

Collection Name:

Lucy Spruill Papers and Photographs

Collection Number:

2022.0085

Collection Dates:

Collection Location:

Detre Library and Archives

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Collection Description:

Greene County native Lucy Spruill pursued civil rights activism as a college student at the University of Pittsburgh, the only local college that accepted her as a wheelchair-using student with spina bifida in the early 1960s. Embodying these values in her work, Spruill became a social worker and human services administrator who provided perinatal services to women and children in need for over 25 years. All the while, Spruill advocated for the expansion of rights for the disability community, pushing for progress in transportation, employment, education, inclusion, independent living, and support services for people with disabilities.

Spruill incorporated disability advocacy into her professional work amid the national push for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Spruill was on the White House lawn during the

signing of ADA and became Pittsburgh's first ADA Coordinator in 1993. Throughout her career, Spruill effectively collaborated with municipal and transportation leaders to implement lifts on buses, expand bus and paratransit service maps, and update building codes to facilitate no step entries into local businesses.

The Lucy Spruill Papers and Photographs primarily consist of original writings from Spruill. Notably, these writings reflect her professional writing in the fields of social work and perinatal services as well as compositions that reflect her broad-based Civil Rights philosophy. Also included are testimony in support of accessibility and resisting funding cuts for services.

*Not fully cataloged. To request more information, use this link -
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Collection Keywords: