

A M E R I C A N Y. W. C. A. A C T I V I T I E S
I N G R E E C E .

Purpose : The general purpose of the Y.W.C.A. as a world movement is to serve young womanhood in furnishing the highest opportunity for their all round development, physical, mental, social and spiritual.

The Y.W.C.A. activities in Greece have been established since September 1922 following the Smyrna disaster as a result of the needs of many refugees from Asia-Minor to Greece. Although the general program of the Y.W.C.A. is not a relief program, the work undertaken by the Y.W.C.A. in Greece due to the Refugee emergency has been distinctly of a Relief Emergency character.

The following lines of work have been embraced :-

I. Relief Work on the Islands following the Smyrna disaster evacuation.

Immediately following the Smyrna disaster the Y.W.C.A. co-operated with the other relief organizations, such as the American Red Cross, in feeding the refugees evacuating from Smyrna. Y.W.C.A. relief funds were pooled with other relief funds for this mass feeding which was carried on during the distribution of refugees on the Greek Islands and the mainland. Y.W.C.A. secretaries were stationed at Mytilene and Chios during this period. In addition to the mass feeding program the Y.W.C.A. also administered funds for cases of individual relief.

II. Two Y.W.C.A. secretaries for five months assisted in general relief situation in Athens rendering services in various cases and also co-operation with the Y.M.C.A. and the Near East Relief in establishing and carrying on the Personal Service Bureaus.

III. The establishment of an Emergency Hostel for refugee girls at No 98 Hermes St (entrance 8 Ktena St).

AIM : To provide a temporary home for refugee girls.

1. (Between the ages of 15-25) without parents or unprotected in Athens.
2. To be a vocational guidance bureau and training school for girls who had not been trained for any special work to enable them to earn their own living.
3. To have a Placement Bureau for all girls whether living in the Hostel or not.

ELIGIBILITY :

1. Refugee girls without parents or protection between the ages of 15-25.
2. Those recommended by local organizations knowing the purpose and temporary character of the Hostel.
3. Those ready to accept positions offered to them by the Hostel Placement Bureau.
4. Special cases referred by the Migration Service Bureau, i.e., girls travelling alone en route to all parts of the world.

BASIS PAYMENT :

1. Girls without employment outside the Hostel, work in the Hostel work-room (for which they are paid) and pay 10 drachmas a day.
2. Girls on an inadequate wage scale, piece work, or half time employment pay according to their earnings.
3. Girls earning normal salaries pay 15 drachmas a day.
4. Organizations using the Hostel as a temporary pension for their girls in moving from one center to another pay 15 drachmas a day.
5. Girls en route to relatives in America pay 15 drachmas a day if relatives are able to do so. (Ability to pay investigated by the Migration Service Bureau.)

IV. Cooperation of the American Y.W.C.A. with the Greek Y.W.C.A.

The American Y.W.C.A. not being able to undertake a permanent piece of work in Greece cooperated with the Refugee Club, made up of former Y.W.C.A. members in Smyrna to the extent of paying the salary of the former Smyrna Y.W.C.A. Greek Club Leader, with the understanding that a Committee of Greek women, to include the Committee of the existing Greek Y.W.C.A. who for several years had had a small group of girls meeting regularly, be organized as a preliminary committee.

The Club has now a membership of 700 girls with 260 attending educational classes in - English, French, Greek, Stenography, Typewriting and Bookkeeping in both Greek and English - others coming for lectures, recreation, cafeteria and the friendly atmosphere found at the Club Center at the Old Palace.

In January the Greek Club Leader, splendid and invaluable as she was in her contact with the girls, found herself unable to cope with the larger Committee organization necessary to carry on the Club work with its phenomenal growth. Miss Day, who had been giving her services to the Y.W.C.A. during the past year in Athens, as a friend of Miss Chrysler in charge of the Y.W.C.A. Emergency Hostel, was able to temporarily assume the direction of the Club Leader and work out further organization with the Committee. Miss Day was able to do this and not involve the

emergency policy of the American Y.W.C.A. as she is in no way officially connected with the American Y.W.C.A.

V. Future outlook for the Hostel :

With the emergency funds of the Y.W.C.A. expiring July 1st 1924 a group of interested Greek women are very eager to carry on the Hostel as they feel there is such a crying need for a permanent Hostel of this kind in Athens and they see the possibility if sufficient funds can be raised to combine the work of the American Y.W.C.A. Hostel with the Greek Club Center under the direction of a trained executive. In this way the wonderful possibilities of the Club Center could be developed and the Hostel could continue as a Permanent Hostel.

1. Budget needed for two years :

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| a) Hostel Rent and Running Expenses - 400,000; drs., | |
| (@ rate of 50 drs., per \$) - @ 50 | \$ 8000 |
| b) Salary and Travelling Expenses of a | |
| trained executive - | \$ 5880 |
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