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Social Welfare Work In Polk County

(By Publicity Committee)

Four privately supported welfare agencies of Polk county, the American Red Cross Chapter, the Helping Hand, the Polk County Unit of the American Women's Hospitals, and St. Luke's hospital, together with the Public Welfare Department of the county, cooperate under the recently organized Polk County Council of Social Agencies. These various organizations pool their information and experience through frequent meetings of the Council and thus avoid duplication and overlapping of effort as well as unnecessary expenditure of funds.

The American Red Cross renders both national and local emergency service. When situations arise that call for immediate assistance, the Red Cross gives it. Last spring at the time of the disastrous floods in the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys the National Headquarters asked Polk county for \$200 for relief of flood sufferers. In response to a special call this goal was quickly reached and passed and a total of \$1,624.87 was contributed, all of which was greatly needed. In addition, the Home Service Committee, assisted by the Kiwanis club, sent some 700 articles, including clothing, shoes and bedding, valued at several hundred dollars, all of these articles being the gifts of interested citizens.

The Home Service Committee, headed by Mrs. George Cathey, who renders all her service on a volunteer basis, has given much emergency assistance to indi-

viduals and families in the county during the past year. A detailed statement of such services to home folks would be too long to print; but it would include 14 cases of medical aid, 11 cases where diet was furnished, five instances where eye-glasses were supplied, 19 responses to emergency calls for food, 72 bottles of cod liver oil supplied, payment for three tonsilectomies, three families rehabilitated after fire, 136 pieces of second-hand clothing and 27 yairs of shoes distributed, besides 120 garments from the WPA and 30 pieces of bed linen from that organization.

For emergency work in Polk county this past year the Red Cross Chapter spent a total of \$409.90. In addition to this it sent to National Headquarters \$190.63 as its proportion of the membership fees received at the Roll Call a year ago this month. It received at that Roll Call a total of \$441.26 and, during the year other gifts amounting to \$5.75. Exclusive therefore of the Flood Relief Funds, the Chapter was in receipt of \$446.91. Its disbursements amounted to \$600.53. Fortunately it had a cash balance a year ago that made possible the overspreading of its income by more than \$150.00 in answer to local distress calls; but it is evident that the income must be increased if emergency needs in the county are to be met this year. The annual Roll Call this year, which is now being organized

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