Women’s Training Work Centers in Kentucky 1935 - 1942

This visual display has been prepared to complement the promotion of the University of Kentucky Libraries’ Works Progress Administration / Work Projects Administration (WPA) materials collection.

Recognized as a Center of Excellence for its WPA collection, UK Libraries is committed to the continued development of the collection, acquiring material for both preservation and use.

Display Curator: Angelia Pulley
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Photos and text included in this display were obtained from the Goodman-Paxton Photographic Collection, Special Collections, University of Kentucky Libraries.
“Garments are released to Sponsors (usually County judges) for distribution to the needy.”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 8 item 481
“Each garment made in the Training Work Center is graded on workmanship. Workers turning in poorly constructed garments must rip and remake them”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 8 item 480
“Colored women on relief have their own sewing rooms in west Kentucky counties”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 8 item 479
“Orderliness and systematic work is part of the training in the training work centers”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 9 item 523
“Colored women in training work centers earnestly endeavoring to make seams and buttonholes similar to model samples displayed on bulletin boards”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 9 item 524
“This old colored woman who had never learned to sew before assigned to work in the Training Work Center, now makes all the clothing worn by her family”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 18 item 984
“In this Training Work Center, these women learn to make ‘something from nothing’, waste baskets from discarded packing boxes.”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 18 item 983
“Pattern shelves made from corrugated boxes, envelopes made from brown wrapping paper, show system of keeping patterns in Training Work Center”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 9 item 522
“Six unskilled colored women report for work at the Training Work Center”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 15item 792
“Two women of the Oldham County Training Work Center at LaGrange shown making garments. Children's clothing made on this project is displayed on the wall.”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 29 item 5220
“Busily and contentedly engaged at her sewing is this woman employed on the Training Work Center…”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 29 item 5221
“Wool furnished Kentucky by Federal Surplus Relief Corporation was processed on WPA comforter projects by relief women and made into warm comforters”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 15 item 831
“Typical of comforter projects where 45,807 cotton and wool comforters were processed by women on relief”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 8 item 478
“Typical mountain worker operating loom at Training Work Center”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 15 item 834
“Threading a loom is an intricate piece of work each woman learns in weaving cloth in the Training Work Center.”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 35 item 5548
“Learning to thread the loom and weave is part of the training women receive in the Training Work Centers”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 13 item 688
“Women on sewing project taught useful home crafts. Women employed at the Training Work Center...are learning to weave spreads, rugs, etc. during their training hour.”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 33 item 5356
“Women learn to re-bottom chairs as part of the one-hour daily training period in a Training Work Center”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 13 item 689
“Mother of two children (husband is tubercular and bed ridden) supports her family and buys necessary medical supplies with her WPA wage”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 15 item 833
“Waste-baskets and lamp shades made from discarded boxes, bulletin board from burlap sacks, storage shelves from orange crates, were made by these women in addition to their regular sewing”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 14 item 771
“Each woman cuts, fits and sews each of the garments she makes on the WPA project”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 13 item 686
“A representative number of colored women from relief rolls works in training work centers”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 11 item 607
“Each woman in the Training Center makes a notebook with samples showing various stitches, tucks, pleats, rugs, etc.”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 14 item 768
“This woman walks four and a half miles to and from work and supports an invalid husband and five children on her WPA wages”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 11 item 606
“These women turn out many serviceable garments each day that eventually, through the sponsor, find their way into the homes of the needy”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 11 item 603
“33 1/3 % of the women now doing efficient work in training work centers of the state had never before sewn”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 14 item 770
“One of the first lessons requisitions in Government Training Work Centers - learning to cut economically”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 18 item 985
“Some of the 352,957 baby garments made in the WPA Training Work Center”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 11 item 604
“All Dressed Up. Although this child is sitting on a "Surplus Relief Commodity" box, the clothes he has on and hundreds of other pieces of children's clothing have not proved to be a surplus, but rather a great welcomed necessity in many Kentucky homes.”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 34 item 5460
“Negro Women’s Sewing Center. Small Negro girl clothed in garments made in the Negro Women's Training Work Center, Louisville, KY.”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 29 item 5187
“Children shown wearing garments made in a Training Work Center in Louisville, KY.”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 34 item 5439
“The boy is happy not only because he has a knife to whittle on a block of wood, but he has clothing, both attractive and substantial, to wear to school and for play.”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 34 item 5459
“Training Work Center, Louisville, KY. These boys are modeling pajamas and bathrobes made at the Training Work Center.”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 34 item 5440
“Children wearing garments made in Training Work Center. Toys made from scraps”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 17 item 914
“Scraps from Training Work Centers used to make toys on WPA Recreation Project”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 15 item 837
Recreation and Child Care Programs in Kentucky
WPA Projects
1934 - 1942

Goodman-Paxton Photographic Collection
University of Kentucky
“Supervised play given to children of pre-school age in WPA Nursery schools”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 15 item 790
“Lunch time for children at WPA colored nursery school”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 9 item 519
“Pre-school children from needy families attend WPA Nursery School”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 15 item 836
“Part of 2,263 children, ages 2 to 5, who attend WPA nursery schools”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 18 item 981
“Regular rest periods are kept at the 174 WPA nursery schools”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 8 item 474
“Children at one of the 119 WPA recreation centers”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 9 item 517
“Children are taught fundamentals of checker-playing by WPA recreation leaders for city wide tournament”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 14 item 773
“Toy band organized by the WPA”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 15 item 835
“Story telling hour at WPA Recreation center”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 31 item 4967
“Rehearsing a play put on by the WPA. Children given training on Recreation Project in pantomime, impromptu dramatics and play production”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 18 item 988
“A nourishing lunch and regular rest period are responsible for gain in weight of children in WPA Nursery Schools”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 14 item 776
“Some future carpenters getting training at Whittier Nursery School in McCracken County.”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 35 item 5545
“Woodwork training given boys at the Neighborhood House by a WPA worker.”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 29 item 5208
“Boys in handicraft class...repairing and painting old toys to be given to under-privileged children.”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 11 item 602
“Bench work. WPA Recreation workers making useful articles from discarded prune boxes”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 15 item 800
“62-year-old woman, totally deaf, busy making toys on WPA recreation project”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 14 item 772
“Two groups of girls in a sewing class on the second floor of the Neighborhood House.”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 29 item 5209
Writers, Artists, Musicians, Teachers, Doctors and Nurses, employed through WPA programs 1934 - 1942

Goodman-Paxton Photographic Collection
University of Kentucky
“Valuable public records are typed from loose index cards to permanent ledger sheets by WPA workers”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 13 item 690
“WPA worker typing old historical records”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 14 item 775
“WPA workers alphabetize index cards in county courthouse before writing them in permanent record books in twenty counties”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 13 item 691
“The Jefferson County unit for compilation of "The American Guide," a Federal Writers' project... Its activities have been the gathering and preparation of material covering the industrial, historical, recreational, cultural and aesthetic resources of Jefferson County.”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 33 item 5298
“Recording and checking done by WPA workers in Better Housing Headquarters”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 9 item 519
“Federal Art Project at Louisville, KY...showing an artist painting the University seal on the building.”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 33 item 5367
“University of Louisville seal painted by artist of Federal Art Project”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 15 item 794
“WPA colored teacher trains chorus”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 8 item 476
“Musicians employed on the Federal Music Project at Louisville, KY, shown copying and arranging public school and folk-song music. The musician in the foreground on the left is working on his own arrangement of a folk-song.”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 33 item 5325
“WPA musicians collected mountain ballads in isolated sections and copy the music for those old Anglo-Saxon phrases”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from Box 15 item 798
“WPA workers are trained in use of Hollerith Machine in recording diseases on State Board of Health Project”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 15 item 796
“WPA provides 200 workers on state-wide health projects. These workers compile statistical data from health records”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 18 item 989
“Hundreds of children benefited through the diphtheria immunization project”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 15 item 797
“Graphs showing causes of death are made by sixteen WPA workers on health projects in these ten counties”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 9 item 520
“...women have been assigned to mend, repair and bind books and magazines of the Louisville Free Public Library and its nine branch libraries.”

Text and Photo (circa date 1935) from box 32 item 5135
“WPA laboratory technicians aid in malaria control on State Board of Health”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 15 item 795
“Some of the homes in East Kentucky visited by WPA literacy teachers”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 11 item 611
“One of the 183 WPA literacy teachers in Kentucky”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 11 item 612
“Literacy class at CCC Camp taught by WPA teacher”

Text and Photo (circa date 1935) from box 8 item 475
“WPA provides teachers for boys in CCC camps”

Text and Photo (circa date 1936) from box 14 item 774