

*Relocation . . .*

*through the*

# BRETHREN HOSTEL

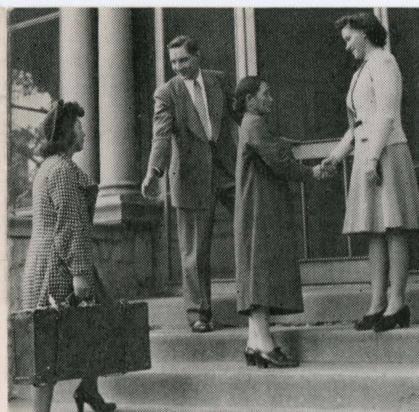


● The Brethren Relocation Hostel is a temporary friendly home in Chicago where Americans of Japanese ancestry from War Relocation Centers are welcome to live until they secure employment and permanent homes.



**Making a Reservation.** Any resident of a relocation center who is eligible for relocation and who desires to relocate in or near Chicago may apply for a reservation at the Brethren Hostel. Every person, regardless of his religious creed, age, sex, or citizenship, is welcome to apply. Simple applications for reservations may be secured from the hostel representative in each relocation center or by inquiring at the relocation office. Usually only a few days elapse before an applicant receives an invitation from the hostel director after his application is submitted. Relocation through the hostel provides initial security in the new community. It is a simple and easy way for individuals and families to relocate.

**Leaving Camp.** At last the day comes. The bus is waiting. Parents, relatives and friends are bidding good-by. What a thrill to embark upon a new free life once again!



**Warm Reception.** A friendly handshake, a helping hand, and a warm greeting from the hostel directors make relocation seem ever more worth while.

**Feeling at Home.** Pleasant, well-furnished bedrooms, kept neat and clean by hostellers themselves,

greet new women members of the hostel family. A hot shower or bath, fresh clean sheets, a good night's sleep, and the long train ride is forgotten. Separate sleeping rooms are made available for families whenever possible.



**Men's Dormitory.** The largest of the home's thirteen rooms is the men's dormitory, which accommodates fifteen men. An understanding attitude and a spirit of co-operation help hostellers to catch the home-like atmosphere soon. Co-operative living is a real joy and a happy memory when each hosteller considers first the welfare of other members of the hostel family.



**Getting Their Bearings.** As soon as the new hosteller has unpacked and is settled in his new quarters, he "talks things over" with the hostess. As a member of the hostel family, he is invited to share equally in the board, the chores, and the good fellowship of other hostellers. He receives answers to questions about Chicago, how to find his way about town, how to find employment, how to secure a permanent living place. He is made to feel at home in a world quite different from a relocation center. Confidence in himself returns.



#### Meal Times.

Pleasant, dignified, and family-like. Because of the co-operative plan of living, expenses at the hostel are reduced to a minimum. For the nominal fee of one dollar a day, a hosteller is en-

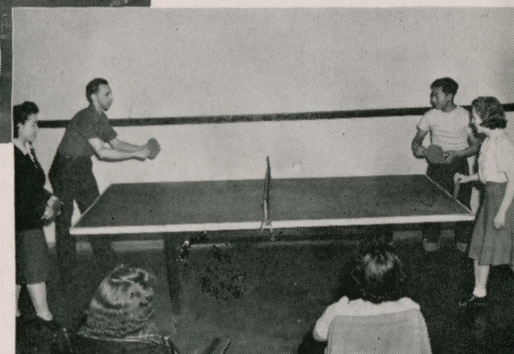


titled to a bed and three meals a day. If a hosteller remains at the hostel after he has commenced his job, the rate increases to a dollar and a half per day. For children under ten years of age, the rate increases from fifty cents a day to seventy-five cents under similar conditions. These rates are nominal charges; they do not cover expenses.

**Skillful Dietitian.** Mrs. Shizume Akinaga is the hostel dietitian, buyer and cook. Food rationing makes planning meals an art which she has learned well. She is skillful at providing a balance of American and Japanese dishes. Full stomachs boost the morale of resettlers and keep hostellers happy.



**After a busy day** investigating jobs and looking for apartments, hostellers gather to discuss prospects and to relax in the hostel recreation room. Comparing notes is a favorite pastime.



**Making Friends.** Through introduction to the educational, cultural, religious and social life of the neighborhood, the hostel assists resettlers in making the necessary adjustment to the new community. Informal hostel social affairs provide an opportunity for hostellers to meet other Chicago residents and to become integrated into the normal social life of the city. Resettlers find a warm welcome in Chicago and nearby communities and they make new friends quickly.



of reading and conversation. Most young resettlers look forward to "bringing out" their parents.

**Doing His Part.** The chores consist of serving meals, washing dishes, and maintaining the house and garden. A work schedule is prepared each evening for the following day. Each hosteller has an opportunity at that time to volunteer for his share of the house responsibilities.



**Playing Together.** Babies at the hostel are always centers of attraction for both hostellers and neighborhood children. Many families are realizing that they can all relocate together successfully by going to the hostel.



#### Arriving in Chicago.

If the prospective hosteller has telegraphed the hostel director en route, indicating his train, its station, and time of arrival, a Travelers' Aid is usually there to greet him when he arrives. This new friend helps him get his baggage, tells him how to get to the hostel and sends him on the way.

**The Hostel.** The resettler is pleased to discover that his new home is comfortable, modern, and large—large enough to accommodate thirty-five resettlers. Located in one of the better neighborhoods, surrounded by spacious well-kept lawns, and looking out over beautiful Lake Michigan, it provides a colorful contrast to the old relocation center barracks. What a welcome sight after a long, hard, dirty train ride!



**Preparing for Relocation.** The hostel representative at each relocation center takes a personal interest in every prospective hosteller. He suggests that the applicant secure letters of reference, and other material which might help in securing employment, such as birth certificate, union card, and tools for his trade. He sees to it that the relocatee checks with the Leave Office concerning grant and maintenance funds, war ration books, indefinite leave cards, etc. The hostel representative stands by as a friend to offer traveling hints and to prepare applicants adequately for relocation to the hostel.





**Virginia Asaka** is the hostel secretary and its gracious receptionist. In addition to her routine duties as receptionist, typist and stenographer, she acts as interpreter for first-generation hostellers who speak inadequate English, and as a hostel counselor. Another duty is to forward the large quantities of mail which come for former hostellers. She is a capable and indispensable assistant to the hostel directors.



**Helping Make Decisions.** The hostel staff takes a special interest in each hosteller until he has secured both a satisfactory job and permanent living quarters, which usually requires one or two weeks. Hostellers are counseled to take their time, make wise choices, and to stick to their jobs. At the same time, they are encouraged to secure both jobs



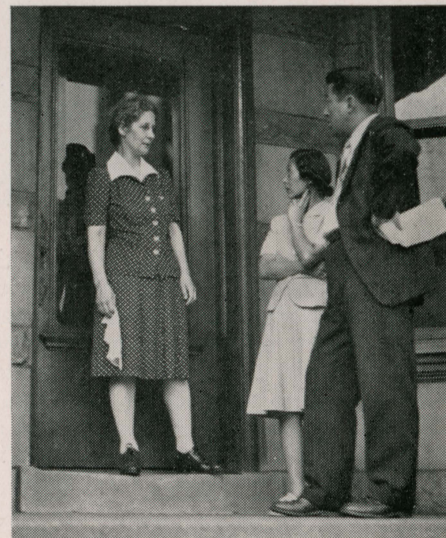
and living accommodations as soon as possible so that the hostel will be able to aid as many resettlers as possible.

**Discussing the Future.** On Monday and Thursday evenings, hostellers regularly enjoy the most significant and helpful experience of their entire stay at the hostel: frank discussions of the personal and social problems they face. Led by a member of the hostel staff, assisted by outstanding young Japanese Americans of Chicago, these discussions have proven most valuable to hostellers attempting to begin a normal life anew. Older first-generation hostellers participate as freely as do the younger of the second and third generations. The spacious hostel parlor is also popular for entertaining friends.



**At Work.** Finding a job is an easy task. The War Relocation Authority and the United States Employment Service have far more employment offers in most lines of work than there are resettlers to fill them. Hostellers may also seek employment without the aid of the government. Because west coast discrimination had previously limited their fields of work, many resettlers are for the first time at jobs for which they trained themselves and are receiving higher wages than they have ever received.

**Looking for Permanent Quarters.** Finding a home is a more difficult task. After securing employment, hostellers are counseled to take a few days off to find a permanent place to live before actually going to work. The shortage of housing in Chicago, however, is not as serious as in many other centers of employment. Discrimination against Orientals is negligible. Resettlers are living in all sections of this city of nearly four million people.



**Finding a Home.** An increasing number of families are applying for hostel reservations. This family has secured a six-room furnished flat. It may not be as modern as their former home on the west coast, but it is many times more comfortable than was their relocation center room. Their children are attending one of Chicago's modern schools and enjoying a free normal life. Some families of resettlers have found more adequate homes in Chicago's suburbs. A study made by one of the hostellers, Frank Miyamoto from the University of Southern California, for the period of March 1 to August 25, 1943, shows that the median rent being paid by resettled hostellers was \$4.50 per person per week while the median wage being earned was \$29.62 per person per week. More recent trends show increased wages.



**Normal Family Life.** Resettlement restores normal family life. It is still possible to obtain sufficient food to entertain guests. The hostel follows up relocated hostellers by visits and correspondence. It is anxious to have its "alumni" succeed in resettlement. No former hosteller has been known to return to live in a relocation center.



The Brethren Relocation Hostel is administered by the Brethren Service Committee of the Church of the Brethren. This church is a historic peace church and because of its convictions in this

respect it has organized a world-wide program of reconstruction. This program is supported by the sacrificial giving of its members, who are motivated entirely by their desire to apply the Christian principles of love and brotherhood to all people. The hostel is a practical testimony to evacuees of the church's genuine desire to bring reconciliation between all peoples.

**Members of the Church of the Brethren** live throughout the Eastern and Central parts of the United States and on the West Coast. They are about 180,000 strong and are mostly farmers and rural people. The church is in many ways conservative and emphasizes the simple virtues that make stable, co-operative, community living possible. Hostellers will find a warm welcome in Brethren circles. Members of the church keep the hostel well supplied with donations: fresh and canned food from their farms, homemade blankets, hostel beds—all evidence of their faith and interest in Americans of Japanese ancestry. The hostel invites all interested individuals to contribute to its program, financially and in other ways.

#### Hostel Statistics as of Nov. 1, 1943

Total number of hostellers .....587  
Average number of hostellers per day 25  
Average number of days hostellers stay at hostel ...11.6  
Average age of hosteller .....22.6



The directors of the hostel are Mr. and Mrs. Ralph E. Smeltzer. Because of the co-operative plan of living, very little supervision at the hostel is necessary. The directors stand ready to welcome resettlers and to give a helping hand wherever it is needed: finding jobs and homes, giving advice about Chicago, introducing strangers, referring hostellers to places of entertainment or worship, storing baggage, counseling on various personal problems, providing recreational and social activities and visiting former hostellers. In addition to being host and hostess, they keep records, pay the bills, repair the premises, and keep the hostel operating smoothly. As mother and father of the large hostel family, theirs is a twenty-four-hour job, without including calls to interpret the hostel program to civic and church groups. The hostel directors endeavor to make relocation as easy and attractive as possible for those persons still in relocation centers. The hostel invites all prospective resettlers to enjoy the hospitality it offers.

#### BRETHREN RELOCATION HOSTEL

6118 N. Sheridan Road  
Chicago 40, Illinois  
Phone HOLlycourt 1842

Administered by

#### BRETHREN SERVICE COMMITTEE

of the  
Church of the Brethren  
22 South State Street  
ELGIN, ILLINOIS

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