8th Day Center for Justice Records
1968-2009

Creator: 8th Day Center for Justice
Extent: 22 ft.

Administration Information
Access Restrictions: None
Usage Restrictions: Copyright transferred from the 8th Day Center for Justice to the Women and Leadership Archives for those materials created by the organization.
Preferred Citation: Loyola University Chicago. Women & Leadership Archives. 8th Day Center for Justice Records. Box #, Folder #.
Provenance: Donated by Gwen Farry, BVM, on October 11, 2006 (WLA2006.88), October 26, 2007 (WLA2007.34), and on August 21, 2009 (WLA2009.37).
Separations: Approximately 10 linear feet of duplicates and extraneous material were removed.

Administrative History
Spurred by a call from the Urban Apostolate of Sisters in Chicago for a center for peace and justice in the city, six Catholic religious communities founded the 8th Day Center for Justice in 1974. These six communities included the Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Dominicans, Adrian Dominicans, Sisters of Providence, and Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The original staff members included Betty Barrett, RSM, Joann Crowley, BVM, Chuck Dahm, OP, Dorothy Gartland, SP, and Beth Wagner, IHM. These founders chose the name 8th Day Center for Justice from the biblical concept of the seven days of creation. The “8th Day” reflects the belief that creation is still in progress and humans are responsible for shaping their own world.

The founders of 8th Day Center envisioned a dual approach to social justice action, directing efforts toward the involved religious communities as well as government and other civic organizations. That focus has expanded to include the media, service organizations, community action groups, and the public in general. Through detailed research of social justice issues and involvement with other social justice and community organizations and groups, 8th Day Center raises awareness about these issues and works to enact effective change. 8th Day Center directs its actions toward the following vision: “the Spirituality of justice calls the staff of the 8th Day Center to envision a world of right relationships in which all creation is seen as sacred and interconnected. In such a world all people are equal and free from oppression, have a right to a just distribution of resources, and to live in harmony with the cosmos.”

In its first year, 8th Day Center chose to focus its social justice efforts on hunger concerns in Chicago. These efforts resulted in the Food Stamp Hotline, the Chicago Metropolitan Food Stamp Coalition, the Conference on Hunger, and the Chicago Summer Program. The organization then widened its coverage to include issues of corporate responsibility, economic justice, human rights, peace, and women. During the 1980s, much of the center’s efforts focused on Central America and resisting the military build-up of the Reagan administration. In the 1990s, concern for the United
States’ interventionist policies shifted from military to economic intervention in other countries. With the onset of the Persian Gulf War, attention began to move away from Central America and toward the Middle East, while economic and human rights concerns continued to remain a high priority. In 2009, 8th Day Center has focus groups for environmental degradation, globalization, militarization, and racism. The center also continues to sponsor its annual Good Friday Walk for Justice and Urban Plunge program, which it began in 1980 and 1977 respectively. 8th Day Center continues to adjust its efforts to reflect the needs of the society it serves in an effort to bring about peace and justice in Chicago and the world.

Scope and Content
The 8th Day Center for Justice Records consist of materials related to the organization’s social justice activism in the Chicago area, spanning from 1968 until 2008. The records contain administrative and program materials, flyers and posters, news articles, research files, newsletters and publications, and conference materials. This collection also contains a large audio/visual component consisting of photographs, slides, audio tapes, and video tapes, as well as memorabilia items and oversize posters. The items are arranged alphabetically within series.

This series contains the administrative records related to 8th Day Center’s peace and justice efforts. Materials include newsletters and publications, conference materials, brochures, committee materials, program and program planning materials, staff notes and meeting minutes, and correspondence.

This series consists of research files pertaining to 8th Day Center’s various social justice concerns. The two largest components are the materials related to Central America and women. The items in this series include publications produced by other organizations, correspondence, newsletters, news articles, and reports. Some of the documents regarding Central America are written in Spanish.

This series contains the audio/visual materials of the collection. The items are divided by their format, consisting of photographs, slides, audio tapes, and video tapes and arranged alphabetically. The materials primarily relate to programs and demonstrations sponsored by 8th Day Center.

This series contains the memorabilia objects of the collection. Materials include buttons, cloth banners, scrapbooks, a cloth bag, and two woven bracelets. The objects were used in 8th Day Center programs and demonstrations. The scrapbooks detail 8th Day Center’s publicity in local newspapers and a conference on defense technology in 1979.

This series contains the oversize posters of the collection. Some posters were professionally produced by outside organizations while others were handmade by 8th Day Center staff and volunteers. The posters relate to 8th Day Center’s social justice concerns and the organization’s own demonstrations and programs.
Subjects:
Caribbean
Catholicism
Central America
Chicago, City of
 Discrimination
Economic justice
Feminism
Human rights
Hunger
Immigration
Middle East
Nuclear proliferation
Poverty
Sanctuary movement
Social justice
South America
United Nations
United States foreign policy
Women and religion
Women’s issues
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Voices of Faith: Equipping the Faith Community to Influence the Affirmative Action Debate 1996

Waterwheel 1992-1997


Women-Church Convergence 1985-2007

Women’s Group 1991-1993


Women’s Rights in Church and Society Committee 2003-2004


Affirmative Action 1972-1979


Argentina 1982-1986

Asia 1984-2004


Bosnia and Yugoslavia 1992-1995

Breakthrough Magazine 1992


Central America: Chiquita Brands International 1990-1991


Central America: Los Angeles Death Squads 1987


Central America: Popular Movements 1986-1987


Central America: United States Military Intervention 1979-1984


Chiapas, Mexico 1990-1994


Christic Institute La Penca Lawsuit 1986-1987


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Gea Presentation, Alfredo Sfeir-Younis, UN-NGO 2001  
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8th Day Center for Justice Records
Addendum 1

Creator: 8th Day Center for Justice
Extent: 1.5 linear ft.
Processor: Catherine Holmes, May 2012

Administration Information
Access Restrictions: None
Usage Restrictions: Copyright transferred from the 8th Day Center for Justice to the Women and Leadership Archives for those materials created by the organization.
Preferred Citation: Loyola University Chicago. Women and Leadership Archives. 8th Day Center for Justice Records. Addendum 1. Box #, Folder #.
Separations: Approximately 1 linear foot of duplicates and extraneous material were removed.

Scope and Content
This addendum to the 8th Day Center for Justice Records consists of material related to the organization’s social justice activism in the Chicago area, spanning from 1974 until 2011. The records contain administrative and program materials, flyers and posters, news articles, research files, newsletters and publications, and conference materials. This collection also contains a visual component consisting of audiovisual material and digital content. The collection is organized into 5 series, all arranged alphabetically within each series.

Series 1: Administrative Records, 1974-2011, n.d., Box 1
This series contains the administrative records related to 8th Day Center’s peace and justice efforts. Materials include newsletters and publications, meeting notes and minutes, committee materials, staff notes, legal concerns, bylaws, and goals and objectives, publications produced by other organizations, reports, correspondences, and Department of Homeland Security forms.

Series 2: Campaigns, 1982-2009, n.d., Box 1
This series contains materials pertaining to the various campaigns that the 8th Day Center was involved in or organized related to social justice concerns. Materials include publications produced by other organizations, correspondences, newsletters and publications, news articles, reports, a day planner, brochures, committee materials, and program and program planning materials. Some of the documents regarding campaigns are written in Spanish.

This series contains materials regarding the various social justice events that the 8th Day Center held, or were involved in. Materials contain international conferences publication and program
planning documents, publications produced by other organizations, correspondences, newsletters and publications, and reports. Some of the documents regarding international conferences are written in Spanish and Chinese.

**Series 4: Audiovisual and Digital Content, 1984-2006, Box 2**

This series contains the photograph/digital materials of the collection. The items are divided by their format, consisting of photographs, cassettes, and digital representations of flyers, presentations, and video. The materials primarily relate to programs and demonstrations sponsored by 8th Day Center. Hard-copy material on Anti-Recruitment Campaign available in collection and access to digital content is available upon request.

**Subjects:**
8th Day Center for Justice  
Activist Catholic Organization  
Chicago, City of  
Community Shares of Illinois  
Illinois Committee for Responsible Investing  
Illinois Center for Citizen Involvement  
Public Interest Funds of Illinois  
Resurrection Health Union  
Social Justice  
United Way Lawsuit  
Women and Religion
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