

University of Miami Cuban Heritage Collection

Finding Aid - Cuban Refugee Center Records (CHC0218)

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Language of description: English

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Cuban Refugee Center Records

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Summary information

Repository:	University of Miami Cuban Heritage Collection
Title:	Cuban Refugee Center Records
ID:	CHC0218
Date:	1960-1994 (date of creation)
Physical description:	48 linear feet (107 boxes)
Language:	English
Language:	Spanish
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The Cuban Refugee Program was authorized by the President of the United States in February 1961. Federal assistance for Cuban refugees had begun in 1960 under President Eisenhower in response to the growing number of Cubans fleeing the Castro regime. President John F. Kennedy, recognizing that the situation was beyond the scope of individual states and volunteer agencies, assigned responsibility to the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), at the time Abraham Ribicoff, who delegated implementation and administration to William L. Mitchell, Commissioner of Social Security. The "Migration and Refugee Assistance Act," enacted in 1962, provided the legislative basis for the program and authorized appropriations. The Florida State Department of Public Welfare, representing the federal government, set up an office in Miami for the assistance, child welfare services and medical care of Cuban refugees.

The Miami Cuban Refugee Emergency Center, located at the Freedom Tower, 600 Biscayne Boulevard, became the focal point of refugee registration, assistance, relief and resettlement, as well as coordination of government and independent agencies' programs. Federal funding provided for the center's operations, record keeping, publications, coordination of agencies and research on different aspects of the refugee situation, as well as for programs. The latter included financial assistance, educational loans, health care, adult education and re-training, resettlement and care of unaccompanied children. By 1962 between 1500 and 2000 Cubans were arriving weekly.

In 1963 the newly formed Welfare Administration succeeded Social Security in overseeing the Cuban Refugee Program. The decrease in influx of refugees following the cessation of regular flights and the implementation of programs such as home visits facilitated the transition from crisis response to a more efficient, better organized program.

In the years to come, however, the program would have to adapt to new emergency situations such as the arrival of Bay of Pigs Brigade 2506 prisoners in 1963 and the Camarioca boatlift of 1965. Perhaps

the most taxing year was 1980 when the Mariel boatlift brought more than 125,000 Cubans to the United States. Simultaneously, Haitian refugees had started to arrive in growing numbers. The federal government declared a state of emergency and charged the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with processing and assisting the entrants. On July of the same year the Cuban-Haitian Task Force (CHTF) was created to coordinate federal resources in support of county and state efforts, and to address community problems related to the influx of refugees into the Miami area, replacing FEMA in this capacity.

The Center closed its last location on Ponce de Leon Boulevard and 8th Street on July 1994, after more than three decades of providing assistance to thousands of refugees. Its archives were donated to Professor Juan Clark of Miami-Dade College who in turn donated them to the Cuban Heritage Collection.

Scope and content

The Cuban Refugee Center Records include correspondence, reports, publications, photographs, and clippings created and collected by the Cuban Refugee Center (CRC), in Miami in 1960 as part of a federal program to assist Cubans arriving at the United States as political refugees.

Notes

Title notes

Immediate source of acquisition

Gift of Juan M. Clark

Arrangement

The Cuban Refugee Center Records are organized into seven series.

Please refer to the Finding Aid/Inventory section for more information about the organization of this collection.

Alternative form available

Selected materials from this collection have been digitized.

<http://merrick.library.miami.edu/cubanHeritage/chc0218/>

Restrictions on access

This collection is open for research. Box 108 contains confidential documents from the collection and has been restricted.

Conditions governing use

Requests to publish or display materials from this collection require written permission from the rights owner. Please, contact chc@miami.edu for more information.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Description identifier:** ArchonInternalCollectionID:46

Access points

- Cuban Refugee Center
- Clippings (documentary form)
- Letters (documentary form)
- Periodicals (documentary form)
- Photographs (documentary form)
- Reports (documentary form)
- Cubans -- United States (subject)
- Refugees -- Cuba (subject)
- Refugees -- United States (subject)

Series descriptions

Series id5552: Cuban Refugee Center Documents and Programs

Scope and content:

Correspondence, reprints, statistics and other materials related to the Center's history, administrative organization, social services programs, speeches and awards. Prominent among the subjects are airlift efforts and the resettlement program.

Arrangement:

In chronological order within alphabetical order by subject.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Subseries id5553: Cuban Refugee Center General Correspondence and Documents

<p><u>Date</u>: 1960-1973 (date of creation)</p> <p><u>Publication status</u>:</p> <p>Published</p>
File / item list
<p>Subseries id5554: Programs</p> <p><u>Date</u>: n.d., 1960-1981 (date of creation)</p> <p><u>Publication status</u>:</p> <p>Published</p>
File / item list
<p>Subseries id5555: Cuban Refugee Program</p> <p><u>Date</u>: n.d., 1960-1981 (date of creation)</p> <p><u>Publication status</u>:</p> <p>Published</p>
File / item list
<p>Subseries id5556: Cuban Refugee Assistance Program</p> <p><u>Date</u>: n.d., 1962-1981 (date of creation)</p> <p><u>Publication status</u>:</p> <p>Published</p>
File / item list
<p>Subseries id5557: Cuban Refugee Medical Assistance Program (Dispensario médico)</p> <p><u>Date</u>: n.d., 1962-1969 (date of creation)</p> <p><u>Publication status</u>:</p> <p>Published</p>
File / item list
<p>Subseries id5558: Cuban Emergency Refugee Center</p>

<p><u>Date</u>: n.d., 1960-1972 (date of creation)</p> <p><u>Publication status</u>:</p> <p>Published</p>
File / item list
<p>Subseries id5559: Cuban Refugee Resettlement Program</p> <p><u>Date</u>: n.d., 1962-1981 (date of creation)</p> <p><u>Publication status</u>:</p> <p>Published</p>
File / item list
<p>Subseries id5560: Loan Program for Cuban Students</p> <p><u>Date</u>: 1963-1967 (date of creation)</p> <p><u>Publication status</u>:</p> <p>Published</p>
File / item list
<p>Subseries id5561: Unaccompanied Cuban Children's Program</p> <p><u>Date</u>: 1963 (date of creation)</p> <p><u>Publication status</u>:</p> <p>Published</p>
File / item list
<p>Subseries id5562: Awards</p> <p><u>Date</u>: 1969-1975 (date of creation)</p> <p><u>Publication status</u>:</p> <p>Published</p>
File / item list
<p>Subseries id5563: Lincoln-Martí Award</p>

Publication status:

Published

File / item list**Subseries id5564: Tribute to Howard H. Palmatier**Publication status:

Published

File / item list**Series id5565: Government Agencies**Scope and content:

Correspondence and other documents by and about government agencies relating to programs and services they provided in collaboration with the Refugee Center, or informing the Refugee Center of independent programs and activities in which refugees participated, such as enrollment in the Army. Also included are correspondence about refugees training in the Army, laws affecting the status or welfare of refugees such as Adjust of Status, Immigration and Nationality Act, Migration and Refugee Assistance Act, Economic Opportunity, as well as reprints on congressional hearings about refugees, the Cuban Refugee Center and related subjects.

Arrangement:

In alphabetical order by document type (e.g. correspondence, statistics, etc.) within each topic.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list**Subseries id5566: U.S. Bureau for Refugee Programs – Grants and Agreements**Publication status:

Published

File / item list**Subseries id5567: U.S. Census Bureau**Publication status:

Published
File / item list
Subseries id5568: U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare
<u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Subseries id5569: United States. Department of the Army
<u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Subseries id5570: U.S. General Services Administration
<u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Subseries id5571: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
<u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Subseries id5572: Haitian Refugee Center
<u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Subseries id5573: Cuban Haitian Task Force

<p><u>Publication status:</u></p> <p>Published</p>
File / item list
<p>Subseries id5574: Congressional Hearings</p>
<p><u>Publication status:</u></p> <p>Published</p>
File / item list
<p>Subseries id5575: Laws</p>
<p><u>Publication status:</u></p> <p>Published</p>
File / item list
<p>Subseries id5576: White House</p>
<p><u>Publication status:</u></p> <p>Published</p>
File / item list
<p>Series id5577: Non Governmental Agencies and Organizations</p>
<p><u>Scope and content:</u></p> <p>Correspondence and other documents relating to activities, programs and services for refugees provided by volunteer and independent organizations and agencies in collaboration with the Refugee Center. Includes documents about the program for Cuban physicians to obtain licenses to practice in the U.S.</p>
<p><u>Arrangement:</u></p> <p>In chronological order within alphabetical order by association.</p>
<p><u>Publication status:</u></p> <p>Published</p>

File / item list
Subseries id5578: Cuban Civic Associations <u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Subseries id5579: University of Miami <u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Subseries id5580: Volags (Voluntary Agencies) <u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Subseries id5581: Other Associations <u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Series id5582: Publications <u>Scope and content:</u> Articles, periodical and books, mostly pamphlets, produced by the Cuban Refugee Center or about refugees. <u>Arrangement:</u> In alphabetical order by author or title. <u>Publication status:</u>

Published
File / item list
Subseries id5583: Works by the Cuban Refugee Center
<u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Subseries id5584: Articles
<u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Subseries id5585: Books
<u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Subseries id5586: Periodicals
<u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Subseries id5587: Works by Others
<u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Subseries id5588: Articles

<p><u>Publication status:</u></p> <p>Published</p>
File / item list
<p>Subseries id5589: Books</p> <p><u>Publication status:</u></p> <p>Published</p>
File / item list
<p>Subseries id5590: Periodicals</p> <p><u>Publication status:</u></p> <p>Published</p>
File / item list
<p>Series id5591: Other Documents</p> <p><u>Scope and content:</u></p> <p>Articles and other documents collected by the Refugee Center produced by agencies and associations other than the ones covered in series I through III; includes articles on social status and adaptation; adult education catalogs and program descriptions, primarily to teach them English; the 1962 Conference of Mayors where arriving refugees was one of the main topics.</p> <p><u>Arrangement:</u></p> <p>In alphabetical order by title within alphabetical order by document type, except correspondence which is in chronological order.</p> <p><u>Publication status:</u></p> <p>Published</p>
File / item list
<p>Subseries id5592: Material related to Cuban Refugees</p> <p><u>Publication status:</u></p> <p>Published</p>

File / item list
Subseries id5593: Conferences <u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Subseries id5594: Adult Education <u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Series id5595: Photographs <u>Scope and content:</u> Photographs of the Cuban Refugee Center, its programs, events, visitors, awards and employees; includes photographs relating to refugees and their activities, and of relevant personalities collected by the Center. <u>Arrangement:</u> In alphabetical order by topic. <u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Subseries id5596: Cuban Refugee Center <u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Subseries id5597: Airlift and Arrivals (Freedom Flights) <u>Publication status:</u>

Published
File / item list
Subseries id5598: Cuban Refugee Program
<u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Subseries id5599: Cuban Refugee Emergency Program
<u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Subseries id5600: Cuban Refugee Resettlement Program
<u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Subseries id5601: Unaccompanied Cuban Children Program
<u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Subseries id5602: Education
<u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Subseries id5603: Employees

<p><u>Publication status:</u> Published</p>
File / item list
<p>Subseries id5604: Events</p>
<p><u>Publication status:</u> Published</p>
File / item list
<p>Subseries id5605: Freedom House</p>
<p><u>Publication status:</u> Published</p>
File / item list
<p>Subseries id5606: Lincoln-Martí Award</p>
<p><u>Publication status:</u> Published</p>
File / item list
<p>Subseries id5607: Medical Dispensary</p>
<p><u>Publication status:</u> Published</p>
File / item list
<p>Subseries id5608: Refugees Assorted Programs</p>
<p><u>Publication status:</u> Published</p>
File / item list
<p>Subseries id5609: Registration & Interviews</p>

<p><u>Publication status:</u> Published</p>
File / item list
Subseries id5610: Training for Independence
<p><u>Publication status:</u> Published</p>
File / item list
Subseries id5611: Visitors
<p><u>Publication status:</u> Published</p>
File / item list
Subseries id5612: Vocations and Professions
<p><u>Publication status:</u> Published</p>
File / item list
Subseries id5613: Personalities
<p><u>Publication status:</u> Published</p>
File / item list
Subseries id5614: Associations and Institutions
<p><u>Publication status:</u> Published</p>

File / item list
Subseries id5615: Cuban Refugees Activities <u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Subseries id5616: Various <u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list
Series id5617: Clippings <u>Scope and content:</u> This series constitutes the bulk of the Cuban Refugee Center Records. It contains newspaper clippings of articles about all matters relating to the Cuban Refugee Center and to refugees, as well as political and social issues with potential impact on the refugee population, including articles about films and publications relating to refugees. <u>Arrangement:</u> In alphabetical order by topic. <u>Publication status:</u> Published
File / item list