



**What the Woman's Friend Society has done and is
doing for Working Women in Salem and the
need of additional funds to meet
increased demands.**

The Woman's Friend Society was organized in 1876 under the name of "The Moral Education Association" and had for its object the protection of young girls. For this purpose a comfortable reading room was opened where they could gather and spend their time instead of walking the streets. Upon close study of the situation the managers soon realized that the work must be preventative as well as protective, consequently a

small tenement on Daniels street was obtained and used as a home for self-supporting girls. As the work grew the house was found to be inadequate and an appeal for help was made. Captain John Bertram, who was always devising plans for helping those less fortunate than himself, hearing of the needs of the society, offered the use of the house No. 12 Elm street with the understanding that should the work prove a success for five years he would deed the house to the association.

The following eight years was a period of growth. The managers, believing that the true way to help any person is to encourage self-help, formed a needlework committee and dispensed needlework to women who stood in need of such aid. An employment office was also opened to find work for unemployed women. The weekly mission to the sick, which has proved such a comfort to the suffering shut-ins, was also inaugurated.

So great was the progress in all of the departments that, although Capt. Bertram had passed away before the five years of experiment had elapsed, there was no doubt in the mind of his daughter, Mrs. George R. Emmerton, in whose hands the matter had been placed, that the house should become the property of the association. In 1884, an act of incorporation was obtained under the broader name of "The Woman's Friend Society," and as such it became the owner of the house of No. 12 Elm street.

In 1887, a kindergarten was started which proved a boon to the community. Nor must the industrial work be overlooked. Classes in cooking and sewing were begun which became very popular. In 1888, the institution was fast outgrowing its quarters and it became of the utmost importance to enlarge the accommodations. An appeal was made to the public who, appreciating the excellent work being done, made a generous response which enabled the society to purchase the adjoining house, No. 14 Elm street, and the two houses were thrown into one. As the years passed the kindergarten outgrew the rooms provided and was taken up by the city school department. The industrial work developed to such an extent that it was possible to start the Mack Industrial School as a separate institution with the funds bequeathed by Miss Esther C. Mack. A new department, that of the District Nurse, was added to the usefulness of the society, which soon became one of the recognized branches of its work.

As shown by this brief record, the work of the society has always been progressive. Never has a backward step been taken. At the present time the house is full, the transient

dining room which was started some years ago is well patronized, the district nurse work has grown to such an extent that two nurses find constant occupation, while the industrial classes are now ten in number, not including the mother's class. An exchange has been opened for the sale of the handiwork of women, the needlework committee continues to distribute sewing, the employment office has a large patronage and makes every effort to find the right girl for the right place and the mission still send its members on their errands of mercy.

Again we are facing a crowded condition and again it is necessary to appeal for help. We must either go forward or backward. We can not stand still. The house now accommodates thirty-two girls. There are but three single rooms. Six rooms have two beds each and the remaining rooms have each three occupants. The importance of single rooms is fully realized, but as the house is now arranged this is not possible. The dining room for the regular boarders is small and over crowded and should be enlarged and the transient dining room should be nearer the source of supplies. The kitchen should be larger and more convenient and equipped with modern apparatus, and another bath room is also a great necessity.

To put the treasury of the society in such condition as to secure a permanent income is an immediate need. This will require strenuous efforts on our part and the generous assistance of those who are interested in the work which is being done. We want to enlarge the house and we want an endowment for the society. Do you believe in the work of the Woman' Friend Society and all that it has done during the thirty-four year of its existence? If you do will you respond to this appeal in such a manner as will make glad the directors and help them to raise ten-thousand dollars needed for immediate improvements and forty-thousand dollars which they hope to secure for an endowment fund?

The "Home" is always open to visitors and the superintendent will always be glad to welcome anyone interested in the work and give any information in her power regarding the institution.

Sources of income for 1910.

Board	\$3871.93	
Receipts from fair	1133.78	
Bank interest and dividends	870.92	
Annual assessments	277.75	\$6,154.38

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS.

President	Miss Edith Rantoul
Vice-Presidents	Miss E. Adelaide Towle
	Mrs. John Pickering
Secretary	Miss Chattarina Agge
Treasurer	Miss Sarah H. Brown

LIFE DIRECTORS.

Mrs. George R. Emmerton	Miss Abby R. Knight
Mrs. Daniel A. Varvey	Mrs. John Robinson

DIRECTORS.

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Mrs. Frank A. Brooks	Mrs. Theodore D. Bacon
Mrs. Samuel H. Batchelder	Mrs. Frank W. Benson
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ADVISORY BOARD.

Mr. Robert Osgood, Salem	Mr. William O. Chapman, Salem
Mr. S. Henry Batchelder, Salem	Mr. Richard Wheatland, Salem
Mr. John F. Brooks, Boston	

Checks may be sent to ~~Mrs.~~ Sarah H. Brown, Treasurer, Woman's Friend Society, No. 12 Elm street, Salem, Mass. Please specify if you wish your subscription used for the improvements in the house or to be added to the Endowment Fund.

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Woman's Friend Society, a corporation established under the laws of Massachusetts, located in the City of Salem, Massachusetts, the sum of _____ dollars to be applied to the uses and purposes of said corporation.