

Higgins, Mrs. McBean. Excerpt from “Annual Report as Delegate to the Chicago Home for Girls from the Chicago Woman’s Club.” 1918. Chicago History Museum. Chicago Woman’s Club Records. Box 25, Folder 2.

“...The Institution received during the year from the Juvenile Court fifty-three girls, through other channels forty-three girls, a total of ninety-six. Girls released, who had been in the home from one to three years, sixty. Out of this number, fifty-three are giving satisfactory accounts for themselves.

The management is always studying ways and means of holding the confidence of the girls, not only while inmates of the institution but more especially after their departure. To this end a Club has been formed of the girls on the Honor Roll for two months, named the “Torch Light Club.” The chairman meets with them and the idea of the aims and objects of club life is studied. A program is always given, which entertains them very much. The opportunity for heart to heart talks at this time is appreciated. We forget “don’ts” and try to think of the “do’s.”

The incentive for them to be always on the Honor Roll is the possibility of their becoming a member of the Melissa Evans Club for Working Girls, and organization formed of girls whose earning capacity does not enable them to live at an Eleanor Club. This is supported by the Chicago Home for Girls and its friends. Miss Mary Bartelme regards it as one of the finest pieces of constructive work done in Chicago.

The Melissa Evans Club is only four years old and is attracting the attention of the public to this unique method of caring for the young breadwinner. In many cases, it gives to these girls their only idea of home life by showing them that life is not some monstrous creature but rather one of protection...”