

Huldah Brown - 1st LEADER - 1933-35 and 1937-1953



Sterling House's first executive secretary, Hulda Brown, middle, is shown here while serving as Principal at Honeyspot School in the 1920s prior to coming to Sterling House. Flanking Principal Brown are Mrs. Smith, 1st grade, and, Ms. Agnes White, kindergarten, both teachers at Honeyspot.

Sterling House Fetes Veteran Leader



Mrs. Huldah H. Brown, left, executive secretary of Sterling House, Stratford, for the past 20 years, is given a corsage by Mrs. Vincent Hardy, right, staff member and general chairman of the testimonial for Mrs. Brown. More than 500 people from Stratford attended the affair and presented her with a purse.

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Under Brown's leadership, the pre-school and other programs grew.

Notable early Sterling House leaders

Mr. & Mrs. Sterling Bunnell (Cordelia's niece and nephew): Mrs. Bunnell was the chairman of the Advisory Committee formed after Cordelia's will was read. Sterling Bunnell, son of Cordelia's sister, Catharine, "guided the Board of Trustees through the lean 1930s."

Ruth Calhoun - 1933-1937: When Hulda Brown left Sterling House in 1935 to return to the Stratford public schools, Ruth Calhoun "led the House," thus becoming the agency's 2nd executive. Under Calhoun, the membership/fee structure was established.

Alice & Lawrence Woodbury - 1934-1937: Assisted Ruth Calhoun in programs. After Calhoun's departure in January 1937 to get married, Larry assumed the House's executive leadership position through November 1937 at which time Hulda Brown, who had left the House in 1935 to return to Honeyspot School as principal, "was urged back again" after Alice and Larry "were lured" to direct a Boston settlement house.

Sterling House 'Firsts'

- 1932 - First organized pre-school in Stratford
- 1932 - First arts, crafts and music activities for all age groups
- 1933 - First organized playground
- 1934 - First free domestic worker listings and work placement
- 1935 - First all-season ski slope built in Sterling Park for skiing instruction
- 1936 - First creative children's theatre
- 1941 - First summer camp program
- 1940s - First to organize a volunteer group to offer recreational and social activities to defense workers and armed forces personnel including serving as headquarters for U.S.O.
- 1940s - First Teen canteen in Stratford
- 1946 - First Welcome Club organized through joint sponsorship with Welcome Wagon