

For Immediate Release:

MIPJ

MIPJ Releases *A Neighbor Among Neighbors: Erie Neighborhood House – 150 Years as a Home with No Borders*

New Orleans, LA – International nonfiction publisher, MIPJ: Media, Information, International Relations and Humanitarian Affairs (<http://www.mipj.org>) announced today that it would be releasing this comprehensive history of Erie Neighborhood House (ENH) (<http://www.eriehouse.org>) next month on October 15, 2020.

Written by Maureen Hellwig, Ph.D (University of Illinois at Chicago), a former volunteer and employee of ENH, the book is a commemoration of its 150th year of service to five generations of immigrants as “a home with no borders.”

“While the origins of Erie Neighborhood House pre-date the founding of Hull House, there is no doubt their work as a settlement house was greatly influenced by Jane Addams and the movement she catalyzed,” said Hellwig—herself a lifelong Chicagoan and the great-great-granddaughter of Irish and German immigrants. More than that, she said, “[It] has not been just a passive witness to the growth and development of Chicago and those who would come to call it—and the United States—home.”

She continues: “When neighbors were tired and hungry, Erie House fed them, but not just with food—with knowledge. Through education Erie House empowered their neighbors to become citizens who take that privilege seriously. Numerous volunteers from Presbyterian churches throughout Chicagoland, motivated by the social gospel, came to Erie House to give and were constantly amazed at how much they received, because a settlement house fosters reciprocity.

“Dutch, Norwegian, German, Polish, Italian, African American, Puerto Rican, or Mexican—you were welcome at Erie House. From pre-schooler to elder, you had a second home there.”

According to MIPJ Publisher/Executive Editor, K.J. Wetherholt, “Amidst current controversies in the United States about immigration, including what can often be a xenophobic emphasis on national stressors and scarcity-consciousness, it seems an important reminder that our economic successes and national hegemony have wholly depended upon those who came from elsewhere and despite all odds have served their communities as proud Americans.

“Except for First Nations, we are all immigrants here, and *A Neighbor Among Neighbors*, as a history of this particular organization, exemplifies the sense of community that can be built when we understand that we all are better for supporting one another toward mutual understanding, well-being, and success.”

Gary Johnson, CEO of the Chicago History Museum, adds: “This masterful work tells how enduring values have allowed a settlement house to be an open door and a community voice to a succession of immigrant groups for 150 years - and counting. What is particularly valuable and unusual is that the analysis is equally insightful for every period, including the present.”

The book will be available in both paperback and digital among various eBook formats upon its publication.

For Press, Bookstores, and Libraries, including wholesale information, please see <http://www.mipj.org/eriebook.html> or contact sales@mipj.org

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