

Elizabeth K. Radinsky Scholarship

What is the Elizabeth K. Radinsky Scholarship?

This scholarship is in honor and memory of Elizabeth K. Radinsky, MSW, a social worker with a special interest in foster care. The scholarship will be given to a student who is dedicated to child welfare. Multiple scholarships will be awarded: amounts vary.

Who was Elizabeth K. Radinsky?

Elizabeth K. Radinsky (1904-death date unknown) served as director of case work of the Jewish Youth Services of Brooklyn, and director of the Foster Home Department of the Jewish Child Care Association (JCCA) of New York at the time when the two agencies were integrated. She was the Associate Executive Director of JCCA from 1960 to 1970.

The fourth child of six in a Russian-Polish Jewish family who came through Ellis Island, Mrs. Radinsky earned a Bachelor's Degree in English from Hunter College in 1929. She went on to receive a Master's Degree from NYU in Social Service in 1935, and took classes in administration, supervision, and casework at Smith and the Pennsylvania School of Social Work in the late 1930s and early 1940s.

Mrs. Radinsky began her career in social work in 1929 when she was hired by the Foster Home Bureau, one of the predecessors of the JCAA, and an outgrowth of the Pleasantville Cottage School. In 1937 she moved on to the Brooklyn Hebrew Orphan Asylum (later the Jewish Youth Services) which eventually merged with the JCAA. Mrs. Radinsky was a pioneering proponent during the 1930s, 40s, and 50s for today's foster care system; along with Mary Boretz and Lucille Lazar Mrs. Radinsky advocated for children to be placed with families as babies and toddlers rather than waiting until they were six years old and she was also an advocate for children being returned to their birth families (typically their mothers) when they were institutionalized because of familial poverty. Additionally Mrs. Radinsky was active with the Girl's Club Service which was a forerunner to adolescent services offered today by varying social work agencies.

When Mrs. Radinsky retired in 1970 she continued to give time and energy to the foster care system; she worked as a consultant in Israel and also wrote an early manual about foster care for the JCAA. She was also a longtime member of the National Association of Social Work.

A transcript and oral interview with Mrs. Radinsky can be found here:

http://digital.cjh.org/view/action/nmets.do?DOCCHOICE=1567496.xml&dvs=1430322012745~161&locale=en_US&search_terms=&adjacency=&VIEWER_URL=/view/action/nmets.do?&DELIVERY_RULE_ID=1&divType=&usePid1=true&usePid2=true