The Colored Social Settlement: What It Is and What It Does

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THE COLORED
SOCIAL SETTLEMENT
INCORPORATED

Approved by the Charities
Endorsement Committee

16-18 L Street, Southwest
Washington, D.C.
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THE COLORED SOCIAL SETTLEMENT

ORGANIZED in 1902 in the heart of South Washington, The Colored Social Settlement of the District of Columbia is the first community house built expressly for the social improvement of colored people, in the United States and probably the world.

Social settlements are "associations of men and women of the educated classes who take up residence in the poorer quarters of great cities for the purpose of bringing culture, knowledge, harmless recreations and especially personal influence to bear upon the poor in order to better and brighten their lives. Practically, the watchword of such settlements is personal service."

The certificate of incorporation of The Colored Social Settlement (15 June, 1906) sets forth the object of the organization as follows:

"To conduct a social settlement and social center, including clubs and classes, educational activities, industrial work, entertainments and social gatherings;

"To foster co-operation and mutual helpfulness among the colored people of its vicinity, by enlisting all who may be interested in united efforts for the common good;"
“To investigate industrial conditions and social problems, and to promote individual, neighborhood and municipal improvements;

“To promote the development of volunteer personal service;

“To carry on any and all the activities which are usually grouped under the title ‘College Settlement’ or ‘Social Settlement’ work.”

To these objects the Settlement is faithful.

The Settlement was housed at first in a small building on M street; today it occupies a substantial brick building on L street, containing fourteen rooms. But, there is still need for the enlargement of the Settlement facilities.

WHAT THE SETTLEMENT IS DOING FOR BABIES:

Daily the milk dispensary furnishes modified milk to the babies of the neighborhood, with the free services of a doctor and a nurse. The rate of infant mortality has greatly diminished in those neighborhoods that are served by milk dispensaries. Special pains, of course, are taken not to furnish milk free of charge to babes whose parents are able to pay for the service. Both the health of the babe and the self-respect of the family must be maintained. The Settlement dispensary is no longer sup-
ported by the philanthropy of Mr. George M. Oyster; it is now absolutely dependent upon the public in general.

FOR BOYS:

Under the direction of the Head-worker, a graduate of Oberlin College, boys' clubs are working with officers of their own number. Whether there is a discussion of some topic of the day or a homely talk on personal cleanliness and the way to "get there" in life, or just pure fun in games and play, the aim always is to develop right ideals and character. A thoroughly trained athlete who is also a gifted teacher directs the physical training class for boys on Thursday evenings. The Settlement does much to develop its boys into strong and wholesome men and sober citizens.

FOR GIRLS:

On Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons the girls joyously troop to the Settlement House for basket-ball, folk dances, story telling, music and sewing. The Campfire Girls on Friday bring their darning and mending, and also solicit darning from those who lack nimble fingers. These girls take a better spirit and higher standards of living into their homes. They become, as the years pass, more useful, happier, better women.
FOR MEN:
A civic association banded together under the motto, “A BETTER SOUTH WASHINGTON,” meets at the Settlement regularly to consider the welfare of the neighborhood and the community. The Association fights the saloon and the house of prostitution; it seeks to protect the homes of the people. The Settlement also aims to wage a different sort of war on the drink evil by offering a counter attraction to tired and hungry men in terms of hot soup, wholesome baked beans, good coffee and digestible bread—all at reasonable prices.

FOR WOMEN:

The ultimate test of the efficiency of the Settlement is in its power to benefit the homes. This requires the intelligent and earnest cooperation of the Mothers and Women of the neighborhood. On Tuesday evenings a demonstration in model cooking is given by an expert to the members of our Mothers’ Club. Practical talks on the care of the home and the family, as well as lessons in sewing and millinery, are also offered by competent volunteers.
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES.

On Sunday afternoons from 4 to 5 o'clock the Southwest Washington Choral Society meets in the assembly hall for singing under a trained leader. There are classes in instrumental music on Saturdays; these are eagerly sought. During the week our students have the privilege of practicing at the Settlement. The colored people are admittedly musical. Such gifts should be cultivated for the ennoblement of leisure and the sweetening of the human spirit.

On Friday nights the Head-worker and his wife give a reception for amusement and general recreation. Social clubs of young men and young women of Washington have helped, and can further help to make this night really beneficial by contributing to the wholesome and uplifting entertainment.

On Tuesday and Thursday a branch of the Public Library is open at the Settlement House to the readers of the neighborhood, under a well-trained volunteer. This work and the opportunity that the neighborhood boy and girl have to use the library as a study room supplement the work of the Public Schools.

SETTLEMENT EXTENSION.

Regular assignments are made for teaching cooking, sewing and the principles of domestic
economy IN THE HOMES of those families whose circumstances have shown a need for suggestion from resourceful neighbors. The visiting cook, like the collector of weekly savings, is a practical home missionary, instituting many a reform in her quiet demonstration of the BETTER WAY.

Financial Statement of the Colored Social Settlement from October, 1912, to September, 1913, inclusive:

**RECEIPTS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance on hand</td>
<td>$148.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miner Fund for education of colored youth</td>
<td>600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual donations</td>
<td>273.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustees dues ($10 each)</td>
<td>114.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations from churches and societies</td>
<td>85.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard University group for instruction in domestic science</td>
<td>65.69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collections at public meetings</td>
<td>31.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on funds</td>
<td>27.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent of hall</td>
<td>18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day nursery</td>
<td>5.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment</td>
<td>2.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1371.84</strong></td>
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</table>
### EXPENDITURES.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salary of Head Resident</td>
<td>$335.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary of Assistant</td>
<td>$215.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries of Helpers</td>
<td>$77.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing</td>
<td>$86.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>$25.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Car fare</td>
<td>$12.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>$32.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fuel</td>
<td>$75.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gas</td>
<td>$102.94</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fence for back yard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repairs to building</td>
<td>$12.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic science class supplies</td>
<td>$65.69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special assessment for sidewalk</td>
<td>$23.68</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest on indebtedness</td>
<td>$107.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sundries</td>
<td>$24.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance on hand</td>
<td>$141.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1371.84</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### STATEMENT OF BUILDING FUND.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost of Lot</td>
<td>$997.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of Building</td>
<td>4780.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of Heating Plant</td>
<td>450.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount due on building (Eleven notes of $300 each and one of $280, payable one each year with interest at 6 per cent)</td>
<td>3580.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount due on heating plant</td>
<td>450.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount on hand (available for final payment on building) invested in real estate note</td>
<td>500.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHAT THE SETTLEMENT NEEDS.

The Settlement needs to have its plant freed from debt. Interest and rent are not charity. The last annual report shows that $2,197.09 have been paid on the principal, besides the payment of the interest on the building and lot at 16-18 L street Southwest. There remains $4,030, including a heating plant costing $450, still to be paid; this balance bears interest at six per cent.

The settlement needs THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS EACH YEAR for current expenses.

The Settlement needs a complete and up-to-date equipment for the teaching of the household arts—cooking, sewing, nursing, general management.

The Settlement needs adequate facilities for a thoroughly sanitary day nursery. The mother who works in domestic service all day long should find here a comfortable, wholesome, and sympathetically managed place to leave her baby—and this for a very moderate charge.

The Settlement needs a MODERN GYMNASIUM for boys and girls; it needs a NEIGHBORHOOD LAUNDRY. A neighborhood laundry where those who take in washing may do it under improved sanitary
conditions, and where the best methods of laundering may be taught, would prove of the utmost service to the people. This idea in connection with the further want of a gymnasium equipped with swimming pools and modern apparatus, has emboldened the trustees to hope for the realization of the dream that was close to the heart of the late lamented president of the board and to express the prayer that this dream may come true this year in a lasting memorial, to be known as the JOHN R. FRANCIS GYMNASIUM AND SANITARY LAUNDRY.

THE SETTLEMENT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS OF FAITH AND CONSECRATION WHO WILL CONTRIBUTE OF THEIR TIME, THEIR TALENT, THEIR MONEY IN EXTENDING TO OTHERS THE TOUCH OF SYMPATHY, THE INSPIRATION OF HIGH IDEALS AND THE DIRECT TEACHING OF INDUSTRIES, ECONOMIES, HABITS OF LIFE.
RESIDENT WORKERS:

MR. WILLIAM L. WASHINGTON,
Head-worker—Director of Playground.

MRS. BLANCHE J. WASHINGTON, Matron.
MRS. LULA LOVE LAWSON, Extension Secretary.

VOLUNTEERS:

Mr. Robert Anderson  Mr. Leonard Morse
Mr. Ernest Amos    Miss Thelma Murry
Miss Florence Barker  Miss Alice Nelson
Mr. W. H. J. Beckett  Miss Julia H. Parks
Miss Dorothy Chesnutt  Mr. H. Harvey Scott
Miss Olive Countee  Mrs. Julia Shaw
Miss Thomasine Corrothers  Miss Rosa Stokes
Mr. Adolph Hodge  Rev. J. C. Van Loo
Miss Olive Jones  Miss A. E. Williams
Miss Bessie Miller  Miss Jeanette Williamson

Remember that you and I owe a duty which we cannot honorably escape to our less happily circumstanced neighbors. How can our lives be really happy unless we do (and keep on doing) something to make theirs sweeter and more wholesome?

MURRAY BROTHERS PRESS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
1913
DEATH RATES PER 1000: 1912

Streets:
White: 14.19
Colored: 26.45

Alleys:
White: 13.05
Colored: 30.00

(See Report Health Officer D.C.)