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## A Study Evaluating the Replacement of Children in Foster Homes of the Lutheran Homefinding Society

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A STUDY EVALUATING THE REPLACEMENT OF CHILDREN  
IN FOSTER HOMES OF THE LUTHERAN  
HOMEFINDING SOCIETY

By  
Geraldine Lewis

A Thesis submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School  
of Loyola University in Partial Fulfillment of  
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## INTRODUCTION

### Purpose

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the replacement of children in foster homes. We know that when a child is moved from his own home the experience is a traumatic one and brings problems of adjustment. When the child is moved from one foster home to another the trauma is probably greater, since feelings of being unloved and unwanted are reinforced by the second, third and sometimes fourth move.

The writer is attempting to answer the questions; how frequently are children moved from one foster home to another, and why? Are there any particular factors that explain frequency of foster home replacement?

If we find the answer to some of these questions, perhaps we can, in a measure, reduce replacement.

### Scope

One hundred and seventy cases were selected for study. The records used were those between the years 1943 and 1952. The children under study were under the care of Lutheran Homefinding Society not less than one year and not more than five years.

### Source

The material for the study was obtained from case records of the Lutheran Homefinding Society of Illinois. In the case of some children still under care, interviews were held with case workers.

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Seventy-five cases out of one hundred and seventy are still under the care of Lutheran Homefinding Society.

### Method

A schedule was used in order to obtain uniform information. To be remembered is the fact that the reason foster parents give for removal from the home is not always the real reason for the child's removal. This was learned by talking to case workers about cases still under care. In order to keep the study uniform, only those reasons given by the foster parents were used in the study.

Another thing to be kept in mind is that some children were placed in the Receiving Home between foster home placements. This means a greater number of placements for these particular children. These placements were not included in the study because the Receiving Home is not always used as a resource between foster home placements. Also, the Receiving Home does not take pre-school children under care. The study will include only placements in foster homes.

### How Study Will Be Presented

The study is presented in three chapters. Chapter one covers the historical background of the Lutheran Homefinding Society. Chapter two analyzes the foster home placements of one hundred and seventy children. In chapter three the writer summarizes the material and sets forth conclusions based on the findings.

## CHAPTER I

### THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE LUTHERAN HOMEFINDING SOCIETY

In this chapter the writer is presenting material about the Lutheran Homefinding Society, its organization, development and the services which it offers.

The Lutheran Homefinding Society was organized in 1905 when an informal meeting was called by The Reverend J. R. Birkelund and The Reverend A. Schlechte, Lutheran city missionaries, to discuss child welfare as it confronted the Lutheran Church.<sup>1</sup>

The plan presented by Dr. Birkelund was different from the ordinary institutional plan of child care, a Homefinding Society which would place children in family homes so that they could live a more normal life than would be possible in an institution. Dr. Birkelund presented, as one of the aims of the Society, that of providing a home and family life for every child committed to it, if there were no physical, social or mental reasons which would make this undesirable or impossible.<sup>2</sup>

On December 5, 1905, the Norwegian Lutheran Synod held a meeting. It was at this meeting that the Lutheran Homefinding Society was organized

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1 Lutheran Homefinding News, Vol. X, 1939, p. a.

2 Constitution of Evangelical Lutheran Homefinding Society, Section 2.

under the name of "The Evangelical Lutheran Kinderfreund Society of Illinois." There was a German Lutheran Home called the "Kinderfreund" in Peoria, Illinois. This was used as a receiving home as well as the children's home.

Two years later steps were taken to form a more permanent organization. At a meeting on January 16, 1907 it was decided that it was necessary to have a receiving home in Chicago. After this meeting the Lutheran Homefinding Society was incorporated under the State Laws of Illinois and became "The Evangelical Lutheran Homefinding Society of Illinois."

The object and purposes of the agency, as set forth in Section II of the Constitution, are:

To look up and to take care of homeless and neglected children and to place them with suitable persons either for legal adoption or for education and support, until they are of age, such education and support to be stipulated by contract or to place such children in suitable institutions or in some other way provide for the same. In the case where children are educated under contract the agency reserves the right of supervision over such child in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 29, Revised Statutes of the State of Illinois for the year 1872.<sup>3</sup>

A board of directors was elected to assume the supervision and management of business transactions.

In 1907 a cottage was purchased in Chicago. In 1914 an additional cottage was purchased to meet increased demands. Forty children could be cared for at the home.

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3 Constitution of the Lutheran Homefinding Society of Illinois, Section I, "Object and Purpose."



At the time the Society was organized it was dependent upon offers of homes from the church constituency without compensation. In 1922 the Cook County Boarding Fund was established. This provided the sum of \$20,000 annually to be used by foster home agencies; for children committed to them by the Juvenile Court.<sup>4</sup>

In 1926 a modern building was erected to take the place of the cottages. The new home could provide adequately for seventy children plus the staff necessary to conduct the work of the receiving home. During the early history of the agency no professionally trained case workers were employed. Case records were kept by visitors, but only the most pertinent information and identifying data are recorded.

During the early history children were often kept at the receiving home without any plan for foster home placement.

By 1943, children were placed in foster homes as soon as suitable homes were available. It is felt that the home is still desirable for temporary placement when children are not ready to accept a foster home because of disturbances following removal from their own home. The Receiving Home is also used to advantage for children who present a behaviour problem in the foster home. Here the child may be observed by the caseworker for a period of time. When an emergency arises and a child must be moved from a foster home immediately, the receiving home stands ready to give care.

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<sup>4</sup> Illinois Revised Statutes, 1941 State Bar Association, Chapter 23, Section 196

In 1942 representatives of all the synods of the National Lutheran Council were called together. Out of this came two meetings in which the whole program of home finding was discussed. At the second meeting the Welfare Division of the National Lutheran Council asked to make a survey. On the basis of this survey it was recommended that Lutheran Homefinding Society do the foster home finding for all the Lutheran synods of the National Lutheran Council. This meant that instead of representing only the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Homefinding Society now represented in addition the United Lutheran Church in America, the American Lutheran Church, the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Finnish Lutheran Church (Suomi Synod), the Augustana Lutheran Church.

An idea of the growth of the Lutheran Homefinding Society might be gained by a comparison of the budget of the Agency for the year 1933, 1943 and 1953.

In 1953 a total of 279 children were cared for at a cost of \$38,525. In 1943, 425 children were cared for with an expenditure of \$85,435. The proposed budget for 1953 is \$218,189.

The Lutheran Homefinding Society has participated in the Community Fund since 1935. The allocation has increased from \$500.00 to \$40,000.00 in 1953.

At the present time the Receiving Home at 4840 West Byron Street serves as headquarters of the organization. In the building are found, in addition to the receiving home, the offices of the Executive Director, the Assistant Executive Director, the Case Work Department, the Stenographic Department and the Medical Clinic.

The Professional Staff at present consists of nine case workers, one director of case work, one case work supervisor, a full time registered nurse and two pediatricians, who give one day a week.

At the present time foster home care dominates the program. The Receiving Home is used for very temporary care for a very limited number of children. Close contact is maintained with the foster parents and children by means of routine monthly visits to the foster home. Complete case records are now kept of the child's development, problems and progress.

In June, 1951 Homefinding became a centralized department of the Agency. A Homefinder became a part of the staff at Lutheran Homefinding Society and, for the first time, all foster homes were accounted for by one person. Homes are not now so easily lost if they do not fit the needs of a particular child. Homes are studied with all the children in mind. In January 1953 the Homefinding Unit was strengthened by the addition of a Homefinding Committee. The Committee, in weekly meetings, evaluates homes under study and those being re-used. Each home study, both boarding and adoptive is typed with five carbon copies. These copies are given to Committee Members at least three days prior to the Meeting. In Committee Meetings then, the strengths and weaknesses of a particular home can be pointed out. Upon the recommendation of the Committee, rather than that of the Homefinder, the home is approved or rejected for use. The Committee also recommends the type of child the foster family seems best able to serve. This evaluation becomes a part of the record to be used by the placement worker in considering the home for a particular child.

Each child needing placement is also evaluated on a placement form.<sup>5</sup> This form comes to the Homefinder at the point of intake or at the point at which there is indication that the child will be removed from the home, either by the Agency or at the request of the foster parents. In October, 1952 a second Homefinder was added to the Homefinding Unit and in June, 1953 a third will be added.

On August 1, 1952 an assistant Executive Director was added to the staff of Lutheran Homefinding Society. The duties of the Assistant Executive Director, a clergyman, are three-fold:

1. The spiritual ministry of the Agency and the chaplaincy service
2. Public relations and publicity
3. Assistance to the Executive Director<sup>6</sup>

On October 1, 1953 a Director of Casework was added to the staff. With this addition Lutheran Homefinding Society looks forward to an expanding program of child welfare work in the future. Some of the future plans of Lutheran Homefinding Society are:

1. Reorganization within the casework unit of the social service department. Intake, foster home children's services will all be established as departmental units within the casework program. Supervisory heads will coordinate these special services with one another.

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5 See Appendix

6 Assistant Executive Director's Annual Report, 1952

2. The integration of casework and chaplaincy service.

"In the better service and more effective treatment of the unmarried mother and, perhaps, in some foster care cases, a greater use will be made of the spiritual values of our Faith by the use of the caseworker and chaplain as a team."

3. The establishment of a study and treatment center at the Receiving Home.

During the last decade there has been an emphasis on a coordinated Lutheran Welfare Program. The Lutheran Homefinding Society is a member of the Division of Child Care of the Lutheran Charities. In the offices of Lutheran Charities is found the Child Guidance Counselling Service, available to all Lutheran Child Care Agencies. On the team of this Child Guidance Counselling Service is a psychiatrist, two psychologists and a psychiatric social worker.

The coordination of Lutheran Welfare within Lutheran Charities has done much to strengthen each individual Agency and has enabled each Agency to give more effective service.

## CHAPTER II

### AN ANALYSIS OF THE FOSTER HOME PLACEMENTS OF ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY CHILDREN

This chapter is concerned with the presentation and analysis of the data secured from the individual schedules covering the one hundred seventy cases studied. The study includes children of all ages at the point of intake, from infancy to sixteen years of age.

In this chapter will be presented:

1. The length of time in foster home care as a factor in replacement.
2. The reason for placement as a factor in replacement.
3. Age at the time of placement as a factor in replacement.
4. The sex of the child as a factor in replacement.

In weighing these four factors in replacement we will attempt to answer two questions:

1. How frequently are children moved from one foster home to another?
2. Why are children moved from one foster home to another?

Length of Time in Foster Home Care as a Factor in Replacement

TABLE I

## CHILDREN UNDER CARE ONE YEAR

Age	Number of Children	Number of Placements	Average
Infants	2	2	1
1-6	5	7	1.4
6-12	1	1	1
12-over	1	1	1
TOTAL		9	11

TABLE II

## CHILDREN UNDER CARE TWO YEARS

Age	Number of Children	Number of Placements	Average
Infants	8	17	2.2
1-6	6	16	2.6
6-12	5	11	2.2
12-over	0	0	0
TOTAL		19	14

TABLE III  
CHILDREN UNDER CARE THREE YEARS

Age	Number of Children	Number of Placements	Average
Infants	18	43	2.4
1—6	24	50	2.1
6—12	12	20	1.7
12—over	6	11	2.0
TOTAL		60	124

TABLE IV  
CHILDREN UNDER CARE FOUR YEARS

Age	Number of Children	Number of Placements	Average
Infants	13	36	2.7
1—6	18	41	2.2
6—12	16	37	2.3
12—over	11	27	2.4
TOTAL		58	141



TABLE V .  
CHILDREN UNDER CARE FIVE YEARS

Age	Number of Children	Number of Placements	Average
Infants	7	15	2.1
1—6	7	11	1.5
6—12	9	21	2.3
12—over	1	3	3.0
TOTAL 24		50	

In comparing Tables I, II, III, IV and V it is noted that children under care one year have the lowest replacement average. This may be due to the limited number of children in this group. This makes comparison more difficult. It may also be due to the fact that since the children were under care only one year, they haven't had the same length of time in which to move.

The reason for the lower replacement average in children under care one year may be due to another reason. It may be that more quality casework is done and that wiser placement is made in the beginning. This is a possibility since homefinding became a centralized department of the Agency in June, 1951 and was strengthened in January, 1952 when the new system of evaluating the child and the home was put into effect. The attempt to fit home and child together in this way should eliminate some replacement.

With children under care two, three, four and five years, there is little difference in the replacement average. On the basis of this, it would seem that the length of time under foster home care has little to do with the replacement of children in foster homes.

The Reason for Placement as a Factor in Replacement

TABLE VI  
REASON FOR ORIGINAL PLACEMENT IN FOSTER HOMES

Reason for Replacement	Number of Children	Number of Placements	Average
Parent Hospitalized	23	35	1.6
Deceased	21	42	2.0
Desertion	18	41	2.2
Neglect	18	37	2.0
Separation	19	40	2.1
Unmarried Mother	37	88	2.3
Divorce	30	77	2.5
Displaced Child	3	8	2.6
Unknown	1	2	2.0
TOTAL 170		370	

Table VI shows why the children included in the study were originally referred for foster home care. On the basis of the one hundred and seventy cases studied it would seem that the reason for referral would have a direct bearing upon the number of replacements per child.

As seen by Table VI, the displaced child has the highest number of replacements per child. It must be recognized that the study includes only three displaced children. Because of this limited number it is more difficult to weigh the validity of the results. Only one of the three displaced children included in the study has made what we might call a satisfactory adjustment in a foster home. The family that took this boy was very active in work among refugees and had requested that this particular boy live with them. The high percentage of replacement among displaced children is understandable in the light of the trauma experienced by those children in Europe and the number of adjustments that necessarily must be made in a new country. One of the boys came for foster home placement at ten years of age. He had experienced ten moves among institutions in Europe before coming to the United States. In addition to the language handicap, it was discovered after he had been here several months that he had both a hearing and sight disability. School work was made easier by attendance at lip reading classes and by the use of preferential seating in his classrooms. Another of the displaced children, coming to the Agency at the age of fifteen, had experienced the trauma of being separated from her entire family very suddenly. She could only guess what had happened to her family and was sent to the United States without being reunited with them. She has experienced three moves in three years. The average length of time spent in each foster home was three months. When she was not in foster homes she stayed at the Receiving Home.

The next greatest number of replacements were among those cases in which parents were divorced. This category makes up seventeen per cent of the cases with seventy-seven placements, or an average of 2.5 placements per child. The reason given by foster parents for the removal of these children in eleven cases is the foster child's inability to get along with their own children in the home. These eleven cases account for thirty-six per cent of the removals of children from foster homes for this reason. Another reason often given for this child's removal is the inability of foster parents and natural parents to get along amicably. The reason for this may be that parents visit separately in the foster home. The criticism of each parent of their divorced partner tends to involve the foster parents in the case. This kind of criticism is extremely upsetting to the foster child, who feels loyal to both parents. This makes the child harder to manage after visits. This may account too, for the child's inability to get along with other children in the home. He finds himself constantly on the defensive as far as his parents are concerned. He may also be taunted by the other children in the home who overhear the conversation during the hours of visiting. It is for these reasons that some foster home placing agencies are bringing children into the Receiving Home or institutions for visits with their parents. In spite of any difficulties involved in visiting, the visiting of natural parents with their children is encouraged by the agency. We do not want to separate children from their own parents. Rather, we want to strengthen the bond that exists between them since our ultimate goal is the return of the child to his own home wherever this is possible.

The child of the unmarried mother also has a high rate of replacement. Thirty-seven of the children were referred for this reason, with eighty-eight placements or an average of 2.3 placements per child. This category accounts for thirty-five out of the forty-eight infants under study. This study does not include those unmarried mothers who planned for an adoptive placement of their babies. It includes only those unmarried mothers who planned to keep their children and asked for boarding care. Twenty were eventually released for adoption by the mother, nine of the twenty remaining in the boarding home on an adoptive basis. Twelve of the children were released to their own mothers. One child was referred to the Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society because there was no home of mixed racial background available within the Lutheran constituency. One child was transferred to the Lutheran Home for Children in Edison Park after four years under care. This transfer was made because the child's mother could not accept substitute parents for her child, for this reason she upset each foster home placement. One child is still under care. The maternal grandmother was under the care of Lutheran Homefinding Society as an unmarried mother. This child is in his third foster home placement in three years. His adjustment in his present home is poor. The visiting of his mother, who is dull, is a negative factor in the placement.

One thing that might account for the high percentage of replacements in this group of referrals from unmarried mothers, is the fact that these children were placed as infants. There is a high percentage of replacements among all infants under care.

The answer to this may be the time element involved in caring for an infant child. Formula mixing, diaper washing, frequent visits to clinic, may in part account for the high percentage. This might point up a need for more careful interpretation to foster parents during the home study of what is involved in caring for an infant. Perhaps, too, we should be more selective of foster parents for infant boarding. To be recognized, however, is the fact that it is difficult to find boarding homes for the care of infants. For this reason we may be forced to be less selective in this area. It is interesting to note that in the reasons given by foster parents for the removal of a child, the illness of the foster parents, usually the foster mother, accounts for thirty-four removals. Of these thirty-four, twenty-one can be accounted for by infants.

Nineteen children came from homes where parents were separated. The parents of these children were not divorced but at the point of intake were living apart. Some of them later became divorced. This group accounts for forty placements or an average of 2.1 placements per child. In nine of these cases husband and wife were reconciliated and seven of the nine children were returned to their own homes. There is evidence in the records of case work help in the rehabilitation of these families. In some cases this was done through direct counselling with parents, in other indirect help by referral to a family agency. Eight of the children are still under the care of Lutheran Homefinding Society. Like the children of divorced parents, these children of separated parents are forced to have divided loyalties and are constantly upset by promises made by both parents and accusations made by one parent against the other.

Parents deceased, parents who desert their children and parents who neglect their children account for fifty-nine cases. In each of these categories there is an average of two placements per child.

In twenty-one cases the death of one or both parents was the reason for referral. In three cases both parents are deceased. Two of these children are still under care. One remains in the foster home on an adoptive basis. One is eligible for adoption but because he is an older, unattractive child it has been difficult to find a home for him. In the rest of the cases, where one parent survives, there is often a problem with the remaining parent. In eleven of the cases the mother is deceased. Of these eleven, the father deserted in the case of five. The father is alcoholic in three cases. In seven cases the father is deceased. In three of these seven the mother is promiscuous and disinterested in the child. One mother released her child for adoption. Three children were returned to their own mothers. Seven of the children of deceased parents have had only one placement.

In the case of desertion, one child was deserted by both parents. Three were deserted by their fathers. Two of these children have been returned to the mother. One remains under care. Ten children were deserted by the mother. Four of these children remain under care. Four were returned to their father after remarriage. One child died while under care of the agency. One was returned to her own mother. Six children who were referred because of desertion remained in their first foster home as long as they needed care.

The children of hospitalized parents account for the least number of replacements. Among twenty-one children in this category there were only thirty-five placements or an average of 1.6 placements per child. The reason for this may be that there is little or no visiting of natural parents in foster homes.

The following Table shows whether referral was due to physical or mental incapacity.

TABLE VII  
TYPE OF HOSPITALIZATION OF TWENTY-THREE PARENTS

Physical Illness	Mother	Father
Heart Disability . . . . .	2	
Tuberculosis . . . . .	1	
In State Hospital		
Manteno. . . . .	10	
Elgin . . . . .	3	3
Lincoln. . . . .	4	
	TOTAL 20	3

Mental illness accounts for the greatest number of referrals. Seventeen mothers were committed to state hospitals. In eight of these cases the father of the child is unknown. This means that there is no visiting. Of these eight, seven remain in the first foster home in which they were placed. Seven of the eight are mentally alert and physically sound. They would be good adoptive applicants if the laws of the State of Illinois did



not prevent the adoption of such children. In all of these cases adjustment is excellent and the children are very much a part of the family group. Some of them have assumed the name of the foster family.

In four of the cases where the mother has been committed, the father is alcoholic and takes no interest in the child, either by visiting or by financial support. Two of these children remain in their first placement. Two have had two placements each.

Of the twenty children in this category of parents in state hospitals, fourteen are still under care. One mother was released and her child returned to her care. Four children were returned to their own fathers. One was released to her own care at the age of eighteen. She is at present in nurses' training. Of the three children of mothers who are physically ill, two remain under the care of the agency. One was released to her own responsibility and continues to live in the same foster home.

#### Age As A Factor In Replacement

On the basis of one hundred and seventy cases studied, it would seem that age at the time of placement has little to do with the replacement of children in foster homes. It has long been felt that the older the child, the more difficult placement becomes. The study shows that this theory does not follow in practice. Tables VIII and IX show that there is little difference in the percentage of replacement according to age. If anything, it would appear that the infant has a higher rate of replacement than children of some other ages. As stated above, this is probably due to the added time element in caring for an infant.

TABLE VIII  
NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS ACCORDING TO AGE OF CHILD

Age	Number of Children	Number of Placements	Average
Infants	48	114	2.3
1—6	60	126	2.1
6—12	43	99	2.3
12—over	19	42	2.2
TOTAL 170		381	

Table VIII shows the average number of placements in four age groups. There is little difference in the replacement average among the four groups. The smallest number of replacements are found in the age group ranging from one to six years of age.

Sex as a Factor in Placements

Table IX, compares the placement of boys and girls. It would seem that there is little difference in the replacement ratio.

TABLE IX

## RATIO OF REPLACEMENTS BETWEEN BOYS AND GIRLS

BOYS

<u>Number</u>	<u>Number of Placements</u>	<u>Average</u>
87 . . . . .	183 . . . . .	2.1

GIRLS

83 . . . . .	187 . . . . .	2.2
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TOTAL 170	370	
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Frequency of Moves From One Foster Home to Another

Tables X, XI, XII, and XIII show the frequency of moves of seventy-five children still under the care of Lutheran Homefinding Society.

TABLE X

LENGTH OF TIME 75 CHILDREN REMAINED IN THEIR FIRST PLACEMENT

Duration of First Placement	Number of children having				Total
	One Placements	Two Placements	Three Placements	Four Placements	
Less than 1 month		3	4	3	10
1 to six months		3	10	2	15
6 to 12 months		2	5	1	8
1 to 2 years	4	3		1	8
2 to 3 years	3	4	1		8
3 to 4 years	8				8
4 to 5 years	18				18
TOTAL	33	15	20	7	75

TABLE XI

LENGTH OF TIME 42 CHILDREN REMAINED IN THEIR SECOND PLACEMENT

Duration of Second Placement	Number of children having			Total
	Two Placements	Three Placements	Four Placements	
Less than 1 month		2	3	5
1—6 months		7	1	8
6 to 12 months		4	2	6
1 to 2 years	7	4	1	12
2 to 3 years	4	3		7
3 to 4 years	4			4
4 to 5 years				
TOTAL	15	20	7	42

TABLE XII  
LENGTH OF TIME 27 CHILDREN REMAINED IN THEIR THIRD PLACEMENT

Duration of Third Placement	Number of children having		Total
	Three Placements	Four Placements	
Less than 1 month			
1 to 6 months	1	1	2
6 to 12 months	4	2	6
1 to 2 years		3	3
2 to 3 years	9		9
3 to 4 years	5	1	6
4 to 5 years	1		1
	TOTAL 20	7	27

TABLE XIII

## LENGTH OF TIME 7 CHILDREN REMAINED IN THEIR FOURTH PLACEMENT

Duration of Fourth Placement	Number of children having four Placements
Less than one month . . . . .	0
1 to 6 months . . . . .	0
6 to 12 months. . . . .	3
1 to 2 years . . . . .	1
2 to 3 years . . . . .	1
3 to 4 years . . . . .	2
4 to 5 years . . . . .	0
TOTAL	7

Table X shows that out of seventy-five children, thirty-three have had only one placement while under care. Eighteen of the thirty-three have been under care from four to five years. This length of time would seem to indicate that they will remain in their first foster home as long as they need care.

Table X also shows that out of seventy-five children, ten remained in their first foster home placement less than one month.

Tables XIV, XV, XVI, and XVII show the length of time in placement according to the year of placement.

TABLE XIV

## LENGTH OF TIME IN FIRST PLACEMENT ACCORDING TO YEAR OF PLACEMENT

Year	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	TOTAL
Less than 1 month	3	4	1	1	1	10
1 to 6 months		4	4	1	1	10
6 to 12 months	2	2	3		1	8
1 to 2 years	2	1	3	4		10
2 to 3 years	2	3	2		4	7
3 to 4 years			8			8
4 to 5 years	8	10				18
TOTAL	17	24	21	6	7	75



TABLE XV

LENGTH OF TIME IN SECOND PLACEMENT ACCORDING TO YEAR OF PLACEMENT

Year	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	TOTAL
Less than 1 month	2	1	1			4
1 to 6 months	1	3	4	1		9
6 to 12 months	1	3		2		6
1 to 2 years	1	3	5		3	12
2 to 3 years	1	2	1			4
3 to 4 years	1		2			3
4 to 5 years	2	2				4
TOTAL	9	14	13	3	3	42

TABLE XVI  
LENGTH OF TIME IN THIRD PLACEMENT ACCORDING TO YEAR OF PLACEMENT

Year	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	TOTAL
Less than 1 month						
1 to 6 months		1	2			3
6 to 12 months	2		2	1		5
1 to 2 years	1		2			3
2 to 3 years	1	4	3	1		9
3 to 4 years	2	4				6
4 to 5 years		1				1
TOTAL	6	10	9	2		27

TABLE XVII

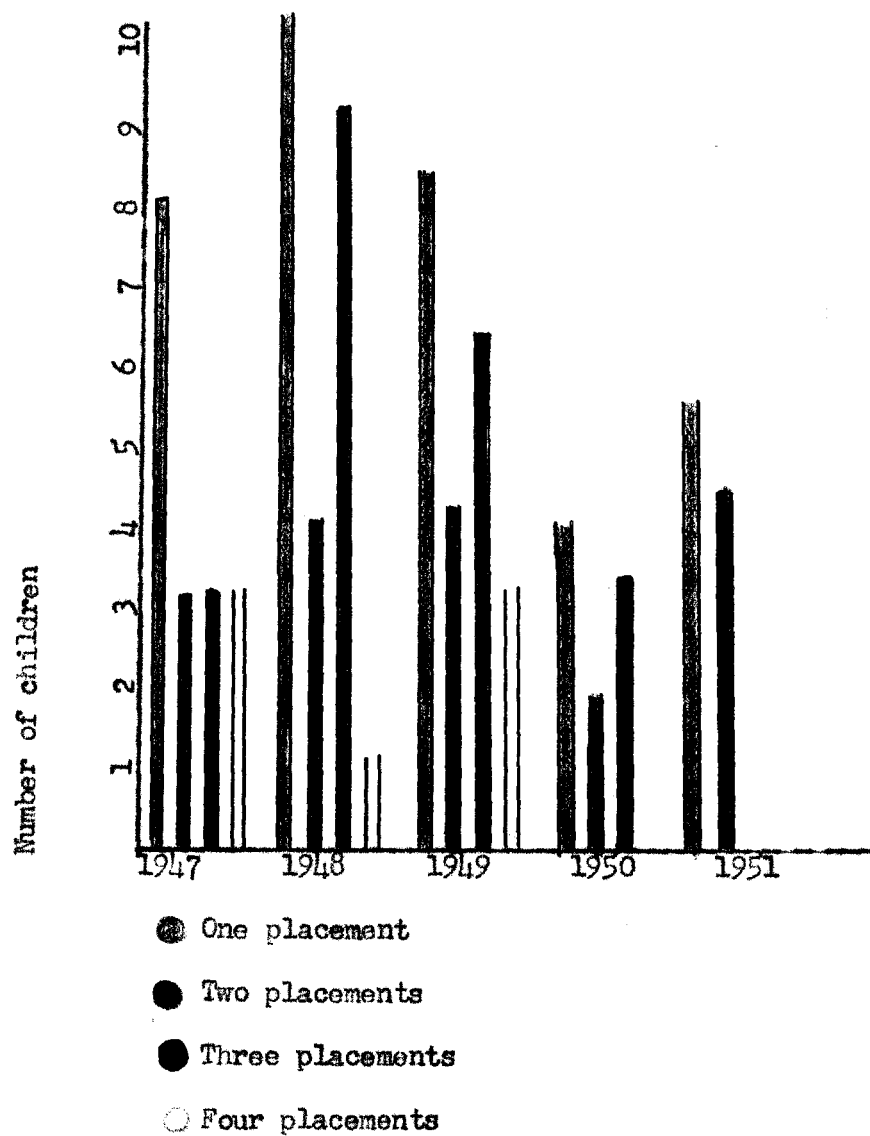
LENGTH OF TIME IN FOURTH PLACEMENT ACCORDING TO YEAR OF PLACEMENT

Year	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	TOTAL
Less than 1 month						
1 to 6 months			3			3
6 to 12 months						
1 to 2 years	1					1
2 to 3 years		1				1
3 to 4 years						
4 to 5 years	2					2
TOTAL	3	1	3			7

It would seem from a study of these Tables that in the years 1950 and 1951 we do have less replacement in the first few months of placement. In Table XIV we note that in 1947, three children had first placements of less than one month. In 1948, four children had first placements of less than one month. In 1949, 1950 and 1951 only one child had a first placement of less than one month. In first placements of from one to six months too, we notice a marked difference in the last two years.

Table XVIII graphically shows a comparison of the number of placements of the seventy-five children still under care, according to the year that they came for placement.

TABLE XVIII  
GRAPHIC CHART SHOWING COMPARISON OF THE NUMBER OF  
PLACEMENTS BY YEARS



Reasons for Removal from Foster Homes

Table XIX shows the reasons for every removal from foster homes as given by the foster parents. Not all of the one hundred and seventy children are accounted for in this Table since many of them have had only one placement. Some of the children, on the other hand, have had more than one placement and account for more than one move.

TABLE XIX

## REASONS FOR REPLACEMENT — AS GIVEN BY FOSTER PARENTS

Reasons for Replacement	Number of children according to age				Total
	Infant	1-6	6-12	12 and over	
REASONS CONCERNING THE CHILD					
Behaviour of child	4	18	29	9	51
Child's inability to get along with other children in the community	2	13	11	3	29
Medical Problem of child	2	3	0	0	5
Child not accepted in community	1	1	1	0	3
Child requested removal	0	0	5	6	11
REASONS CONCERNING THE FOSTER PARENTS					
Inability of foster parents to get along with natural parents	0	5	0	0	5
Illness of foster parents	21	9	3	1	34
Housing of foster parents	1	0	2	1	4
Foster parent's move out of state	6	4	1	0	11
Foster parent's felt too attached	3	0	0	0	3
Financial arrangement not satisfactory	0	1	1	0	2
Employment of foster mother	0	3	0	0	3
REASONS CONCERNING THE AGENCY					
Removal by agency to adoptive home	18	2	2	0	22
Removal by agency to another boarding home	2	5	1	2	10
REASON UNKNOWN	16	1	2	8	27

According to the above Table, of a total of two hundred and twenty reasons given for the removal of children, eighty-four were reasons outside of the children themselves. The illness of the foster parent seems to be a real factor in the replacement of infants, accounting for twenty-one out of seventy-six of the replacements in this age group.

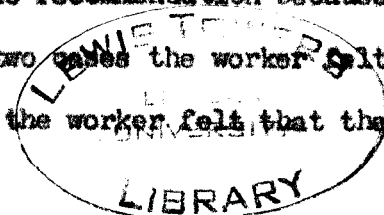
It is commonly thought that behaviour problems are found only with the older child. It is interesting to note that in eighteen moves of children one to six, incorrigible behaviour is given as the reasons for removal.

In the three cases of children not accepted in the community, one child was an infant, born of a Negro father and a White mother. Two children were American Indian and were not accepted because of this.

In all of the cases where the foster parents felt themselves becoming too attached to the child, the children were infants.

In eleven cases the children themselves requested a change in foster homes. Six of these were twelve and over. In most of these cases the children felt that the boarding parents had them in the home, not as a part of the family, but because of what they could add in terms of baby-sitting or household chores.

In ten cases the agency removed the child. In two of these cases infants were removed because the homes did not come up to physical standards. In five cases the move was made upon psychiatric recommendation because foster parents were too rigid and demanding. In two cases the worker felt that the child was unhappy in the home. In one case the worker felt that the foster mother was too protective of the child.



In eleven cases the foster parents move out of state was responsible for the child's removal. In some of these cases the move was just across the Illinois border. However, because public funds are not available for children out of state, the children had to be removed. In one case under care of the agency, where the boy is particularly disturbed and where the foster parents are doing an excellent job, funds continue to be provided by the Chicago Welfare Department. This is an exceptional case, however.

There has been much discussion in the welfare field about the inadequacy of board rates. In only two cases in this study was this given as a cause for removal. It must be remembered however, that the foster parents might be reluctant to give this as a reason, even though it may be the real reason for removal from the home.

In four cases inadequate housing was given as the reason for removal. In one case, that of a teen-ager, the foster father found it necessary to move his business into the home. The only room available was this child's bedroom. In another case the family found it necessary to move with relatives. There was no place for the foster child.

In this chapter has been presented an analysis of the foster home placements of one hundred and seventy children, showing the frequency of movement from one foster home to another and the reason for such movement.

In an evaluation of the material presented we see:

1. Little difference in the replacement of children in foster homes on the basis of age alone.



2. Little difference in the replacement average on the basis of the sex of the child placed.
3. Little difference in the replacement average on the basis of length of time in the foster home care.
4. A difference in the percentage of replacement on the basis of reasons for referral.

We find the highest percentage of replacement among children referred because parents have been divorced or separated. The smallest percentage of replacement is found among children referred because parents have been hospitalized or have deserted, or neglect and/or reject their children.

The findings would seem to indicate then, that if the child is aware of a disturbed family situation it brings about a disturbance in the child which we see reflected in the percentage of replacement.

## CHAPTER III

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In summary, an analysis of the data shows the following:

1. There is little variation in the percentage of replacement among children because of age.

From this we might conclude that, contrary to popular belief, the older child, once placed, is not more difficult to keep in placement than the younger child. The data shows the infant to have a higher percentage of replacement than children of some other age groups. In most instances of removal from the foster home in this age bracket, the reason given is the illness of the foster mother.

2. The length of time in foster home care is not a significant factor in replacement.

Of seventy-five children still under the care of the Agency, thirty-three have had only one foster home placement. Eighteen of the thirty-three have been under care from four to five years.

3. The reasons why children are referred to the Agency for service might have a direct bearing on the percentage of replacements.

The smallest percentage of replacement is found among those children referred because parents have been hospitalized, or have deserted, or neglect and/or reject their children.

In these cases visiting in the foster home by natural parents does not take place or is minimal. This might be a reason for the lower percentage of replacement. The child may not be confused by the reminder, through visiting, that he has two sets of parents.

As stated in Chapter Two visiting by natural parents in the foster home is recognized by the Agency as a most important step in working toward the ultimate goal of returning the child to his own home. We would not eliminate visiting. The study might point up a need however, for more careful interpretation by the caseworker to the foster parents of the meaning of visiting to the child; and more careful preparation for visiting of natural parents during the home study.

Secondly, the foster parents can set rules and regulations, mete out punishment, etc. without interference or criticism from natural parents.

We find the highest percentage of replacement among displaced children and children of divorced and separated parents. There is no visiting of natural parents or relatives in the foster home of the displaced child. Here, however, we find the child who has a multitudinous number of adjustments to make. He moves not only into a new family, but into a whole new world where language and customs are different. He is put back in school and finds himself older and bigger than the other children in his class. His moves in Europe have been so many and so frequent that he has never had the opportunity to form any kind of a meaningful relationship. It does not seem strange that the percentage of replacement is high.

In the group of children of divorced parents we probably find the highest rate of visiting in the foster home. Usually each parent visits separately. This is the child who feels his loyalty challenged when one parent is criticized by the other and often both parents criticized by the foster parents; who find it difficult not to become involved.

Lutheran Homefinding Society, like other agencies in the child welfare field, is interested not only in giving service, but in giving more and more effective service in dealing with dependent children. It is only as the Agency evaluates the work that is being done in the present that it can hope for improved service in the future. In evaluating this particular study of children in foster homes, the writer offers the following recommendations for consideration:

1. Since the illness of foster parents accounts for a higher percentage of replacements, it might point up the need for more careful evaluation of medical information during the home study and periodic medical examinations of foster parents during the time that the home is in use. At the present time a doctor's statement regarding the health of the family is obtained before the home is put into use. No further statement is requested by the Agency, even though the home may be in use for ten years. Perhaps, periodical medical examinations should be requested by

the Agency. Since there is a staff physician, this could be done at little expense to the Agency, no expense to foster parents unless they preferred to be examined by their own physician.

2. In saving the infant boarding home, and in recruiting additional infant homes, the Agency might establish a diaper laundry service. Some boarding parents are boarding two and three infants at a time. Washing diapers consumes a great deal of time and effort. Perhaps, such a service would be more welcome than a raise in board rates.
3. For some time Lutheran Homefinding Society has expressed interest in a family service division of welfare services within the Lutheran Church constituency. This study, showing a considerably higher rate of replacement among children of divorced parents, would indicate the need for such a service. Like the Lutheran Child Guidance Counselling Service, Lutheran family service might be shared by the Lutheran agencies of the Chicago area.

CASEWORKER

## REPORT ON CHILD NEEDING PLACEMENT

DATE:

Child's Name and Sex	Birthdate	Nationality	Appearance	School	Health	Physical Handicap
				Grade _____		
				Achievement:		
				Above Average		
				Average		
				Below Average		
IQ Rating and/or Social Adjustment	Previous Placements Indicate by Number	Will parents visit:	App. length of time placement needed, e.g. Indefinitely - months	Placement can be made:	How soon Placement needed	
	None	Yes    No			Out of town	
	Institutional	One			Chicago or immediate area	
	Foster Home	Both			Either	
	Other	Separately				
What type of foster home needed: (Cite psychiatric recommendations)						
Significant Behaviour Symptoms			Additional Remarks			

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