



STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY
DIVISION OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

CARL H. SWANSON
DIRECTOR

GLOBE BUILDING—FOURTH AT CEDAR
SAINT PAUL

10-31-44: Called Miss
Thomson and told her that

October 30, 1944 any gifts which she had suggested as well as jig saw puzzles, colored pictures, etc. would be very acceptable. Asked her if she knew the Rev. Walter Vater who had been transferred from Faribault to the Trinity Methodist Church, St. Paul, since he had been a chaplain here. She stated that she had met him but thought the idea had come from Rochester through Miss Williams, the welfare worker. As Miss Thomson will write to the churches offering gifts, she said it would not be necessary to type a reply to this letter. CP

Dr. E. J. Engberg
Superintendent
School for Feeble-minded
Faribault, Minnesota

My dear Dr. Engberg:

Several days ago I attended a meeting of Methodist women from all over the southern part of the State. I was surprised when one of them, in making a report and suggesting what young people might do, said that the School for the Feeble-minded at Faribault had no ~~organized~~ group that did anything for the children and that possibly groups of young people might do something there. I arose to express appreciation and later one of the women from a very small church at Granada asked me specifically what could be done by the children, and whether if they made scrap books they could be used by your children. I told her I thought they could but that I also had an idea, although I do not know whether it would be approved by you.

I had a feeling that there must be children in the institution who never get cards or small gifts through the mail or have visitors, and that if a Sunday school class, or a member of a Sunday school class, could be given the name of some child with the idea of the chronological and mental age, birthday cards and small Christmas gift might be sent. The idea seemed to please, and I agreed to write and ask whether something of this sort would be approved and also what sort of things might be made by the children that could be used by your children. Would scrap books, stuffed animals or dolls be acceptable? If you think that the idea is one you would like to foster, I believe that if this one church does something the information could be given to others and that you might have several churches where the young people would be glad to do something for the pleasure of your children.

Very truly yours,

Mildred Thomson
(Miss) Mildred Thomson, Head

Bureau for Feeble-minded & Epileptic

MT:am



STATE OF MINNESOTA
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October 31, 1944

Mrs. Lowell Wood
Granada, Minnesota

My dear Mrs. Wood:

C
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I told you at the Annual Meeting of the W.S.C.S. last week I would write Dr. Engberg at the School for the Feeble-minded in Faribault in order to find out what they would like for the children.

Dr. Engberg and his whole staff were delighted at the idea that there might be interest shown in the children and something done for their pleasure. However, he felt it best not to give names as I had suggested possible but rather that gifts be sent to the institution, some of which might be used in the library or for a group, but any sent near Christmas could be put aside and then given to children who had nothing but the candy provided by the State. Some children are sent a good deal at Christmas and others have no gift.

Your idea of scrap books was very pleasing, either for an individual or to be used by the librarian or in some other manner for a group. It was also suggested that old Christmas cards or other pictures of any kind, even though not made into scrap books, are enjoyed by the children. If your children make cotton stuffed toys they are great favorites with some of the little ones. They also like games and cards and puzzles, jig saw puzzles being a favorite. There are so many children there for whom very little is done by family or friends, and while the State does all that it can for their happiness it is rather meager for those who have nothing done by outsiders at Christmas time. Therefore, anything that your children can do will be greatly appreciated and should be sent to Dr. E. J. Engberg, Station A at Faribault, Minnesota.

Thank you very much for your interest.

Very sincerely,

(Miss) Mildred Thomson

MT:am

cc-Dr. Engberg
Mrs. Charles Wegner.

December 20, 1944

Mrs. Lowell Wood
President of the W.S.C.S.
Ironalia, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Wood:

We received your box of dolls and toys for our children and are very grateful for them. One of the dolls with the light hair is going to be given to three little girls in the kindergarten who do not have a doll to play with. The other gifts will be distributed wherever there is someone who does not receive a box from home. Our children enjoy just the kind of toys which your organization selected. We also appreciate the work involved in making the toys.

Very truly yours,

E.J. Engberg, M.D.
Superintendent

CP:RR

cc - Miss Thomson