



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Minnesota State Archives

**ATTORNEY GENERAL  
Public Welfare Division**

**An Inventory of Its Litigation Files: State vs. Sponsorship and  
Refugee Programs, Inc.**

**OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS**

**Agency:** Minnesota. Attorney General. Public Welfare Division.  
**Series Title:** Litigation files: State vs. Sponsorship and Refugee Programs, Inc.,  
**Dates:** 1981-1985.  
**Quantity:** 1.9 cu. ft. (2 boxes).  
**Location:** See Detailed Description section for box locations.

**SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS**

Files documenting the state's investigation into allegations of financial irregularities and misrepresentations involving the Hiawatha Valley Farm Cooperative Project (HVFC), a farm project near Homer, Minnesota organized by Sponsorship and Refugee Programs, Inc. (SARP), a subset of Church World Service (CWS). The project, which used state and federal funds, was meant to promote refugee resettlement by training the participating Hmong families in American farm practices and the operation of the farm through a cooperatively owned corporation. The actual farming operations were excellent and never involved in the litigation. The project dissolved in 1984 and the case was settled out of court.

Included in the files are legal documents, correspondence, and SARP and HVFC materials. Many of the latter were apparently provided by SARP to the Attorney General's Office and the Public Welfare Department as part of the state's investigation. They include minutes, budgets, contracts, correspondence, reports, and clippings.

## INDEX TERMS

*These records are indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.*

### **Topics:**

Agriculture, Cooperative--Minnesota.  
Church work with refugees--Minnesota.  
Hmong Americans--Minnesota.  
Litigating.  
Public welfare--Law and legislation--Minnesota.

### **Places:**

Homer (Minn.).

### **Organizations:**

Hiawatha Valley Farm Cooperative (Washington County, Minn.).  
Minnesota. Dept. of Public Welfare.  
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Church World Service. Sponsorship and Refugee Program.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

### **Preferred Citation:**

*[Indicate the cited item and folder title here].* Minnesota. Attorney General. Public Welfare Division. Litigation files: State vs. Sponsorship and Refugee Programs, Inc. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.  
*See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.*

### **Accession Information:**

Accession number(s): 994-82

### **Processing Information:**

Processed by: Charles Rodgers, September 1993  
PALS ID No.: 0900322728

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

*Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below. Each file consists of one folder unless specified otherwise.*

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	
126.E.5.4F	1	<p>Legal records:</p> <p>Affidavits of Alfred Helling and Susan Renstrom, 1984.</p> <p>Affidavit and exhibits of Jane Kretzmann, 1984. 1 expansion folder and 2 folders.</p> <p>Legal documents, 1984.</p> <p>Minnis vs. CWS (Church World Service): Complaint, 1984.</p> <p>Minnis owned the farm property that CWS originally committed to purchasing but was later unable to buy.</p> <p>Correspondence:</p> <p>Agriculture project in Homer, 1982-1983.</p> <p>CWS correspondence found in SARP (Sponsorship and Refugee Programs, Inc.) records, 1982-1984.</p> <p>CWS correspondence, 1982-1984.</p> <p>Correspondence with CWS, 1984.</p> <p>Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church: Correspondence to and from Ross Graves, 1981-1983.</p> <p>Graves was project organizer and director.</p> <p>Education Department, 1983.</p> <p>Correspondence with "Feds," 1984.</p> <p>Hiawatha Valley Farm Cooperative, 1983-1985.</p> <p>Foundation correspondence to attorney Kellum, 1984.</p> <p>Graves, Ross, 1981-1984. 1 expansion folder and 1 folder.</p> <p>Graves and Minnis, 1982-1984.</p> <p>Correspondence regarding Health Aide Interpreter, 1984.</p> <p>Hennepin Technical Center, 1982-1983.</p> <p>Minge, John, 1983-1984.</p> <p>Project director.</p> <p>Public Welfare Department (DPW) correspondence with SARP, 1981-1982.</p> <p>SARP correspondence with CWS, 1980-1983.</p> <p>SARP correspondence with DPW, 1982-1984.</p> <p>SARP, 1984-1985.</p>

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	
126.E.5.5B	2	<p>SARP-CWS letters to foundations and foundation responses, 1983. United Methodist Church, 1980-1981.</p> <p>SARP (Sponsorship and Refugee Programs, Inc.) records: Agreement: SARP/HVFC (Hiawatha Valley Farm Cooperative), 1983. Board minutes and correspondence with President Marney Mathers, 1984. CWS budgets, 1983-1984. CWS: Information, 1984-1985. 2 folders. Contracts, 1983. Coopers and Lybrand, Consultants, 1984-1985. Debt information, 1984. Farm correspondence, documents, and reports, 1984. Financial information—miscellaneous, 1984. Long range planning, 1981-1984. Newspaper clippings, 1984. Organization documents including board minutes, 1983-1984. Press information from SARP files, 1983. Proposals and reports, 1981-1983.</p> <p>HVFC (Hiawatha Valley Farm Cooperative) Project records: CWS settlement, 1985. Contracts/budgets, 1984. Farm information, including grant, 1983-1984. General information/press, 1983-1984. Miscellaneous, 1984. Planned secondary resettlement, 1984-1985. Agreements, 1984. Human Services Department grant applications, 1984-1985. Lao Association of Mutual Assistance, 1983. Minnesota Council of Churches, 1984. Public Welfare Department grant contracts and miscellaneous grant reports, 1982-1984.</p>