

# **Community Hospital of Evanston Collection**

## **7172012.CHOEC.DW**

**Finding aid prepared by Dustin Witsman**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Shorefront Legacy Center

07/17/2012

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Shorefront Legacy Center
<b>Title</b>	Community Hospital of Evanston Collection
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1914-2000
<b>Extent</b>	0.5 Linear feet
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Founded in 1914 as the Evanston Sanitarium and Training School, the Community Hospital of Evanston was created when the Sanitarium merged with The Booker T. Washington Association of Evanston in 1930. The Community Hospital of Evanston was the first African American medical center north of the Chicago loop, and it was only one of four area hospitals to accept African American patients and employ African American physicians. In 1980, Community Hospital closed and the building was converted into an apartment complex for disabled adults. The Community Hospital of Evanston collection documents the history of the hospital from its founding in 1914 to its closing in 1980 and its subsequent legacy. The collection is comprised of photographs, board meeting agendas and minutes, newsletters, pamphlets, and newspaper clippings.</p>

## Historical Note

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In 1914, Dr. Isabella Garnett and her husband, Dr. Arthur Butler, founded the Evanston Sanitarium and Training School on the upper floor of their 1918 Asbury Avenue residence in Evanston, Illinois. It was the first African American medical center north of the Chicago loop, and it was only one of four area hospitals to accept African American patients and employ African American physicians. When Dr. Butler died in 1924, Dr. Garnett changed the name to Butler Memorial Hospital in his honor. In 1930, the Hospital merged with The Booker T. Washington Association of Evanston and relocated to 2026 Brown Avenue, taking the name The Community Hospital of Evanston. During this time, Dr. Garnett served as the organization's superintendent. In order to raise funding for the hospital, the Women's Auxiliary of Community Hospital was formed in 1939 by hospital staff member Dr. Elizabeth Webb Hill. Dr. Hill would later become the hospital's chief of staff, becoming the first African American woman to hold the position in Illinois. In 1952, the Community Hospital opened a new facility in order to meet growing needs. In 1980, the hospital closed, and the building was converted into an apartment complex for disabled adults. In 1986, the complex was dedicated as Hill Arboretum Apartments in honor of Dr. Hill.

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## Scope and Contents note

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The Community Hospital of Evanston collection is arranged into two series: "Evanston Sanitarium and Training School" and "Community Hospital of Evanston." The material in the collection documents the history of The Community Hospital of Evanston from its beginning as the Evanston Sanitarium and Training School to its closing in 1980. The collection is comprised of photographs, board meeting agendas and minutes, newsletters, pamphlets, and newspaper clippings. Also included are items relating to the March 13-April 21, 2000 Evanston Historical Society exhibit: "The Sick Can't Wait: Community Hospital and Its Woman's Auxiliary."

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Shorefront Legacy Center 07/17/2012

## Related Materials

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### Related Archival Materials note

Women's Auxiliary of Community Hospital of Evanston records, Shorefront Legacy Center

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Subject(s)

- African American physicians
  - African American women
  - Evanston (Ill.)--Race relations
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## Cited Sources

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Evanston Women's History Project, "Evanston Women's History Timeline." Last modified 2011.  
Accessed July 17, 2012. <http://evanstonwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/ewhp-timeline.pdf>.

## Series I. Evanston Sanitarium and Training School,

**Collection Inventory****Series I. Evanston Sanitarium and Training School, 1914-1991****Scope and Contents note**

This series is comprised of material documenting the early history of the organizations that would combine to become Community Hospital of Evanston.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Evanston Sanitarium History, 1914-1991	1	1
Evanston Sanitarium Photographs, circa 1920	1	2
Booker T. Washington Hospital Association, 1924-1926	1	3

**Series II. Community Hospital of Evanston, 1938-2000****Scope and Contents note**

This series consist of material relating to Community Hospital of Evanston's organizational history and subsequent legacy.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Community Hospital History, circa 1960-1984	1	4
Board Meeting Agendas and Minutes, 1966-1968	1	5

**Series II. Community Hospital of Evanston,**

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Publications and Public Relations, 1945-1975	1	6
Newsletters, 1938-1963	1	7
Newspaper Clippings, 1951-1974	1	8
Community Hospital Photographs, 1951-1961, undated	1	9-10
“The Sick Can Wait” Exhibit, 1991-2000	1	11