

Title: Gordon Park Food Co-op Collection

Reference Code: Mss-1321

Inclusive Dates: 1974 – 1977

Quantity: 000.3 cu. ft.

Location: ER, Sh. 006

Abstract: The Gordon Park Food Co-op was formed ca. 1974 in response to two developments. First, city engineers had developed plans to widen Locust Street into a boulevard, in the process displacing several local businesses and families. Secondly, Joe Benke announced he was retiring and closing the Gordon Park Foodland on East Locust, which he had operated for 15 years. Benke's move was a blow to elderly neighborhood residents who had no cars and depended on the market for groceries and cashing their Social Security checks. Milwaukee Area Cooperative Services held an emergency meeting and in three weeks raised \$50,000 to purchase the store and Benke's inventory and equipment and turn Foodland into a cooperative. Its purpose was to purchase, store, sell and distribute groceries, meats, produce and other foodstuffs and general merchandise on a non-profit basis.

Scope and Content: The collection consists of handwritten notes, financial statements, articles and other ephemera.

Access and Use: No restrictions

Language: English

Arrangement:

Folder Heading	Box #	File #
Miscellaneous Material <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Article: "A Food Co-op at Gordon Park?" (August 1974)– Article: "Co-ops and Social Change" (April 1975)– Article: "Shopping Around: Nonprofit Food" (Summer 1975)– Article: "Gordon Park/ESHAC Struggle" (not dated)– Pamphlet: "The D.C. Food Buying Club Handbook" (1976)– Income Statements/Balance Sheets (Sept. 16, 1974-June 30, 1975; 1974-1976; March 6, 1977)– Agenda: Membership Meetings (March 6, 1977 & Oct. 30, 1977)– Revised bylaws, 1977– Food Marketing Survey– Brochures– Manager's Job Description– Resource List, Milwaukee– Handwritten notes (Aug. 1974; Oct. 1974; Jan. 1975; March 1975; July 1975; April 1976)	1	1
Handwritten notes re: organization, management and development of Gordon Park Co-op (not dated)	1	2