COMMITTEE
OF THE
RECREATION ASSOCIATION
LOUISVILLE, KY.

COMMITTEE

MISS FRANCES INGRAM, CHAIRMAN
MISS EDITH WEEDMAN, SECRETARY
MR. STUART CHEVALIER, TREASURER

MRS. ARTHUR ALLEN
MISS HARRIET ANDERSON
MISS MAUD AINSLIE
MRS. LEE BERNHEIM
MISS ALEXINA BOOTH
MISS ADELE BRANDEIS
MISS NAN L. DORSEY
MR. LEON LEWIS
MR. GROVER SALLES
MRS. JOSEPH SELLIGMAN
MISS ELIZABETH SHAVER
MISS LOUISE SHELLEY
MR. ARTHUR STERN
MRS. ISAAC TROST
MRS. CARRIE WALLER

FRESH AIR HOME.

SUMMER, 1915.

JUNE 30 - AUGUST 31.

The Fresh Air Home was open 8 weeks, 6 days, as against 9 weeks of 1914.

There were 673 guests, as against 732 of 1914.

940-3/7 weeks outing as against 917 of the previous summer.

1319 individuals applied for an outing, as against 1265 of 1914.

1915

ENDORSED BY THE CHARITIES ENDORSEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE COMMERCIAL CLUB AND BOARD OF TRADE



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FRESH AIR HOME.

SUMMER, 1915.

JUNE 30 - AUGUST 31.

Open	<u>1914</u> 9 weeks	<u>1915</u> 8 weeks, 6 days.
Guests	732	673
Weeks outings	917	940-3/7
Applications	1265	1319

EXTRACT OF ANNUAL REPORT
Submitted by Miss Ingram,
to

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE, 1915:

Neighborhood House continued its management of the Fresh Air Home, which was open regularly to its guests from June 30th to August 31st. The Home, as always, filled a real need in restoring to health and happiness during the hot summer months, tired mothers and sick babies of Louisville's poor. The need was intensified last summer. The unemployment of the previous winter had had its effect. The women who applied were exhausted in body and soul. Many scrubbed at night, or were struggling along in one way and another to earn a mere pittance for a large family. All begged to remain two weeks. In previous summers, the usual stay of one week enabled more people to derive the benefits of the Home. Last summer the appeal of the worn out mothers who applied, was not to be resisted, and they were booked for the longer stay.



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The neighbors living at Anchorage gave generously of their garden supplies to the Fresh Air Home. This enabled the Home to entertain its guests at a cost of \$2.98 per individual per week.

REPORT OF LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME

SUMMER OF 1920.

On account of the tremendous expense of conducting the Louisville Fresh Air Home at the old South Park Hotel during the summer of 1919, it was necessary to seek new quarters for the summer of 1920.

A location suitable in every respect for a fresh air home could not be found. Finally however, the farm of Mrs. Della Meyers at Camden, one mile east of Crestwood on the LaGrange division of the Louisville and Interurban Railway, nineteen miles from Louisville, was rented. Altho this farm was desirable on account of the stretch of its 100 acres, a grove of beautiful shade trees close to the house, a garden and a near-by swimming hole, the small six-room house afforded most inadequate living quarters. It was necessary to put up six tents to supplement the rooms of the farm house. Even so, the house was not able to take care of the usual number of guests. The inadequate accommodations proved a handicap thruout the summer, especially in rainy weather. Only 321 guests were cared for as against 474 of the previous summer.

A chief consideration in renting the farm at Camden was the cheapness of the rent. Altho the rent was cheap, the building of floors for the tents and screening them brought the figure for maintenance much above the amount at first anticipated. The rains and severe windstorms of the summer by playing havoc with the tents were a factor in still further increasing the cost. After the experience of last summer I should not recommend tents for the outings of mothers and babies.

The farm life, with its horse, mules, cows, pigs, chickens, ducks, geese, dogs, cats, and wild rabbits, was a continual source of delight and enlightenment to the city bred children. A horse and wagon were rented both for the use of the home and the pleasure of the guests. To the boys the ball field was the most attractive feature of the place, excepting only the swimming "hole" about two miles away. After their morning chores were done they delighted in picking berries and hitching up the horse. Many boys begged to work at the Home so that they might spend the summer in the country. The girls hiked, paddled in the creek, went on picnics and berry parties. They bore the scratches and chiggers as bravely as the boys, their ambition being to take a gallon of blackberries home to mother who couldn't come to the Fresh Air Home because she had to work. Aside from the delights of the country life, well selected books from the Louisville Free Public library, music, games and swings made the time pass all too quickly. The garden under the supervision of the matron, Miss Anna Eisenman, supplied the Home with beans, corn, tomatoes and lettuce thruout the season. An interesting feature of the outing was that a guest was permitted to pick a mess of beans to take home on returning to the city.

2.

The summer of 1920 proved a very happy one despite the disadvantages under which the Home was conducted. The guests were unanimous in their praises of Miss Eiseman for her beautiful consideration of them. They were especially enthusiastic over the inviting food she placed before them. With sugar at twenty-five dollars a hundred pounds, the sugar bowl was passed to the adults at the table. Miss Eiseman with her garden and economic buying was able to gratify every guest and keep well within the bounds of the Louisville Fresh Air Home budget. Miss Rebecca Baer and Raymond Baer were the earnest and capable assistants of Miss Eiseman. The neighbors were most friendly in their attitude to the Home. Besides bringing gifts of flowers, fruits and vegetables and contributing hay rides for the pleasure of the guests, they joined in their good times. Dr. J. W. Hill of Pewee Valley kindly contributed his services on several occasions. In Louisville, the former good friend of the Home, Dr. W. T. Hayes signed the physician's certificate each guest is required to have signed stating that he or she is free from an infectious or contagious disease before being permitted to enter the Home.

note

The following is a list of the individuals and the length of time each spent at the Louisville Fresh Air Home during the summer of 1920.

Individuals	Number of days for each individual	Total days.
19	1	19
12	2	24
10	3	30
20	4	80
31	5	155
48	6	288
88	7	616
9	8	72
1	9	9
7	10	70
17	11	187
10	12	120
5	13	65
21	14	294
1	16	16
1	18	18
2	20	40
1	21	21
3	22	66
2	23	46
2	25	50
1	29	29
2	34	68
2	36	72
1	41	41
1	52	52
1	66	66
3	70	210
<u>321</u>		<u>7/2824</u>
		403-3/7

COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME

	1920	1919	1918
Number of weeks Home was open	8-5/7	6	9
Number of Guests	321	474	479
Representing families	114	191	206
Weeks outings	403	546	813
Applications for outings	701	883	710
Representing families	253		
Total number who applied but did not go	380	409	231

The following stories related by Miss Eiseman indicate the "worthwhileness" of the Home.

The barnyard with its numerous animals proved a constant source of delight to all but eleven year old William, who didn't mind the cows looking while he washed out a change of clothes for his brother and sister but he did object to their eating up his soap.

At the end of her first week, Mrs. F. begged to remain longer. "We'd be glad to sleep in a tent or anywhere," she said. "I haven't felt so well since I had the flue over a year ago." She and her four babies were given the use of a small tent near the house for another week. When the father came to escort his family home, five year old Nellie said "I'll go home 'cause it's you daddy, but if you could stay, I never would go home."

The Louisville Fresh Air Home affords the only means of an outing to such a family as the Blanks. Mr. & Mrs. Blank and their four children lived on the second floor of a house in a congested district. Mr. Blank was ill and it was necessary for Mrs. Blank to support the family all winter by sewing on Government shirts. The following summer the mother and children were sent to the Louisville Fresh Air Home. Their delight in the outing was supreme. The joy of the little ones running about was equalled only by the quiet joy of the mother as she sat racking the baby under her favorite pine tree.

Two young misses who had enjoyed an outing at the Home returned one Sunday to spend the day. "We liked it so well, we just had to come back. We would like to work out here until the Fresh Air Home closes but shoes and clothes are needed at home and we can make more money in the factory."

In one instance Mr. C. was at Waverly Hills, his wife making the living for their two little daughters at home. Every evening it was customary for eleven year old D. to have supper ready when Mrs. C. returned from work. Mrs. C. was most appreciative of the vacation the Louisville Fresh Air Home afforded her and her little ones.

"Two weeks have helped me so much," Said Mrs. A. who came to gain strength before having an operation performed. Cooking, washing

and ironing for seven at home were not the best preparation for this ordeal.

In one instance, when the breadwinner for seven was ordered to the hospital thru the Associated Charities, the mother and five children spent two weeks at the Louisville Fresh Air Home thus bridging over a stress period in a very healthful and happy manner.

"This is the first vacation of my life," said one who formerly nursed by profession. Worn out with nursing, she undertook to make her living by mopping floors. The strain of this proving too much for her strength, she began to have fainting spells and was threatened with paralysis. At the Fresh Air Home she commenced to improve at once. She was most appreciative and begged to wash the dishes and towels in return.

One poor old soul, now incapacitated for work but who formerly struggled with a boarding house for her livelihood, had to be assisted up the front steps on her arrival. Sitting down and drawing a long breath she said, "Oh, how good it is to get the fresh air. You think you let me stay two weeks?" Like many others, the hunger for the green fields and sunny sky made her wish to prolong the time of enjoyment. At the end of the second week her improved health made short trips about the grounds possible. Hearing that returning guests were permitted to gather beans from the garden to take home, she said "I pick 'em to min self," and left for home proudly carrying her beans for the next day's dinner.

Eight year old Jane, with mother in the hospital and father at work, could hardly be expected to keep house even tho she could make gravy. When the father came to take his three children home at the end of an eleven day stay, he said, "I can't express how thankful we are, Mother worried about you but I can see that she didn't need to. You must have had a good time." "We did", said Louise, "I would like to stay all the time."

"My, it's great to have warm fresh milk for my baby. See how it has helped her. She isn't blue and cold now and she sleeps all night long. When I go home I am going to get fresh milk for her and I'll let her sleep out-doors in my ashbasket just as she does here at the Fresh Air Home."

In another instance, the father's death the previous winter had laid the burden of caring for eight children on the mother. The mother came to work at the Fresh Air Home. On the day of her leaving town for her new duties her 16 year old son J. was laid off. Now J. during the winter, was as helpful as any son of 16 could be. Every Saturday night he had given his envelope unopened to his mother. As his mother dreaded to leave him alone at home, J. was invited to come along, too, and spend the week. J. pronounced this week the "finest ever" and evidenced his appreciation by helping the instructor to take care of the younger boys

5.

✓ The time has come for the Louisville Fresh Air Home Committee to purchase a permanent Home. It is both wasteful and extravagant to move from place to place. The initial expense of moving is heavy but it will be an investment if the quarters are permanent. The permanent Home should have commodious sleeping quarters, a recreational shelter for rainy days, many shade trees, a garden, an orchard, abundant water for all purposes, swimming facilities for boys and a near-by source of fresh milk for the babies. Such a Home should be easily accessible and have convenient shipping facilities.

Respectfully submitted,

President.

The Filson Historical Society

REPORT OF LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME

SUMMER OF 1921

The Louisville Fresh Air Home continued to rent the farm of Mrs. Della Meyers at Camden during the summer of 1921, for the purpose of providing outings for those who otherwise would have no summer vacations. The Home was opened June twenty-second and was closed August thirty-first, making a period of ten weeks. 677 individuals applied for the outing given at Camden. On account of its small quarters, the Home could only accommodate 457 of this number. Never was there greater need for respite from the stifling heat of the city than last summer. On very hot days, the telephone rang almost continuously bringing in requests for a few days in the country.

The lack of space in the Home called forth many regrets from those who wished to prolong their stay. "Let me know when I can come back," wrote Emma B., age nine, "I almost cried when I had to go home." The inadequate housing facilities made it necessary to deny Emma and many others a stay of longer than a week altho they badly needed the benefits of a country outing. Even the splendid new tent, purchased for the use of the boys, was needed for the overflow of mothers and babies, on one occasion, when the number sent out exceeded the sleeping space prepared for the group. "I came out to sleep under the trees, anyway," announced "Big" Ben, age thirteen, coming to the rescue. "We fellows like it." So seven cots were made up under the spreading branches of a pine tree and seven sleepy boys tucked in. The third night, a heavy rain routed the seven sleepers before daylight.

The first spring day brought applications from families who wished to go to the Fresh Air Home. Later agencies applied. Where a special need was urged, the families recommended by the agencies were given preference. The following is a list of the co-operating agencies: The Family Service Organization, the Children's Protective Association, the Juvenile Court, the Detention Home, the Union Gospel Mission, the Baptist Training School Settlement, Hope Rescue Mission, the Federation of Jewish Charities, the Public Health Nursing Association, the Louisville Herald, First Christian Church Mission, Christ Church Cathedral, Board of Tuberculosis Hospital and the City Physicians. All applicants were asked to pay car fare if possible.

The Fresh Air Home made it possible for several families to bridge over difficult situations in their domestic affairs. In one instance, on the arrival of a new baby in the family, the Home took charge of two little girls of two and six years of age. In another instance, two children were permitted to prolong their stay until a baby sister had fully recovered from chicken pox.

At the Home, the day began at sunrise; breakfast was served at 7:00; dinner at 12:00 and supper at 5:00. When the gong was sounded everyone reported promptly at the dining tent.

The plain but wholesome food disappeared quickly before the hungry youngsters whose appetites were whetted by the outdoor life with its hikes, swims and other activities. "Can you have it three times?" whispered William, "Sure", promptly answered John. "You can have all you want to eat here. I'm full up to the ceiling."

It is difficult to determine whether the plentiful supply of food was responsible for the following incident or not. One Wednesday, when every one was packing to return to the city, the preparations were interrupted by cries of distress emanating from the second floor. It was discovered that a little girl was endeavoring to button her small brother into a blouse that wouldn't meet by five inches but which he had worn on his arrival. The little brother insisted, "it won't, Sister." But the determined little sister said "It must; now hold your breath." Her effort succeeded only in causing her brother to wail long and loud. A blouse of the proper dimensions was produced from the clothes supply of the Home, which restored the youngster to comfort and happiness.

Boys emphasize the value of the Fresh Air Home. Their activities embody the benefits derived from the close contact with nature. The necessary duties of putting the yard in order, hauling bread, ice, and drinking water, working in the garden and straightening their tents, were quickly dispatched and they were soon ready for baseball, swimming or any othersport suggested. The hiking trips brought interesting results. After one of these hikes, a little fellow marched proudly up to Miss Eisenman and said, "Teacher, do you know Indians wore caps like us kids a thousand years ago? Look, here's one", and Harry displayed the trophy of their trip through the woods, following Indian trails, a wonderfully perfect boy's cap formed of solid stone. The geode caused much speculation and stimulation of the imagination of these boys. There is little opportunity for such wholesome stimulation on the city streets.

The ingenuity of the boys was evidenced many times. On one occasion when the continued rain prevented outdoor play, Bud said, "I know what we can do. If we stack our cots against the walls of the tent, we can play in our tent." Bud's suggestion was followed and room enough was made so that it was possible to open the library boxes; to play checkers, if one didn't mind the babies walking over the checker board and dropping crumbs thereon; and to place the victrola for home talent clog dancing, if everyone squeezed up a bit and was careful not to get stepped on. At night, when the cots had to be replaced for sleeping, there was a

heated argument. "This is my oot," said one claimant. "No, it is mine," said another. Ben, also called "preacher", because of plans to study for the ministry, solemnly said, "Those are sounds of battle; I think I'd better go in and pray with the combatants." Ben's prayer was never fistic. Being the largest boy present and possessing personality and real qualities of leadership, he naturally became the leader of the group.

Although girls accompanied their mothers thruout the summer, the last week of the season the Home was given over entirely to girls. And oh, the joy of that week! "I don't know why I love to get up early in the country but it is certainly nice. Maybe it's the bright sunshine or the birds or chickens," said Fanny. "Did you see the big beautiful star in the sky this morning" said one at breakfast. "The sky was red as fire." What made it like that, teacher? With such thoughts as these, the girls, eager to see as much of the outdoors as possible, soon made the beds, cleaned the lamps and straightened the tent and then rushed for the volley ball or croquet court, planned all day picnics and hikes to the woods, or as special treat hiked to the Little Colonel's Home; went swimming in the creek or played games under the trees. They gladly paid the penalty for the experiences of the country. Many a girl, upon returning from swimming or hiking begged loudly for the talcum to relieve the sunburn. "Put some on my neck. Its going to blister", said one. "My but you're sunburned", replied the other. "Well, I want to learn to swim." Then there were the hay rides, provided by the kindly neighbors, to which everyone aspired to be big enough to attend. Then on those special occasions when the musicians came from Crestwood in the evening there was a party. At bed time there was a recital of the good times as a winding up of the day. "I liked the Virginia Reel and the quadrille they taught us. Wasn't it nice to swing corners and change partners", said one. "I love to dance on the grass," said another. "Yes, we have had one grand week, and this is the last night. Well, good-night girls. Don't these clean white beds make you sleepy." When one girl drew out a book and said she was going to read in bed, Little Mary V. piped up, "Lanterns aren't make to read by, teacher said so. Good night, everyone."

The books loaned by the Free Public Library were enjoyed by all. In fair weather, the tempting green grass enticed many a reader to lie down and read or listen to the victrola while looking lasily at the sky. The swings, chairs and benches were near by for those who preferred them. The evenings brought games, stories, recitations, music, marshmallow roasts and even "snipe hunting."

The mothers seemed mostly to be glad just to sit and rest and chat together, while the babies tumbled about on the grass, played in the sandpile or slept serenely in baskets covered with netting and placed within reach. Just getting rested seemed to

uplift and inspire them with renewed zest in life, which frequently found expression in greater effort to keep clean the tiny garments; clothing worn more tidily and a general reformation of spirit. After a few days that "pinned up" condition usually disappeared, following numerous requests for needle and thread. Buttons replaced safety pins and hopeless looking rents showed an effort at neat mending. "A week out here has been such a help to me", said Mrs. B., the mother of six. "what we saved on groceries will buy the childrens' shoes for school." "I was ill and tired when I came last Wednesday", said Mrs. S., on bidding the Home goodbye, "but I'm rested now and feel well able to return to my work." This woman supported herself, a husband ill of an incurable malady, and two children in school, with her earnings of \$12.00 a week, made at factory. A week of rest and pleasant surroundings means much to these tired mothers, worn with the unceasing care of large families, cleaning office buildings at night or taking in washing during the day to enable them to remain at home with the little ones. They enjoyed the green fields and the sweet country air. They expressed the keenest appreciation for the good food and all the other benefits derived from the vacation in the open country away from the heat of the city streets. To quote Mrs. Nellie, the mother of four children, "I have taken heart again and feel as young as the other girls even tho I am twenty three years old."

Sunday of Italian week brought fathers, uncles, aunts and cousins, three trucks full at 7:30 a.m. Rain prevented a picnic in the woods so the dining tent of the Home was turned over to the visitors and their families. "We make the festa-hava good time-thank you." They stayed until 7:00 p.m. when the three truck loads started homeward, their occupants singing joyfully after a beautiful visit with their families.

The staff consisted of Miss Anna E. Eiseman, as director, assisted by Miss Rebecca Baer and Messrs. Raymond Baer and David Bronstein.

The Louisville Fresh Air Home wishes to express its grateful appreciation to the following Louisville physicians: Doctor W. T. Hayes, Doctor Scott Prather and Doctor H. B. Strull, for so generously volunteering their services to the Home last summer. They examined the guests and signed the physician's certificate each is required to have signed, stating he or she is free from a contagious or infectious disease before being permitted to enter the Home. The Home wishes to express its appreciation also to Doctor Pryor of Crestwood, who so kindly treated the little boys who indulged in eating green apples and persimmons. Tommy said afterwards "Hasn't Doctor Pryor got lots of pills and castor oil?"

The triumph of the summer was the acquisition of a site for a permanent Home. The Louisville Herald which in former years had supported the Home, made this possible thru a campaign conducted

in behalf of the Home at the end of the summer. When the Louisville Fresh Air Home entered the Welfare League it did so with the understanding that the Herald would conduct such a campaign at some future time. Mrs. Mary P. Gill, formerly of Harrod's Creek left the Louisville Fresh Air Home \$5,000.00 on condition that an equal amount be raised. The Herald raised \$6,564.56. Mr. Powhattan Woolridge of Pewee Valley contributed \$2,000.00 of this amount and Mr. Theo Ahrens \$1,000.00. ✓

A beautiful location of thirty-one acres was bought from Mr. C. A. Calvert, Pewee Valley, Oldham County. The site is an ideal one. A broad stretch of level ground flanked on three sides by gnarled oaks, elms, beeches and wild cherry trees forms a natural location for an athletic field. A beautiful swimming pool, that very desirable asset to a Fresh Air Home, can be had at a small expense. A basin formerly used as a pool can easily be put in condition. The place will lend itself to a most satisfactory arrangement of buildings. It is planned to place at the end of the beautiful avenue of trees, an administration building with a recreation hall, dining room, kitchen and dormitory for girls; to build a cottage for mothers and babies on the site of the old homestead, not far from the administration building and surrounded on all sides by huge forest trees under which the mothers may sit and the babies frolic all day; and to build a house for boys on the hillside beyond the pool where they can romp to their hearts content without disturbing the older members of the group. ash

The Board of the Louisville Fresh Air Home expresses its grateful appreciation to the Louisville Herald and all those good friends who made the permanent Home possible at Pewee Valley.

25716

1923

E. J. Hutchings

1923 Dr. O. Brown

Story of Miss Ida - 1924
also to do with other groups

at last we came into possession of our own

fresh Air Home - But the completion of our plans
has taken almost twenty years.

1923 - Bents were provided for boys, older girls & workers.
(1) Mothers + babies were housed in the Administration

Bldg. a portion of the large dining room being par-
titioned off to form sleeping quarters.

The Ad. Bldg. contained a lobby, dining room
& kitchen. Lack of funds prevented the addition
of two wings, which are to contain dormitory
for girls, a worker's room & a recreation hall.

(2) Welfare League deficit - Herald to raise
three weeks longer possible

3. I bet we will be seeing wild animals soon

4. Spend the day parties

5. Personality problems -

6. Story of Jimmie & dog

7. Social Agencies

8. Sunday School teacher took her class of 29
enabling those who had worked to gether all winter
to play together for a glorious holiday.

1924 The improvements made this year on either buildings or on the grounds.

- (1) Italian Sunday
- (2) Cooperation with other agencies
- (3) Use of time
- (4) Doctors
- (5) Workers

~~1925~~

1925 (1) Community Chest authorized the opening of the columns of the Savannah Herald for contributions toward its Oldy program. It raised a fund of \$1297.91. The sum went toward defraying the expenses for building the wing.

Every summer
I go out
with my
drum
and
have
been
taken
advantage
of

of the new wing which is ultimately planned as the recreation hall, served as a dormitory mother + small children.

(2) Water problem - digging of a cistern and the installing of an electric pump in the 61 foot which had been dug when the main division of the Admin. bldg was erected three years ago

1927 - good
many
to be
thankful

- (3) visitors
- (4) Thank physicians
- (5) neighbors who loaned wagon horse & mules
- (6) need of other wing - swimming pool
- (c) mothers + babies cottage & another cistern

1926 - ¹ Erection of new wing to Administration Bldg. this provided a dormitory + shower room for girls + rooms and bath for the workers.

(2) Various forms of entertainments. (p 3)

(3) Problem children cease to be problem children

(4) Needs - ^(a) Mother's + Babies cottage

^(b) adequate swimming pool on the ground

melts
Ray Buss

^(c) incinerator for disposal of garbage + provision of other fire protection for the house

1927. - a morning in camp seen the eyes of Mr. Austin Welch

(1) joy of trip out.

(2) royal opportunity for character bldg - p 3

(3) Franklin St. Baptist Church 72 people
67 women + children sent by Miss Gameny
Other friends came out on Sunday

Murphy write report -

1928 1. Mr. Welch - and his games of the wild west.
Miss Wisconsin Fitzgerald's quarry, Floyd's Fort + Lake
Soundville - Wild West Rodeo, each week

2. Places of interest - Lake 2, My Confed Home - Little Colonel's Home - Black-berry expedition + puppet in some favorite spot. - a snipe hunt.

(3) Co operating agencies - p 4

1929 - Calloran - an excellent allround report
(1) completion of spring water reservoir
assured an abundant water supply;

(2) showers & lavatories were opened for first
time & new outside toilets

Material facilities
increased.

(3) Needs - (a) swimming pool for boys & girls
(b) Mother's & Babie cottages.

(c) clearing of grove in rear of main bldg.
for the purpose of affording a quiet
reading place away from
the children's playground.

4 co-operating agencies

1930 - Frank V. Flynn - (1) hungriest crowd in history of the Home - due to unemployment
(2) needs restated - a Mother's cottage & a swimming pool
(3) marked advance in sanitary facilities
(4) full list of co-operating agencies - p. 4.
(5) called Mary Parker Gill Cottage

1931 - (1) Mother's & Babie Cottage, became a reality through
the Mary Parker Gill Foundation of which the
U.S. Trust Co is trustee.

(2) Arrangement for building of road from the
gate to the building, thru co-operation
of the Jefferson County and the Trial Court of
Adham County.

Frank
Matham
Marcus

(3) p 2 - excellent report - many good points
emphasized

1932 - cont fund -

1933 - Use of 40 acres of densely forested lake 2 miles away
Lake Sanisvilla - use of for swimming.
Mr. Bethel Veck authorized a ventilating system
to be installed in the Mother's & Father's Cottage from
Mary Parker Gill Fund.
Transportation was provided by 65 friends,
5 physician

1934. ① Tragic summer - 4,800^{a week} - father earned - for support of
family of five.
② 1,280 picknickers + how they came.
③ Our friends were most generous this summer - they
made it possible to stretch on funds to the 11th degree.
excellent report.

1935 - Interesting glimpse of home

1936 - Unusual difficulties - drought. City Board of Health required
every guest take three typhoid shots before
going to the home -
paragraph - "use"

1937 - ① Report shows of the City Recreation Department
and Orchestra of the W. P. A. furnished
the high spots of the week.
② good running up of activities - much unemphatic

← good reports

1938 - ① Pleasant & smooth running best describes 1938 season

3 new games well met some of our needs.

- ② New Super in Fitzgerald quarry a delight - new over
- ③ Shower bath in boys quarters
- ④ Improved road from Mother & Baby Cottage to The Administration Bldg.
- ⑤ list of gifts of good neighbors -
- ⑥ Planting of young pine trees to beautify the grounds
- ⑦ All water under care of the Board of Health.

1939. Description of the Pool all completed
Laying white floats to warm where the shallow water ends and deep water begins - allowing etc.

VV

LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME REPORT

SUMMER OF 1923.

The Louisville Fresh Air Home opened its doors on June twenty-seventh at its permanent location in Pewee Valley.

During the nine weeks that it remained open three hundred and sixty three guests were accommodated for a period of a week to ten days each. Tents were provided for boys, older girls and workers. The mothers and babies were housed in the Administration Building, a portion of the large dining room being partitioned off to form sleeping quarters. The Administration Building at present contains a lobby, dining room and kitchen. Lack of funds prevented the addition of two wings which are to contain dormitories for girls, a worker's room, and a recreation hall.

On account of the Welfare League deficit the Fresh Air Home faced the necessity of closing early. The Louisville Herald, which had formerly supported the Home, came to the rescue and provided funds which enabled it to remain open three weeks longer than would otherwise have been possible. Though the Herald made up the deficit, yet it was impossible to give a vacation to more than 363 of the 723 who applied.

For those who came, however, there were various forms of amusement-- hikes, parties, hay rides, and games, with regular hours for swimming each day. The visitors profited greatly by the systematic routine of sleeping and good wholesome food. One little girl of eleven who when she went out was pale and worn, at the end of a week could hardly be recognized by the worker who accompanied her to the Home. The week had transformed her into a rosy checked, happy child.

Fifty strong the first crowd set out with bag and baggage from the Neighborhood House. The hour's trip on the car to the Farm affords great delight to the children and is quite an event to old and young alike. Among the group were some small boys. One of these, who had probably never seen so many trees and so much grass in all his life before, exclaimed, wide-eyed, "I'll bet we'll be seeing wild animals pretty soon!"

After arriving at the Home some children are found to be in such a run down physical condition that it is advisable to let them spend a day or two in bed, so that nourishing food and rest may do their work. One small boy, Tommy by name, was to be put to bed. He greeted the news with a look of consternation, and then, his thin little face breaking into a broad grin, he said, "I ain't

ment

On the difference it made

good story

got no night shirt, 'Teacher', but I got two sheets."

Spend the day -

For those who cannot come for a whole week "Spend the day" parties are given, Sunday being the favorite day. Looking for or expecting company is always exciting. Gleeefully the little folks run to meet the trucks and cars turning it at the gate as early as seven thirty in the morning. Then comes the proud announcement "This is my daddy and my mother and our little baby." Just inside the gate under the green, low branching maples is an ideal spot for family parties and a favorite gathering place for visitors. The hour of departure comes all too soon. "We dont want to go home just yet" pleaded one Sunday guest "can't we stay a little bit longer? You see its so hot and dusty in the city and its so different out here." On Sunday of Italian week even the recreation tent was pressed into service to take care of the overflow of family parties. Mothers cooked amazing quantities of spaghetti a la Italian in the kitchen; fathers, brothers and uncles carried wood and boiled meat over an outdoor fire. Little mothers from 7 to 12 tended babies, while "Teacher" tried to keep three and five year olds away from the danger of water barrels and too close acquaintance with the outdoor fire. "This nice place" smiled Mr. S. as he gathered the family and baskets preparatory to leaving- "We come again next year."

use this story ✓

Any time and effort spent on the guests was fully repaid by their appreciation. One woman who has spent half her life over the wash tub was overjoyed at the prospect of a week, when she could just enjoy herself. She afterwards remarked that one week was fully too short but that next year she would register earlier so that she could come with the first crowd, and maybe stay longer.

tell

For the past two years it has been the custom to take a group of boys who present some particular problem of personality and give them a home for the summer, under the guidance of a competent supervisor. One of the biggest lessons to be taught these problem children is that of self control. Organized play, regular hours and good food do much toward sending them back to their homes with many of their angles smoothed off and the problem well on the way to solution.

Problem Children

This year the activity with problem children went a step further, when it found a home in the country for a boy with a difficult family conditions. Jimmy left home on account of the unkindness of his father and had been sleeping in the streets for several weeks. Once placed in a country home he responded to its influences in a most gratifying manner. All his evil tendencies seemed to melt away in the kindly environment of family life. When he arrived the pet dog immediately caught his attention, and he remarked that it wouldn't be long till he had that dog mean enough to bite everybody on the place. Environment got the better of Jimmy, however, and instead of converting the dog into his own antagonistic frame of mind, he himself learned his first lessons in friendship and good comradeship. Enamored of his new home, he busied himself with the usual country chores- going for

the mail, driving home the cows and helping in general.

use
The remarkable benefit of country life for boys is shown by this case, for after Jimmy had been there for some time, he wrote his friends at the Settlement asking for books on insects, birds, butterflies, and "especially frogs." We hope that this may be the beginning of interesting the good people of the country in the small boys of the city who for want of a little country life are often growing into bad men.

use
It is interesting to watch children on their first visit to the Home. Little Mary was heard to ask if she might have another serving of meat. "Of Course you can," came in a chorus from the children gathered around the table, "You're at the Fresh Air Home now! You can eat as much as you like." Even during their short visit children learn the value of pure healthful food. The following stanzas taken from one of the several songs they originated show their feelings on the subject:

✓
"Hurrah! Hurrah!
The fresh air kids we are,
If you don't think that milk is good,
Just look at us and see,
No more coffee, no more tea,
Milk's the only drink we all agree."

The Fresh Air Home bills attest the fact that milk is one of the principle items on the bill of fare, more money being expended for it than for the purchase of any other foodstuff. Milk in abundance is served three times a day and always with the formula, "Drink all you want."

use
✓
The formal closing of the Home for the summer of 1923 took place Saturday night, September 1st with the Fourth Annual Farewell Party. The party stands as Home Coming night, for visitors, not only of this summer but of previous years return to join in one last frolic. A great deal of thought and attention is devoted by the workers to make the last night a rousing success.

Analysis of the accompanying figures from the Home report will prove interesting. The Louisville Fresh Air Home was able to accommodate 115 more people this summer than during the previous year. Out of 723 who applied at Neighborhood House for an outing to the Home it was possible to accord the privilege to only 363 individuals representing 155 families. The first warm spring days brought in applications from those who had heretofore enjoyed the benefits of the Home and were prompted by happy memories of the pleasures of the past. Of the 723 who applied, an outing was offered to 179 who, when their turn came, were prevented by personal reasons, illness, or home conditions, from accepting the invitation. It was impossible even to offer this outing to 181 other applicants. Outings were given to people ranging in age from

✓ babies to grandmothers past seventy years. Every nationality was welcomed at the Home, while special weeks were arranged for Italian and Jewish people. The intensiveness of the summer's work is shown in the fact that there were 141 more weeks of outings provided this summer than last year.

✓ One Sunday School teacher took her whole class of 29 thus enabling those who had worked together throughout the year to enjoy together a glorious summer playtime. Her letter of appreciation is typical of the gratitude of the Home's visitors.

"Surely you have established yourselves in our hearts and we appreciate your generous spirit.

However we are looking forward to a visit with you next year, and trust we'll have the honor of being with each of you again-----"

The Fresh Air Home cooperated with the various Social Agencies of the city, the Family Service Organization, Jewish Welfare Federation, Public Health Nursing Association, Childrens Protective Association, Psychological Clinic and others. Through the department of Social Service of the City Hospital one woman formerly well to do, but now reduced to poverty and suffering with a severely lamed foot, was sent out to the Home. Her gratitude for the crutches given her and the kindness showed her knew no bounds- "I'm crippled and can't work, but please let me sew for you. I want to do something to pay for all you've done for me" she told the worker.

The City Hospital arranged so that a mother of eight children suffering from a serious operation might have a rest in the country. Her home conditions were difficult and a convalescent period freed from the worry of her children and responsibility of the home was most beneficial.

One woman, quite ill when she reached the Home was so benefited by her stay in the country that she was given an extension of time so that she might more fully recuperate before returning to the city.

✓ To these women, as well as to the boys and girls, the mothers and babies, the Louisville Fresh Air Home gives freedom, health, and happiness, the joy of living, of laughter, of play, which is otherwise denied them; it opens up for them a new order of living.

✓ The Home owes much of its success to Miss Anna Eisenmann who has ably managed it for the past four summers. Hers was the head that kept things going and hers the heart that won the confidence and friendship of mothers, babies, boys and girls. She was assisted in her work by Miss Rebecca Baer, and later by Miss Louie Duncan Brown. These two girls brought to their undertaking all the energy and enthusiasm of youth. The Home was most fortunate

in having Raymond Baer, graduate this year of the Manual Training High School and winner of the Yale cup, as supervisor of boys. During his vacation James Holliday was his substitute. Mr. Baer was unusually successful in handling the boys to whom he was at all times both comrade and adviser. He and his sister Miss Rebecca Baer, also celebrated their fourth anniversary as assistants at the Home.

Our neighbors are indeed among our best friends, for never a day passed but some little kindness of word or deed told us that they were watching and always ready to help. We would especially like to thank Dr. E. D. Burnett of Pewee Valley and Dr. J. W. Sams of Crestwood who gave so generously of their services, and also Dr. Scott Frather and Dr. H. B. Strull of Louisville who rendered an inestimable service by giving the physical examinations necessary before the guests could be taken into the Home. Mr. J. W. Selph of LaGrange comes in for a large share of our appreciation since for the past two years he has furnished us with our entire supply of water.

The doctors -
water

Respectfully submitted,

President.

1946
1919
27

The Filson Historic

STATISTICAL REPORT FOR SUMMER OF 1923.

The following is a list of the individuals and the length of time each spent at the Louisville Fresh Air Home during the summer.

Individuals	Number of days for each individual	Total days
2	1	2
1	2	2
8	3	24
30	4	120
36	5	180
12	6	72
130	7	910
18	8	144
9	9	81
40	10	400
14	11	154
23	12	176
4	13	52
4	14	56
10	15	150
2	18	36
2	20	40
1	21	21
1	22	22
1	23	23
1	29	29
1	30	30
1	39	39
2	42	84
1	58	58
2	66	132
2	70	140
4	71	284
1	77	77
<u>363</u>		<u>7 13538</u>
		505 wks. 3 days

COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME

	1920	1921	1922	1923
Number of weeks Home was open	8 5/7	10	7 1/2	9 5/7
Number of guests	321	474	248	363
Representing Families	114	165	93	155
Weeks Outings	403	457	364	505-3 days
Applications for outings	701	677	541	723
Representing families	253	231	187	273
Total number who applied but who did not go	380	203	293	360
Representing families		66	94	118

Individuals	representing	Families
363 45	guests of Home representing same families given opportunity but could not go	155
134	given opportunity but were unable to go at time	61
181	applicants whom it was impossible to give an opportunity to go	57
<hr/> 723		<hr/> 273

Individuals outings were given to the following classified groups in 1923:

Women	70
Working girls (14-17)	18
Girls (6-14)	99
Babies (1-6)	70
Men	0
Working Boys (14-17)	13
Boys (6-14)	<hr/> 91
Total	363

V V V
Rent stones for
Stone of Gene's pool -
was finished

The Louisville Fresh Air Home Report
Summer 1924.

second-visit

third

The Louisville Fresh Air Home this year spent its (second) summer on its permanent location of thirty-one acres at Pewee Valley, Ky.

The Home formally opened its doors on Wednesday, July 2, to receive its first group of mothers and children. On each Wednesday thereafter until it closed on Sunday, August 31, the Home welcomed a new group of guests.

During the eight weeks and four days that the Home was open, it supplied vacations of from one day to several weeks for 384 individuals, ranging in ages from two months to eighty years. To these people, the vacations that they so badly needed would have been impossible had not the Home come to the rescue.

During the past summer, 736 people applied for a week or ten days stay at the Fresh Air Home. However, limited budget and housing space made it possible to give only 384 of that number the few days they needed in the open spaces.

No improvements were made this year on either the buildings or on the grounds. The mothers and children continued to be housed in the Administration Building, a portion of the large dining room being partitioned off to form sleeping quarters. The older girls slept in a tent near the building. The boys were likewise housed in a tent a short distance from the house.

There is little wonder that the list of eager applicants yearly increases. Those applicants who do receive cards admitting them to the Home, come thrilled at the prospect of a real vacation in the country--of fresh air, wholesome food, wholesome living and fun. When their stay is up, the guests often beg for just a few more days. The Home is continually receiving from departed guests, letters expressing their appreciation of what the Home has done for them and telling of the good times they have had.

Issie, a real American boy and "regular feller" who had to spend the rest of his year in the crowded city quarters, was probably the most demonstrative of all the guests in his appreciation of a real country vacation.

Issie came out with the first group, along with his brother, Pscar. Issie had been to the Home before, so he spent the hours trip out on the car in being an advance agent for "the great times you're going' to Hav' out thar". Issie enjoyed his week to the utmost of its possibilities. When his stay was over tears welled up in Issie's round eyes, and he choked several times. When these measures failed, Issie began seeking weighty reasons why he should stay "jus' one mor' week, ple-es". He finally found one that succeeded in prolonging his stay to four weeks.

One of the really urgent needs of the Home is a swimming pool--at least a place where the smaller children--who cannot hike to the distant and often dangerous swimming holes--can sometimes wade. One day when Issie and the other boys were carrying water, Issie thought of a plan to satisfy that crying need. He found a place where the spring was wide and where there was chances of enlarging it. The next day he and his companions began to act on his plans.

For two weeks more Issie stayed to help and direct the work of digging and hauling dirt from the basin. In the evening he would invite all the Home down to see his pool--the workers to see the progress he had made and the tiny tots to try it out. The sight of those boys, clothed only in their trunks, earnestly working and enjoying themselves or of those kiddies happily paddling around in mud and water would have been a good practical demonstration of the get-back-to-nature movement.

When even Issie could find no more mud islands to be removed from his pool, he bravely choked back his tears and left one morning with the group. That afternoon, however, found him again at Neighborhood House, telling the new group leaving for the Home of "th' fun you'll hav' out thar".

The hot August sun played havoc with "Issie's pool". But the Children are trusting that the water will fill up again next year. The basin is still there. As any child who has been to the Home will testify, swimming comes second only to eating in the list of popular activities, at the Home.

Rising bell rings at 6:30, breakfast is at 7:00; dinner at 12:00 and supper at 5:00. Bed-time bell sounds at 8:00. The day is so filled with wholesome recreating and fun that bed-time often is not so popular. But that can never be said of meal-times. To the outsider the amount of milk, bread, cereals, and fresh vegetables that disappear down lusty throats may seem alarming.

It is both amusing and interesting to watch the children at their first meal at the Home. There are many whispered queried as to whether "you can have another glass of milk" or "just one more plate full". When they are told that you can have all you want at the Fresh Air Home, the children happily rush back to the pantry, clutching their plates and glasses.

Probably the following amusing incidents were due to the good, wholesome food served at the Home. Twenty hungry girls were seated around the table waiting for "Teacher" and telling alarming stories of the amount of food they could consume. Some of the girls were already sampling stray bits on the edge of the plates, when "Teacher" told them to wait for "grace". Consternation ruled for a moment, then one girl of ten piped up, "Teacher, I didn't know we had a girl named Grace"!

At another time, a table of small boys were told to say "grace". At first all the faces were downcast and perplexed. Then when "Teacher" again turned around, she heard one boy at the head of the table calling out, "Now-ready, one, two, three-----". Then fifteen loud voices sang out together, "Grace"! then, having treated the matter in the tru-boyish way and feeling they had done their duty, fifteen lads, with enlightened hearts and flushed faces, fell to the job of the moment.

good story

But it is still more interesting to see the miracles that fresh air, fun, rest, simple living, and wholesome food have actually accomplished for some of the guests of the Home. Many a parent exclaimed as Mrs. B. did when she came to visit her brood one Sunday "Honestly, I never saw such a change. I never recognized Carrie May (aged two and one half) when she ran to greet me....And as for my boy and Margaret--I've never seen them so healthy, rosy, and happy. You know, I believe really that Margaret wouldn't have to undergo that eighth operation if she only could stay out here all summer." Two weeks at the Home had done more for Margaret, an anemic, sickly girl of twelve who had spent most of her life in bed or one an operating table, than years of hospitals and doctors had done for her.

Mrs. C. had been deserted by her husband and left to ^{rear} raise four children between the ages of ten and one year in two small, upstairs rooms in the crowded part of the city. Two days after she and her children had been at the Home, she told a worker "It's so restful and peaceful out here...I don't have to worry or think about my children. They are always having a good time and there is nothing to hurt them. I havn't had such a rest in months..If only they could stay out here all summer. It isn't so hard to keep them penned up in the winter months.

For those who cannot spend the week at the Home with their families or friends, there is visitors day. Many visitors bring lunches and have picnic spreads with their families on the beautiful grounds of the Home. Visitors Day and the wondering if "my folks are coming to see me today" affords one of the chief diversions of the week. During the year the Home has supplied these one day vacations for people.

The most impressive of all visitors days is "Italian Sunday". The friends and families of the Italian group came out 100 strong on four large trucks that carried the spaghetti and other ingredients for a real Italian feast. At 6:15 one little girl declared she heard her brother's truck tooting at the gate. Hasty investigation proved she was right. Out she flew. Only a few minutes later when she returned with mother, big sister, and the baby did she realize that in her excitement she had forgotten the formality of dressing. The Italians cooked their food in the open and spent a "festive day". They left only when darkness interrupted their merry-making.

The next day one Italian mother, Mrs. V. told the other mothers, as they sat quietly on the porch "I can no finda such nica place for babes anda me--not for much money. Anda I no have mucha money". No, and all this is free" smiles another mother of five as she pushed her youngest in the rock-a-bye swing on the shady porch.

But it is not only the mothers and the children who enjoy the Home and try to show their appreciation of it. Old Miss Ida was once from an aristocratic family. Now that she is old she is without money, friends, or relatives. She is supported in one room in the city by a church organization.

The main event in Miss Ida's year is her vacation at the Home. No one enjoys the activities of the Home better than she. She is always trying to repay it for its kindness to her by sewing, patching helping in the kitchen or working in the pantry. When, after several weeks stay, she was forced to go back to the city to make room for new guests, she left almost in tears, "Please, some one, let me know when there is room again this summer for me. I'll be waiting." Lack of adequate housing facilities at the Home made it impossible to heed her plea.

The Fresh Air Home this year co-operated in this way with many organizations to give vacations to people who would otherwise be forced to spend the entire summer in a hot, dusty, crowded city. Among these organizations are the--Family Service Organization, Jewish Welfare Organization, Children's Protective Association, Public Health Nursing Association, Psychological Clinic, and others. All of the people sent out by these organizations benefited greatly by their time at the Home. Many family disturbances are successfully bridged over by the "vacations" of one or more of its members at the Home. All these people went back home, better physically, mentally and morally and more able to cope with their problems.

With one of the groups that came to the home there was an anemic, sullen girl of eighteen and her ten weeks' old baby. For the first few days she sat shyly on the porch, cuddling her child. One night after one of the older mothers had promised to look after baby, she was persuaded to join the older boys and girls on a "snipe hunt". She even "held the sack". During the rest of her stay the girl continued to join in the hikes, picnics, games and other sports. When she left the Home she was a different girl/....lively and content where she had been before dull and sullen. "I feel like one of the girls again" she told the girls' worker.

Perhaps it would amuse some of us and yet make us feel a bit guilty to see how little even some of our older city bred boys and girls know of the country and country life.

Charlie, a fifteen year old High School boy, volunteered with several other boys to help Miss Eiseman gather eggs. The boys were told to go and "scout up" every egg in the hen-house. When Charlie thought he and the other lads had found every egg in sight, he wandered into

the pen where all the chickens roosted. Suddenly, he spied two small pullet eggs, hidden under the roost. When the boys were proudly turning over the eggs to Miss Eiseman, Charlie held out his "find" "Are these little round ones alright? They weren't in the hen house. I found them in there, they must be rooster eggs".

Just now, when we are devoting so much time and effort and money on the health and education of our children and future American citizens, we are apt to forget that a knowledge of the country--of the great out of doors and all that goes with it--that an intimate acquaintance with these things is a necessary part of not only our childrens' general education, but also of their physical well-being and happiness.

use of time { At the Fresh Air Home every thing is done to insure the health and happiness of each of its guests. Plans are made so that guests of all ages can have a good time. The Louisville Free Public Library lends the Home books on all subjects for mothers, boys, and girls. Music is supplied by a phonograph and piano. There are stunt nights when amateur talent and impromptu dancing form the evening's amusement. There are always games for the smaller folks, There are hikes, swims, marshmallow roasts, all day picnics, out of doors suppers, sack races, ball games, picture shows, and even snipe hunts for all who care to join in the fun.

Once Miss Eiseman tried to find out from two of her small charges just what were the most popular of the activities of the Home. Abie and Jacob came out without an older brother or sister or mother to look after them. Every night Miss Eiseman went to see if they were properly tucked in. It was the last night of their stay "Jack, just what do you like best at the Fresh Air Home?" "Miss Eiseman asked. "The swims and the eats" promptly chirped Jacob, "And what do you like best here?" she turned to Abie. Abie hesitated a moment and prepared to pull the cover over his head. "You!" he grinned.

Much of what the Home has been able to accomplish has been directly due to Miss Anna T. Eiseman who has so successfully managed for the past five years. So completely has she put her heart and mind in her work that she has won the friendship, confidence and admiration of all who have been at the Home.

She has been ably aided in her work by Miss Rebecca Baer, girls' worker, and by Mr. Raymond Baer, Boys' worker. This year, Miss Marguerite Nicklies substituted for Miss Baer and Mr. A. Baer for Mr. Baer. Mr. and Miss Baer also celebrated their fifth anniversary at the Home.

In giving credit where credit is due, the Home wishes to thank those

Kind and generous friends and neighbors who helped to make the summer a success. Dr. Scott Prather and Dr. H. B. Strull, of Louisville, assisted in examining those who wished to come to the Home and in signing their certificates showing them free from contagious diseases. Dr. Burnett, of Pewee Valley, and Dr. Sams, of Crestwood kindly answered calls when small guests tummies weren't as big as their eyes or when tiny tots were too sorely tempted by green fruit.

The Home wishes to thank Mr. J. W. Selph, of LaGrange, for his generosity in furnishing the Home with water for the past three years. We are indebted also to Mr. J. H. Waugh, of Crestwood, for the use of his horse and wagon on Sundays. His generosity made it possible for the children to take many enjoyable trips to places of interest.

The Home and each of its guests of the year send a special vote of thanks to the Louisville Herald-Post this year for the use of its magnificent Lake Louisvilla. The swims in the Lake have been one of the most precious of the privileges of the guests of the Home.

We also wish to thank Mr. Hillen and the guards for the safety and careful supervision they afforded the children while at the Lake.

On Sunday night, August 30, the Home formally closed. This closing was in the form of a farewell party to which the friends, neighbors, and former guests of the Home were invited. Much time and effort were spent by the workers to make the party a success.

All in all, the Home has had a most profitable and prosperous summer.

Respectfully submitted,

.....
President.

farewell party at end

Nov 2

1925

R E P O R T

THE LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME

Summer-1925

This report was written by }
Miss Marguerite Nicklies, }
in charge of Girls Work, }
Louisville Fresh Air Home. }

The Louisville Fresh Air Home opened for its third season at its permanent location in Pewee Valley on Wednesday, July 8.

During the seven weeks and six days that it remained open, it provided country outings of a week or more for 440 mothers and children who would otherwise have had no vacations.

While the Board of Directors was considering the erection of house tents this spring, to meet the dormitory needs of the Home, it was found more advisable to invest in something more permanent; and it was decided to start work on a new wing to the Administration Building, which already contained a lobby, dining room, and kitchen.

The Community Chest authorized the opening of the columns of the Louisville Herald for the use of the Fresh Air Home. Thru the Herald, contributions from the general public were received, and a fund of \$1,297.91 was raised. This sum went toward defraying the expenses for building the wing.

This new wing, which is ultimately planned as the recreation hall, served as a dormitory for the mothers and small children this summer. The older boys and girls were housed again in tents. It is hoped that the Administration Building can be completed in the near future by the erection of another wing which is to contain the workers' rooms and a girls' dormitory.

The water problem of the Home was solved to a great extent by the digging of a cistern and the installing of an electric pump in the sixty-one foot well which had been dug when the main division of the Administration building was erected three years ago, but from which we had never had any water until this summer because of the lack of practical pumping facilities. The well has supplied the major portion of the Home's drinking and cooking water, and the cistern has furnished the necessary water for cleaning purposes.

well
water
dig
years
before

use

Altho these added facilities have made it possible for the Home to care for 56 more people than it did last year, it is still not adequate to accommodate the hundreds of mothers and children who file their applications and eagerly wait in vain for a much needed rest in the country. This year it was impossible to fill 251 applications.

These fortunate ones who have the privilege of being guests of the Home never tire of singing its praises. Many who have no real homes of their own soon learn to take a personal interest in its welfare and progress. One little chap of twelve, who was spending his third summer vacation at the Home, immediately examined the new wing and enlarged dining room on his arrival. A smile of satisfaction spread over his freckled face, and he whispered in a husky voice to the rest of the admiring group, "Golly, I'll betcha this place'll be better'n the Brown Hotel soon". He and some of his friends insisted on leading every visitor on a tour thru the house and over the grounds. He always ended by insiting, "Now let me show ya the boys tent, we keep it almos' as good as th' gurls. I got a hundred at tent 'spection this mornin'."

Tent inspection each morning is an exciting time, indeed. Each boy and girl is responsible for his bed and some other tent duty, such as mopping, sweeping, or picking up the paper around the tent. This division of labor greatly pleases the children. Each one tries to do his job the best. The individual grades are posted and eagerly debated and discussed by every child. At the end of the group's stay, a small remembrance is given to the boy and to the girl who has had the best grades for the week.

Early in the year, the girls suggested that they have "personal inspection", too. Their wish was complied with and "Teacher" began putting them thru some simple drills as she looked for untidy hair, missing buttons, dusty shoes, etc. The boys, not to be out-done by "th' gurls", decided they needed "pursun 'spechun" also. One morning they came over to watch the proceeding so that they might profit by the girls mistakes. When their time came, they went thru it all in true military fashion until the order "right dress" came. The boys looked at each other in consternation, then the leader piped up, "Say, Teecher, that's the order you gave the gurls, we're fellas, you maan "right shirt", don't cha?".

This year the girls made an effort to keep a set of "health rules". They were on their honor to give themselves the grade they thought they deserved each day on the health chart, posted on the bulletin board. At the end of the week, the one who had best kept the rules, was crowned "Queen of Health". In this way, many a girl learned "to brush her teeth, clean her nails, eat no candy between meals, to eat something of everything served at each meal, etc." After one young "Queen" had gone home, she wrote, "I wouldn't part with my crown for Nothing and I'm grying to keep my health rules since I'm home and I wish I was still out There."

✓
good
story
to be
used
in program

✓

The same plea comes continually to the workers - -
"Can't I stay just one more week?" "Please let me know if
there is ever room for me again this year", "just one more
week, please, I'll do anything to help you."

Mrs. X, a mother with six young children at the Home,
put in the usual plea. When it was carefully explained to her
that another large group of guests were coming and that room had
to be made for them, she refused to be daunted, "I sleepa any
wherea-me an my babes - on porcha - no take mucha space - I worka -
do anything a pleesa - - "So insistent was she that the workers
arranged for another week for her. And Mrs. X kept her word; she
insisted on helping in the dining room, sweeping the porch, and
peeling the vegetables. The next week she left almost in tears,
begging to be allowed to return" to this fina place with my babes"
whenever there was room.

Tears stream unashamedly down many a young face when its
owner is told that he or she must pack his things and go with the
homeward bound group to the car. Sixteen-year-old Dorothy and
fourteen-year-old Nora who had declared they could take the cook's
place ~~when~~ all other arguments failed to get them the permission
to stay, tried the old experiment of leaving their baggage behind
them, in the hope that the workers might weaken when they had to
return for it. But the workers are up to such ruses. The girls
were soon satisfied with the promise that they could come again
if it were possible. They boarded the car with the rest of the
group that was shouting fond farewells and prophecies that they
would be with the first crowd next year.

No one enjoyed her vacation at the Home more than did
Nellie, who had been married when she was thirteen and deserted
at the age of seventeen with a small baby and an old mother to
care for; her stay at the Home was her first vacation in all that
time. The first day she sat apologetically in a corner of the
porch with her boy beside her. That evening she shyly accepted
an invitation to go on a moon-light stroll with the girls. Slowly
she joined in the singing of the camp songs. Before the walk was
over, she had made friends with some of the girls and was laughing
and chatting as gaily as they were. That night when the good-night
songs were being sung and everyone was slipping off quietly to bed,
Nellie shyly put her arm around the girl worker's waist. As they
walked to the tent together, Nellie told her story. She ended by
whispering, "You are all so good and kind to me, You're just
like home folks. I forget all my troubles out here, if I only
didn't have to go back," she sighed. That week Nellie lived
the girlhood that had been denied her. Her six-year-old boy, who
had practically raised himself while his mother had been away at
work, was quite a disciplinary problem when he first came, but he
soon responded to the freedom of the out-of-doors, plenty of good
food, and the kindly supervision of the workers. He learned to
play with the children rather than to fight with them. When Nellie
and little Louis left the Home to return to the city, they were both

better able to cope with their problems. "Things look so much different since I've been out here", she smiled as she left.

A week of simple, natural life in the open with regular hours, and plenty of good food and wholesome amusement sends many persons who leave the Home, back to the city better able physically, mentally and morally, to cope with their problems and the humdrum of their daily existence.

Old Mrs. P. who was "close on to eighty" and who "was once an old-time school teacher" spent her two weeks at the Home "catching up with her reading". "You know", she explained in her faltering voice, "I haven't had the time to do the reading I should for the past forty years. This is a real treat". Immediately after Breakfast, she would disappear with several volumes of the Home's library under her arm. All day she would sit in the swing under the cool trees reading and napping by "spells". She returned to the house only for meal-times. "I've never enjoyed myself so much before", she remarked.

The Home provides amusement for everybody at all times. There are swims, hikes, all day picnics, singing, story-telling, rides, shipe-hunts, table games, ring games, ball games, camp fires, marshmallow roasts, a branch of the Public Library that contains books for all ages, races of all kinds, and stunt nights when local talent of all ages and kinds rules supreme.

It would be hard for the children to agree on just what is the most popular form of amusement, but if a vote were taken, swimming would probably run the highest score. The children have not put down their suit-cases before they are asking one general question, "when are we goin' swimmin'." Unfortunately the Home has no pool of its own; so many of those who cannot hike to the pools and creeks near the Home must miss the greatest pleasure of the country. Every "swimmin' hole" and pool within walking or riding distance of the Home was taken advantage of when it was available to either the boys or girls. These swimming trips were joyous occasions, indeed, from the time when the youngsters began to get together make-shift bathing suits and set off gaily down the lane singing.

"Oh me, Oh my,
We'll get there bye and bye
If anybody loves the Fresh Air Home,
It's I, I, I, I.

"Oh my, Oh me,
Our hearts are full of glee,
If anyone loves to swim,
It's me, me, me, me."

until they strolled down the shady avenue of tall trees near

home, dragging wet suits and muddy towels behind them. When they turned in at the gate, their lusty voices rose in the chant,

"When do we eat, when do we eat?
Oh, I like my beans done good and brown and
I like my eggs turned up side down,
When do we eat, when do we eat,
Honest, we are almost starving,
When do we eat?"

Or,

"Sing, kiddies, sing do your best,
At our Fresh Air Home there is rest, sweet rest.
And when we hear that dinner bell,
I'll tell you what we'll do,
We'll just eat up that good old food as fast as
we can chew, chew, chew."

And to these who have had the good fortunes to watch the "Fresh Air Kiddies" at meal-times, this song is "more truth than poetry". At their first meal, the children are told that they can have as much milk and food as they can eat, and thereafter the children wait for no second invitation. To one who is not acquainted with the havoc that fresh air plays with young appetites or the alarming amounts that healthy "tummies" can really hold, a meal at the Fresh Air Home might prove interesting. The food is doubly tempting to the children when they learn that many of the vegetables have been raised in the Home's own garden. This year the garden proved highly successful, and it is hoped that next spring a still larger one can be worked.

Modern miracles are wrought each week at the Fresh Air Home. Organized play, wholesome food, and regular hours have transformed many anemic, sullen children, who proved problems to their parents and teachers in the city, into rosy, contented children, willing to see the rights and authority of others. Ten-year-old Jack who was a problem on the city playground was sent to the Home for a month's vacation. For the first week, Jack was up to his old tactics. But the playground at the Home is so large and there were so many more interesting things to do than joining Jack in his mischief, that Jack was left to himself. When he saw the good times he was missing, he changed his methods. In two weeks he was one of the most staunch supporters of the Home's rules and one of the most zealous participators in its wholesome sports.

This summer the Home has again cooperated with the various social agencies of the city, the Family Service Organization, the Jewish Welfare Federation, the Children's Protective Association, the Psychological Clinic, and others.

For the past several years, Dr. O'Brien, thru the Psychological Clinic, has sent out a group of "problem boys" for a stay at the Home. Of the four boys who came to the Home this summer, Lawrence probably showed the most marked improvement. Lawrence, an adopted child of superior intelligence who had been spoiled by his elderly foster parents, came to the Home resenting all authority and feeling that he should do just as he pleased. One incident in particular shows how he learned to subordinate his own whims to the happiness and well-being of the group. When the boys organized a baseball team and challenged a neighboring team, Lawrence refused to play because he couldn't do just as he pleased. At the last moment, however, he saw that his team was in need of help, and he jumped into the place of fielder. For the first time, Lawrence learned the meaning of team play, and the lesson stuck. One night the children were preparing to give a program of stunts for some visitors. Lawrence had practiced for one of the parts in a stunt. At the last moment, he declared he felt ill and that he wasn't going to play his part. But in a few minutes he was telling the worker in charge, "I'll try to take my part anyway. If I don't, the other fellas can't give the ting." Lawrence's mother, who often came to visit him at the Home, immediately noticed the improvement in the lad and was greatly pleased by the change.

Thruout the summer, there are continual visitors to the Home and its guests. Miss Ingram brought the heads of the various Social Agencies and Neighborhood House Board to the Home to see the work it is doing. Mr. Fischer personally led a "Come and See" party to inspect the Home. Every Sunday brings a large number of friends and relatives of the guests. Often they bring their lunches and spread their picnics out on the ideal picnic spot on the Home's grounds. By far the day that brings the most visitors is "Italian Sunday", when as early as six o'clock in the morning the trucks turn in at the gates, with visitors and the ingredients of a real Italian feast. All thru the day they feast, cook, and chat in true family reunion fashion. Only at dusk do they leave, waving good-byes to the Home and promising to "come gan to this vera nice place". During the summer 412 people visited the Home.

On the night of August 31st, the Home gave a very successful farewell party to its friends and neighbors. Many were the expressions of regret at seeing us leave. On the morning of September 1, the last guests of the season left for the city, and the Home formally closed.

In looking over the summer, we want to thank all the friends and neighbors who, by word and deed, have helped us in our work.

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Dr. H. B. Strull and Dr. Scott Prather of Louisville have rendered an inestimable service in examining the guests before they came to the Home. Dr. J. W. Sams has generously offered his services to the Home throught the summer.

The Confederate Home, Mr. Fred Kilgus and Dr. Osborne of Pewee Valley, and Mr. J. Waugh of Crestwood have made it possible for the children to take many long, cool rides by loaning their wagons, horses and mules for the Home's use.

We are greatly indebted to those in charge of Lake Louisville for the permission of swimming there. Mr. J. Rose and Mr. Bob Goodwin come in for a special share of our thanks. Mr. J. W. Selph of LaGrange again kindly furnished us with drinking water when our supply failed us.

We are so thankful for all that we have accomplished this year that we hesitate in naming our other needs. We feel, however, that the most urgent need at present is the building of the other wing, which will complete the Administration Building. The next in order is a swimming pool of our own so that we may have definite hours for swimming. The erection of a Mothers' and Babies' Cottage a little distance from the mail building would make possible greater rest for the workers and more comfort for the mothers and babies themselves. So successful has our first cistern proved, that we believe the digging of another would about solve our water problem.

A small forest fire this spring and another one this fall have shown us several needs. The most important is that of a general caretaker to live on the place throughout the year. The other is the need of an incinerator to care for the burning of waste, and the necessity of providing other adequate protection throughout the house and grounds.

If the house were sealed so that it could be heated during the winter, many of our friends and neighbors have assured us it could often be rented out for special parties during its idle months. The workers feel that it is a proposition worth considering.

The Home owes much of its welfare and success to the tireless energy and heart-felt interest of Miss T. Eisenmann who has so skillfully managed it for the past years. This year she was assisted by Miss Marguerite Nicklies and Miss Louise Sosnin who were in charge of the girls' work. The boys' work was in charge of Mr. Raymond Baer who has also spent six summers with the Home.

Stories from the Louisville Fresh Air Home

Summer, 1926

After Mrs. R and her three boys, aged five, seven, and ten, had spent five days at the Home, she confided to the worker, "I wish I had known about the Home years ago. I can't tell you how much it means to me and the boys. Why that Teddy of mine (the ten-year-old) is a different boy! He's so hard to manage at home. You see, we live in a second floor flat and the yard is a little bit of a thing and it's bricked and has to be used to dry wash in by four other families. I know it's not much to play in, but I just hate to see the boys go out in the street to play, since Jack there", -she pointed to the seven-year-old who was haplessly tumbling around in the sand-pile-, "was run over by a machine while he and the other boys were playing 'catchers'. They didn't think he'd live for a month, and ever since I've been so nervous that I can't bear to have them out of my sight. It's not so hard to keep the two youngest in, but Teddy just storms when I won't let him out to play with the street bunch. It's terrible having three boys in the house with you all day, especially in the summer. They get tired of me and I get tired of them. Out here it's so different. I never see Teddy except at meal-times and when he tells me good-night. The kid is so thrilled about sleeping over there with the big boys in the tent and going swimming and hiking with them. Last night he told me it was just like the stories he read about camping. You know, this is the first time he's ever been in the country. I've never seen three boys so happy. The other two run and tumble around in the grass and sand all day, and I'm getting to feel like a new person since I don't have to worry about the boys and know they're safe and having a good time. I feel like Jack did when he said this morning, 'Mama, can't we come early next summer and stay all year out here?' This is certainly a fine place", she smiled, as she sunk happily into the swing on the cool, wide perch and gazed wistfully at her children frolicing with the other youngsters on the enormous green lawn around the Home.

Many children who prove troublesome to parents at home find a natural outlet for their young energy in the wholesome life furnished for them at the Fresh Air Home and make one wonder how they can be the same mischievous, irritable youngsters who were continually "aggravating" their elders in the city.

The L. boys, Mervin, aged seven, and George, aged nine, came alone to the Home to spend two weeks. Five minutes after their arrival, they rushed out to the sandpile and the see-saws, arrayed in their play suits, and eagerly began the serious business of having a good time. From that day on, the two manly little fellows gave the workers not a moment of trouble. Before breakfast they were out in the open, happily playing together. Only at meal time and at bed-time did they come to the House. The worker was not surprised; for three years the two youngsters had been coming by themselves to the Home for a week or two weeks' stay. They had always been model little guests, contented, joining in the group's activities, obedient, intelligent, and well-behaved. Imagine the worker's surprise when a woman who lived near the L. boys in the city exclaimed on her arrival to the Home, "What, have you got the L. Boys here? How can you all put up with them? Why, they're the terror of the neighborhood at home; they live in back of a store and haven't any yard of their own, so they're always on the street, getting into mischief with somebody's belongings. They can't find enough ways of getting into trouble and people's way!". When the neighbor had watched the L. boys at the Home for a few days, she again exclaimed, "You wouldn't believe it's the same boys if you had seen them at home. They're perfect darlings out here! I guess it's

because they haven't anything to play with or any place of their own where they can play that makes them so bad and gets them into trouble!"

No one so thoroughly enjoyed her stay at the Home as did twelve-year-old Edith, who lived in a "boarding house" in the market district. Edith was so anxious to make the most of her wholesome, new surroundings and her numerous opportunities for fun that the other children found it hard to keep up to the pace her enthusiasm set for the group. Edith loved the new, large, airy dormitory for the girls and she spent much time in keeping it clean and neat. At dormitory inspection, Edith's bed always stood out as the most perfectly-made one! After the worker had blown the whistle for attention, she would find Edith anxiously smoothing wrinkles out of her "upper sheet", for to this child it was an entirely new experience to own, even for a short week, a comfortable, clean, white bed all her own, in an attractive, clean dormitory where air and sunshine were constant visitors. Often it was difficult for the undisciplined little waif, Edith, to obey the few but necessary rules set for the girls of the camp, for Edith had no one in her life that cared very much what she did or how she spent her time. But the girl found this new way of "regular living" attractive and pleasant, and she did her best to try to fit in with the others.. The day before the group was to leave the Home, the worker overheard the girls talking about having to go. "Don't you hate to go back home?", one of the girls asked Edith. "I'm not going home", Edith declared with firm determination, as she flung herself upon the bed she had so carefully smoothed out the moment before. She patted the pillow lovingly, "Teacher says if I'm good I can stay and I'm going to be so good they can't send me home!"

Fanny, a Jewish girl of fifteen, was what her school teachers described as a "queer child". She was pale, anemic, taciturn, and reserved, caring nothing for the companionship of the girls her age and spending all her time in reading books. When she and her mother came to the Home, the workers saw immediately the cause of Fanny's "queerness". Her mother was a sickly, eccentric woman of the old world type, who demanded the constant attention of her daughter, keeping the girl away from the activities of a normal girl her age and making the child morbid and old for her age. For a day or two the mother refused to let the girl join in the fun and activities of the other girls, and at first Fanny herself had no inclination to do so. But being so close to the enjoyment of the other girls her age made Fanny's natural instincts rise to the top. One day she begged her mother for the permission to accompany the girls on a short hike. That was the beginning for Fanny. The chummy companionship of the girls and the peppy songs struck a new chord in the girl. She begged to accompany the girls on all their jaunts and the mother, seeing the change in the girl, reluctantly consented. Indeed, at first, Fanny was quiet and shy and she stayed close to the worker; but her quick smile, new and then, showed that she was learning to enjoy her new experiences. One day she accepted the offer to borrow a swimming suit and go in bathing with the girls. That "dip" opened a new door for Fanny. It was the first time she had ever been in the water. When the worker offered to teach her to swim and she found that she was an apt pupil, she found a new joy in physical activity. She was determined to learn to swim and she did in one week's time. Before the week was out, Fanny's mother was ready to go home, but Fanny secured permission to stay on. The puzzled mother granted the request, not believing it possible that the girl had changed so. Fanny made the most of her prolonged stay; she formed close friendships with several of the girls, she joined eagerly the games, the stunts, and other activities of the group. On one moonlight walk home from an all day picnic, Fanny slipped her hand shyly into that of the worker. "I never knew", she confided, "that I could have such a good time with other girls. This is the first time I've really had any fun -", she declared softly.

The Fresh Air Home has opened a new way and life for many mothers and children, thru the wholesome contact it is able to give them with other people, thru normal activities.

Director
Beaumont
Mrs. Home

Mrs. L. was brought to the Home from the hospital where she had undergone a serious operation. With Mrs. L. were sent her three children, two girls, aged four and six, and a sixteen months' old baby. The mother and children had been separated for several months; it was a pathetic reunion. The mother was wane and pale, lacking interest in all around her and too weak even to notice and look after her children. The baby was anemic and the girls, by their shy, nervous glances, evidenced the fact that they had sadly missed the healthy and happy influences of home life. When one looked at the tots and their convalescent mother, one could sense all the sadness of the broken, little household. But in a few days the situation offered to the same on-looker, a happier aspect. The absolute rest, the nourishing food, the lovely country air and surroundings, and especially the feeling of assurance and security given the mother and children by the knowledge of each other's well-being and presence soon showed their effects on the little group. The mother slowly evidenced signs of regained health and strength. Her third day at the Home, she asked to hold and care for the baby who surprised every one at the camp by the color that began to come to the drawn, little cheeks and by the interest he took now in his surroundings and his food. The little girls had thrown themselves into the games of the other little folk, and that weary, grown up look, which is so pathetic in the faces of children, gave way to one of childish happiness. It was a new little group that prepared to return to their home when the father and husband called for them. Mother and children had renewed their contact with real life again in a pleasant, natural way, and they returned home much better fitted physically and mentally to take up their normal life again. One need only imagine the sick mother and children returning directly to the home to take up the daily burdens, to understand what their stay at the Fresh Air Home meant to mother, children, and father, as well.

"Issy" had been a guest of the Home for a week or two of each of the summers he could remember. And these stays at the camp were more than visits to him; they were events! Issy literally loved the Home, and everything connected with it. And in many ways did he show his affection for the Home. Once he and his little brother with several of the other older boys attempted to dig a swimming pool on the grounds so that the little tots, who could not hike to the neighboring ponds, and pools utilized by the big boys and girls, could enjoy the "dip." Issy's and his companions' "pool" is still there. But the sun unfortunately dried up the water, just when the boys had prepared to demonstrate their triumph! But two years ago Issy's mother died. For a time the lad tried to keep house for his father and younger brother; later he was forced to go to work. But the Issy now had responsibility on his young shoulders, he did not cease to yearn for the "good ole days at the Home". One Sunday, he came to visit his little brother who was spending his vacation at the Home. "Gee", he sighed, as he watched the boys joyously start off on a hike-swim, "I wish I had time to come back out here. We certainly used to have grand times!". It was not the first time that Issy had longed for the "stays at the Home. He had written regularly to the boy's worker, recalling the picnics, swims, hikes, ball games, etc. that they had enjoyed with the other boys. "Can't you come and visit us a little while this summer," the worker asked the lad. "Nope, have to work every day but Sunday", sadly answered the fourteen-year-old "working man". "Well, we will have to see if we can't make it Sundays then", the worker assured him. And arrangements were made! Three different Sundays Issy renewed his acquaintance with the Home. He would come out on the last car to Pewee, just to be able to spend the night under the stars and trees, in the big tent. Sunday he would play as he did "in the good ole days" with the other boys - swims, hikes, out-of-dorr suppers, ball-games, etc. Monday mornings, long before the rest of the camp was up, Issy would be back on his way to the city and work. But Issy had three such "week-ends"! - one-day vacations such as only Issy knew how to enjoy and appreciate to their fullest extent!

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME
SUMMER 1926

On Wednesday, July 7, 1926, the Louisville Fresh Air Home opened for its ~~fourth~~ ^{fourth} season at its permanent location in Pewee Valley, Kentucky.

During the seven weeks and six days that the Home remained open, it provided outings in the country for five hundred and twenty-five mothers and children who would otherwise have had no relief from the sultry, crowded, and unhealthy conditions of their city homes. Each Wednesday during the season, the Home received a new group of guests, who came for a week or ten days' stay.

The housing facilities of the Home were greatly improved this year by the erection of a new wing to the Administration Building, which contained a lobby, dining room, kitchen and recreation hall. This new wing provides a dormitory and shower room for girls and rooms and bath for the workers. The recreation hall was again utilized this season as a dormitory for the mothers and small babies; and as in former years, the boys were again housed in tents, a short distance from the main building.

In spite of the new housing space, the Home found it impossible to accommodate all the mothers and children who would have liked to be its guests and who so urgently needed the wholesome conditions the Home is prepared to provide for its guests. Many a youngster's and many a mother's plea for the privilege of staying "just one more week, please?" had to be refused because the Home needed the space for other guests, who needed a country outing.

Wednesday morning is the one sad and unpopular time in the program of events at the Home. For then many reluctant mothers and children must bid farewell to the Home and the good times it has provided for them to return to the humdrum existence of their own dreary city homes. Many are the clever ruses that the children try in order to gain permission to stay a little longer at the Fresh Air Home.

One thirteen year old girl, Mary, was told that she and her sister must prepare to leave with the out-going group. But Mary did not surrender to "unconditional defeat;" she had a plan. She resolved upon the plan of washing a perfectly clean pair of hose, at the last moment, in the hope that the worker would be forced to let her stay on. "Honest, I can't go home now, can I, Teacher?, she reasoned. But Mary had miscalculated the time required to dry a pair of hose on a hot, summer day! When she tried to produce the damp hose as "circumstantial evidence," she unfortunately found them ready to accompany her home!

To any one who is familiar with the home conditions of those who become the guests of the Home, it is easy to understand why the children and mothers are so loath to leave the wholesome, carefree life that the Home provides, to return to the sordidness of their own daily existence.

Fanny, an Italian child of five, lives with her numerous brothers and sisters in the small rooms back of her father's fruit store in the market district. Fanny's family's coming to the Home was an event in her young life. She was greatly impressed with the immensity and the cleanliness of her temporary "home." She wandered, awe-stricken, thru the big, airy dining room,

the large, inviting lobby, and the inviting, attractive dormitories with their rows and rows of beds. Fanny had been wondering where all of the throngs of people were to sleep, as she thought of the all-to-well-known problem of her own household, where the entire family slept in unpleasant proximity. But now that Fanny had seen the rows and rows of fresh, white beds, she was satisfied. Fanny and the other members of her group were tired; the beds were too inviting, even tho Fanny should have liked to continue to take part in the games on the lawn. The understanding worker rang the bed-time bell an hour earlier than it was accustomed to being rung, that first night, and seventy-five mothers and children hastened to "try-out" the crisp, fresh beds -- for many of them an entirely new pleasure! But before inquisitive little Fanny, with the true Italian family spirit, retired, she made a careful inspection of each dormitory. When she found her two sisters, in the girls' dormitory, listening to the good-night story the worker in charge was telling, as they stretched luxuriously between the snowy sheets of the individual beds into which they had been tucked, Fanny's delight knew no bounds. She reached her own room, breathless. "Mama!" she announced, "all the people! and everybody's got a whole bed to themself!" The ideally healthy sleeping conditions of the Home were a revelation to Fanny, just as they are to many of the Home's guests.

The good, wholesome food also proves a revelation to the new guests of the Home. Fresh Air Home meals are an interesting spectacle to one who likes to see what country air and wholesome exercise and recreation can do to appetites, both young and old. Alarming amounts of soup, fresh vegetables, bread, and milk disappear down eager throats, that often for the first time learn to know the kind of food that "tickles the palate," satisfies the "tummy," and at the same time gives you rosy cheeks, sunny dispositions, strong, peppy bodies, and an energy that knows few bounds.

Many a pale, anemic child and baby who has come to the Home, tired, listless, peevish, refusing to taste the milk and health-giving food served him, has responded to nature's tonic in a few days' time. Country life, with its regular hours of play and rest can often do more than doctor's treatments. Jaded appetites are soon "on edge," and then the milk and fresh vegetables set to work to transform wan, cross children into rosy, happy youngsters. Many a mother and many a father have found, to their delight and astonishment, a new Mary or Johnny, when they come to visit their children at the Home.

Five-year-old Walter whose little "tummy" had never had all the food it craved, was given a place with eight other tots at the Head Worker's table. Walter's chief delight in the Home lay in the meals served him. His eyes grew big with pleasure and anticipation as he watched his plate piled high and his milk glass filled and refilled. But Walter's stay at the Home was up all too soon. One evening as she tucked him in his cozy bed, the worker told him that tomorrow he was to go home to mother. Walter's big blue eyes filled with big tears. For several seconds he sobbed. "No-no more fun, no-no more parties, no-no more good dinners!" he whispered in a broken voice, as a small fist went up to hide the unmanly tears. "But, Walter," the worker announced cheerfully, "We're going to have breakfast before you leave tomorrow." Walter's countenance brightened perceptibly. "Whatcha goin' ta hav?" he queried. "Biscuits, eggs, and milk," he was told. Walter's customary broad smile broke thru the tears, as he turned over to say his prayers and fall asleep. Many are the masculine and feminine Walters of all ages who remember with joy the dinners at the Fresh Air Home!

Nothing is forgotten that will give the mothers and children at the Home pleasure. There are hayrides, "tacky parties," stunt nights, athletic stunt nights, folk and square dancing, games of every description, "snipe hunts," library books and magazines for all ages, marshmallow roasts, story telling hours, hikes, "picture shows," and picnics. Last, but certainly not least, there is swimming. No vacation in the country is complete without the old swimmin' hole. Unfortunately the Home possesses no pool of its own, but advantage is taken of every swimming place in the vicinity. No day goes by without the daily swim or dip. Swimming gets a unanimous vote as the most popular form of amusement. The children are never so happy as when they stroll, tired and hungry, but happy, up the shady lanes of trees, with wet suits and muddy towels bearing mute witness of an afternoon of sheer pleasure. That is the time the children sing the best the camp songs they have learned to love. Of course, there are songs of all kinds and for all occasions, but the most popular ones at all times are the same for all groups and ages -- the ones which show their appreciation of the Home:

"Sing, folks, sing, do your best,
At Fresh Air Home there is rest, sweet rest.

When we reach this good old Home, I'll tell you what
we'll do,
We'll just shake hands with everyone and say,
How-do-you-do-do-do?
And when we hear that dinner bell, I'll tell you
what we'll do,
We'll just eat up that good old food as fast as we
can chew, chew, chew.
And when we leave this good old Home, I'll tell you
what we'll do,
We'll just sit down on the railroad track and cry,
Boo-Hoo-hoo-hoo.
Sing, folks, sing, do your best,
At Fresh Air Home there is rest, sweet rest!"

"Hurrah, Hurrah, we'll join the jubilee,
Hurrah, Hurrah, the Fresh Air Kids are we,
If you don't think we're cracker jacks, just take
a look and see,
As we go hiking thru Pewee."

"Hi Yi Ki Yi Kit, no place like it,
For we are the girls from the Fresh Air Home,
Always winnin', always grinnin', always feelin' fine."

When the children return, tired and contented from these swims and hikes, they are ready to curl up under the "shade of the old apple tree" and listen to stories and study the wild flowers and leaves they have brought back home with them.

Often the mothers are ready to join in the frolics of the children. Sometimes they are contented with sitting quietly together, resting and talking together, as they watch the youngster's play on the lawn. One mother of eight (of whom six were with her at the Home) expressed the same wish that many mothers expressed during the summer. She sat with several other women under the

shady trees, watching her two youngest playing together in the sand-pile at her feet, and gazing wistfully across the field where her oldest boy and oldest girl were engaged in a heated game of volley ball:

"Goodness, how I hate to see Wednesday come. When I'm back home again, it'll be the same old grind. I have to be up at five and before, to get my husband and two oldest boys off to work. Then it's the children off to school. The whole day, it's washing, ironing, cooking -- cleaning from morning to night. Time I get the children washed and to bed, and do all the patching and sewing, it's always after twelve when I finally get to bed. This is the first real rest I've had in ten years. Wouldn't it be grand if one could spend a whole summer here?"

She leaned back luxuriously in the swing as her voice trailed off in a wistful sigh. It is the same story with all of the mothers who come to the Home. Only an over-worked housewife and mother can know what a "week away from it all" can mean in renewed strength, energy, and health.

Not only do the mothers with growing children find a place of peace and rest at the Home, but also the Mothers whose children have grown up, married, and passed out of the lives of the broken, "old ladies." Many such women found rest and happiness at the Home this year. Mrs. H, who, after a week at the Home, was able once more to walk around without tiring as quickly as when she first came, insisted on helping with the peeling of the vegetables in the kitchen, to show her gratitude to the Home. Tho she was nearly three score and ten, she was still ready to join in the laughter of the youngsters. "I love kiddies," she would say, "I had to wash to get enough money to raise mine -- God bless them; they're all six of them gone now." When she was helped on the car as she started homeward, she murmured, "There ain't nobody done as much fer me as the Home has. I hope I live and get to come next year agin."

Many are the expressions of gratitude that the Home receives from its various guests. Carl and Joe were two "terrors" on the city playgrounds; but when they came to the Home, they found so many interesting things to do that they did not find the time or the inclination to get themselves into trouble. The two boys became the two most ardent participants in the activities of the Home. Several times Carl had to be sent home to help his mother on her fruit stand, but he would leave only when he was provided with a return ticket and told that he could return the following Monday -- when he had helped his mother with her week-end trade. Both Joe and Carl spent several weeks at the Home where the workers found it difficult to believe that the boys could be troublesome in the city. Carl and Joe soon made friends with the cook, for whom they insisted on carrying coal and kindling and turning the ice-cream freezer, to show their gratitude for their prolonged stay at the Home. Such are the changes that wholesome living and recreation can accomplish. When at the Home, "problem children" often cease to be problems.

As in former years, the Home again cooperated with the various social agencies of the city, among which are the Jewish Welfare Association, the Public Nursing Association, the Family Service Organization, the Wesley House, the Psychological Clinic, the Child's Protective Association, and others.

There are few things in life that bring more satisfaction than the ability to share one's pleasures with those one loves. This is certainly the case at the Home. Never a day goes by without its visitors -- friends and relatives who come to spend the day with the guests of the Home. Then come the proud announcements, "This is my papa" or "My husband's come to see us," as the workers are introduced to the visitors.

use
By far the greatest of all visitor's day is "Italian Sunday" of Italian week. One is reminded of old Italian "fiestas" in old Italy as one watches the trunk loads of food "a la Italic" arrive with the numerous visitors. The entire day is spent in merry-making, talking of old times, and feasting. This year the Home has supplied "one-day vacations" to five hundred and thirty-seven picnickers and visitors.

use
On the night of August 30, the Home gave a "farewell" party to its numerous friends and neighbors. Two hundred and fifty-three friends and neighbors (swelled by many of the Home's guests of the summer, who returned for the party) enjoyed the program of stunts presented by the children, and the old-fashioned country music and dancing. The many congratulations the Home received from the guests of the evening on its successful season and the many wishes for its future welfare show how well the Home stands in its community and among its neighbors and friends who have always been ready to lend it assistance.

On the morning of August 31, the last group of mothers and children left for home, and the Fresh Air Home formally closed.

needs
restored
So fortunate has the Home been in securing many of its requests, that it hesitates in stating other needs. Briefly these are a Mothers' and Babies' Cottage, to be erected a short distance from the Main Building and away from the children's playgrounds. This cottage would make possible greater rest and comfort for both mothers and children. Another urgent need of the Home is that of an adequate swimming pool on the grounds, so that the children might have more and regular swimming hours. The workers again state the need of an incinerator for the disposal of garbage and the provision of other fire protection for the Home.

This year the Home was again under the direction of Miss Anna T. Eisenmann who has so capably managed it for the past six years. Much of the Home's success has been due to her sincere and untiring interest in its welfare. Miss Marguerite Nicklies, who has been with the Home three years, again had charge of the Girls' work. The boys were under the supervision of Mr. Raymond Baer, who has also spent six years with the Home.

All in all, the Home feels that this has been one of its most happy and prosperous years, and it extends its sincere thanks to all those who have made its work a success.

Respectfully submitted:

Frances Ingram
President.

Louisville Fresh Air Home

INCORPORATED

CITY HEADQUARTERS

428 South First Street

COUNTRY HOME ADDRESS

Pewee Valley, Ky.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Miss Frances Ingram, President

Mr. Grover Sales, Secretary-Treasurer

Mrs. Alex G. Barret

Mr. Leon P. Lewis

Mr. J. V. Norman

30.

LOUISVILLE, KY.

Statistics of the Louisville Fresh Air Home 1926

Home was opened; July 7
Home was closed: August 31

Home was open: 7 weeks, 6 days

Number of guests cared for at Home: 525
Number of week-outings given: 535 3/7

Total number of Applications: for outings: 742
- Representing families: 324
Total number who applied but did not go: 217
- Representing families: 126

Number of picnicians and visitors to the Home: 537

Number of volunteer workers: 0
Number of paid workers: 5
Bed capacity of Home:
Actual occupancy of beds: 3748

Louisville Fresh Air Home

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LOUISVILLE, KY.

Comparative figures of the Louisville Fresh Air Home

	1923	1924	1925	1926
Number of weeks open	9 5/7	8 4/7	7 5/7	7 6/7
Number of guests	363	384	440	525
-Representing families	155	166	181	235
Total number of applications	723	736	691	742
-Representing families	273	292	300	324
Number of weeks' outing given	505-3 days	475-5 days	517	535-3 day
Total number who applied but did not go	360	311	251	217
-Representing families	118	126	202	126

<u>Individuals</u>	<u>Representing--</u>	<u>Families</u>
525	Guests of Home	235
196	Given opportunity but unable to go at time	111
21	Applicants whom it was impossible to give an opportunity to go	15
<u>742</u>		<u>361</u>

Outings were given to the following classified groups:

Men	0
Women	34
Children(5 and under)	80
Boys(5 - 14)	154
Boys(14 - 17)	18
Girls(5 - 14)	151
Girls(14 -17)	32
	<u>525</u>

Louisville Fresh Air Home

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LOUISVILLE, KY.

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 Mr. J. V. Norman

Mrs. Credo Harris
" Sam McMeekin
Wm. Peragh. Booth
+ Res

Summer 1926

Number of individuals and the time that each spent at the Home

Individuals	Number of days spent at the Home	Total number of days
9	1	9
27	2	54
39	3	117
71	4	284
34	5	170
71	6	426
174	4	1216
4	8	32
22	9	198
5	10	50
9	11	99
5	12	60
14	13	182
18	14	252
2	15	30
1	16	16
1	17	17
3	20	60
6	21	126
1	22	22
2	24	48
1	26	26
1	28	28
1	30	30
1	41	41
1	46	46
1	49	49
1	58	58
<u>525</u>		<u>3748</u>

7) 3748
 535 weeks, 3 days

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME
SUMMER-1927

✓✓
Time for use

The Louisville Fresh Air Home opened for its fifth season at the new site at Pewee Valley, Kentucky, on July 6, and closed on August 31. During those eight weeks 562 women and children were given vacations. Of these 102 were mothers, 248 girls, and 212 boys. The average length of a visit this year was 8.04 days, almost a day more than the average of last year. Not long, of course, but long enough to put a new stock of energy in the pale faced child or the wornout mother, who in many a long week or year had not had such a privilege.

It would be interesting to see the beginning of a very full day at the boys' camp thru the eyes of Mr. Austin Welch, who early in the season had charge of the boys, and who was marvelous in his dealings with them. He often seemed to be able to transform a difficult boy in the twinkling of an eye. Mr. Welch left our camp to enter the church.

A Morning in Camp

A brilliant sun shone over the maples into an open flap of the Big Tent unwelcomely early this particular morning. A dozen weary heads bobbed a bit above the blankets, turned away from the brightness and settled for another hour of slumber. The camp leader quietly slipped out of bed and dressed for the day. A few moments later, a tousled haired little bugler was somewhat abruptly awakened from dreams of the previous day's adventures, hustled into clothing and stood waiting the signal for First Call. All was quiet, serene and peaceful. Then came the Call.

Before the last notes of the bugle echoed thru the woods, two dozen boys were hurrying into trousers, shirts and shoes. All was astir, for but a moment remained before Reveille - and every boy must stand for Reveille, dressed or partly attired. And when the ancient melody was skillfully and alertly played, announcing the arrival of a new day, with new surprises, new adventures, new joys, three Junior Leanders, mere boys themselves, snappily formed their squads into the morning formation, crisply announcing, "All present or accounted for."

And here starts a day in the Boy's Camp of the Louisville Fresh Air Home.

Those who are still somewhat under sleeps influence soon open their eyes widely - for the deep well water is cold and bracing and thoroughly invigorating. Everything still moves with snap and vim, for flag-raising time is near at hand, not to speak of breakfast.

Gathered around a pole to the front of the Home itself, boys and girls align themselves to do homage to Old Glory. Mothers and small children watch intently from the great wide porch as the

flag is tenderly attached to the rope. The bugler steps forward, the flag ascends slowly, hands come to a salute, "to the colors," resounds over the fields. The pledge to the flag and "America" completes the ceremony.

And now breakfast! Not one shirks here because everyone has an appetite that often startles even the cook. Mothers and babies, boys and girls, join together in the spacious dining hall, as one super-family. Much good humor is in evidence, plans for the day talked of and anticipated. Perhaps a blackberry picking expedition is planned, or an all day hike to Floyds Fork, with swimming and outdoor cooking as objectives, or a tournament of some kind.

Let us go back and accompany a group to the Fresh Air Home. We might begin at Neighborhood House where the people must come to register. It is not an unusual thing to have a whole family come in at one time. Mother is having a hard time to keep her little brood together. She is out of work now and thinks it would be a splendid change if she could get a few days rest. We think so, too. She plans on getting employment at the Junior League Shop when she returns. The children are fretful and peevish with heat. Her story is heard and when the mother leaves she is delighted by knowing that she is soon to have a real vacation. Another mother comes to us who has been deserted by her husband and left to support her little ones. She, herself, has been under the doctor's care and her case described as an anaemic, debilitated condition due to overwork and worry. When asked how soon she could be ready for her trip, Mrs. G. replies, "Just as soon as I can get my clothes together." Next come two little girls -- "Please, sir, we'd like to go out to "The Fresh Air" - Thelma D. was out there once and she said she had such a swell time - said they went swimming and everything. Mother's gone to the hospital now to get operated on and daddy's never home much, so if we could go out there we wouldn't have to stay at home all by ourselves at nights." These two little girls were sent to the Home the next morning where they remained until after their mother had come from the hospital.

Boys of all sizes and ages come to register - long before the Home opens there is a long list of boys already "signed up." "I'd like to sign up for all summer," says one freckled-faced chap. "How much would it cost to board out there," asks another. The worker finds it a difficult task to select the group each week.

On each Wednesday a new crowd is sent to the Home. A happier group of people could never be found than are these people on their way to the Fresh Air Home. All of them enjoy the ride out through the country (except one, occasionally, who gets sick). Stimulated with delight and eager for their country visit they seem to take on new energy. Once there the boys chase off down thru the wooded lane anxious to see their tent and sleeping quarters. The mothers and smaller children follow behind, some walking and some riding in the wagon which meets each group. Down to the House we go. The group now gathers in a circle and with an exchange of greetings with former visitors and a welcoming to the new ones, Miss Eiseman checks up her family - every person

must have a health card properly signed. That done, everyone is shown into the House and into their sleeping room where they leave their baggage. "Oh, Mother, look where we get to sleep," exclaims one little girl. "I wish we had some nice white beds like that at home, don't you?" "I wonder who does all this washing?" asks a practical minded youngster.

It is about supper time now and when the bell rings all form a file to go in the large dining room. Mothers and babies first, girls next, and then the boys. Here is one place where "everyone minds his own business" -- in the dining room of the Louisville Fresh Air Home. Meals are served in cafeteria style and everyone is assured of plenty. Milk is "put away" in wholesale quantities. It was that, probably, that prompted little Johnny to remark as he finished a third glass, "Why, I'll bet it takes a hundred cows to give all this milk." "Go on," says another, "it'd only take one if she's big enough."

After supper the big family moves outside. Games are started in the yard and almost everyone takes part in some activity. The swings and see-saws attract some of the children, while others prefer to sing and tell stories. But there is something for every one to do. About 7:30 o'clock the boys scramble pell-mell to their tents. They still have a half hour or so for stories or games. Sometimes it is the leader who tells a story or sometimes it is the boys themselves who tell the stories. Boys like to tell of their day's adventures and plan on those of the next day. Here is the royal opportunity for character building. It is one of the Home's greatest aims to inculcate high ideals and plant an inspiration in the youthful mind. In the intimacy that the camp life affords the boy and his leader, obedience, cooperation, truthfulness, honesty, economy and cleanliness can be emphasized most forcefully in their work, play and daily lives.

Eight o'clock is bed time. The boys are usually so tired at night from their strenuous play, that getting them to bed is not a difficult problem.

The girls of eight to fourteen from an enthusiastic group at the Fresh Air Home, and under good leadership are kept busy all the time. Beside having their fun and play times they are able to help out in many ways. Often an older girl takes charge of a younger child while at the Home. Merits are given to the older girls for bedmaking and dishwashing as well as for conduct. All in all, we can say that the older girls form a source of life, merriment, and pleasure for the other members of the family.

The women, too, form an interesting group at the Fresh Air Home. They are all so very grateful always for all pleasures and privileges afforded by the Home. Quite a few past sixty and seventy years visited with us this summer and several octogenarians were among those present. The old ladies spend much of their time reliving the past.

On Wednesday morning the Fresh Air Home is in a sad state. Everyone moves about as usual, but little conversation is carried

on - there is more quiet. The "old" crowd is going home. Now come the last minute pleas to stay longer - it is a hard thing to have to turn down these appealing requests but it must be done in order to give some other needy mother or child a vacation. "Please let me stay another week, Miss Eiseman, I'll help you in the house and do everything," or "Please let me stay until tomorrow, even." But down to the car we must go. Their hearts are somewhat lightened perhaps, when they think now of seeing parents or friends and re-counting to them their many pleasant experiences. It is not until the car is speeding swiftly down the long grassy track that the last "good-bye" is said.

Echoes of the summer pleasures are heard throughout the year in letters received from appreciative guests.

note (1)
 (2) Two events worth noting at the Fresh Air Home this year were the Italian Sunday on August 7, and the farewell party on August 29. On both occasions former guests, friends and neighbors returned to the home to evidence their friendliness and interest. "Italian Sunday" was, as usual, a great picnic and homecoming day of the Italian friends of the Home, while the farewell party was the closing party of the year.

The Fresh Air Home cooperated with the following agencies by sending their clients to the Home, the Children's Protective Agency, The Children's Bureau, Jewish Welfare Federation, Family Service Organization, Psychological Clinic, Public Health Nursing Association, the Tuberculosis Clinic, the Franklin Street Baptist Church, and Wesley House.

During the week of July 27, seventy-two people from the Franklin Street Baptist Church enjoyed an outing, while during the week of August 17, sixty-seven women and children, sent by Miss Gainey of Wesley House, were the guests of the Fresh Air Home. Practically the whole population of the "Point" journeyed to Pewee Valley on the Sunday during the week of July 27 to picnic with their friends from the Franklin Street Church at the Home.

This year, as in several seasons in the past, Miss Anna T. Eiseman was the very efficient head of the Fresh Air Home. Miss Eiseman was very ably assisted by Mr. Austin Welch, who succeeded Mr. Ray Baer as Boys' worker, and by Miss Eloise Roulston, who succeeded Miss Marguerite Nicklies as Girls' worker. After Mr. Welch's departure from the Fresh Air Home, Mr. Charles Baer was employed as boys' worker. Mr. Edgar Murphy, as town administrator of the Home, succeeded Miss Josephine Peak.

All in all, the Fresh Air Home feels that it has enjoyed a very successful season during the summer of 1927.

Respectfully submitted,

Edgar Murphy, City Administrator.