

DOROTHY GANTVOORT
Interviewed at Elizabeth McBroom's home
On July 21, 1993
By Elizabeth McBroom

ABSTRACT: Dorothy Gantvoort, a resident of Flintridge, has been a long-time volunteer and board member in various organizations in the San Gabriel Valley, including the League of women Voters, the Coleman Chamber Music Association, Planned Parenthood of Pasadena, Rosemary Cottage, and others. The focus of this interview is primarily on her relationship with Rosemary Cottage. The interview was conducted by the late Elizabeth McBroom, professor emerita, School of Social Work, University of Southern California.

MCBROOM: This is an interview with Dorothy Gantvoort. I'm Elizabeth McBroom. We're talking at my home in Pasadena on July 21, 1993. Dorothy had been a board member of Rosemary Cottage and of Planned Parenthood in Pasadena over a period of time. She will tell us about, and we're going to talk today of some of her recollections of these agencies from the perspective of a board member. Dorothy, have you been interviewed before about these things?

GANTVOORT: No, I have not.

MCBROOM: All right. Maybe you could just start by telling what first got you interested in Rosemary and what they were doing at Rosemary.

GANTVOORT: Well, I am very grateful to the League of Women Voters in Pasadena for making me conscience of some of the social problems in the city even though I don't actually live in the city itself. And when I was asked to go on the Rosemary Board it opened up a whole new world. This was in the late '50s and I was on the board off and on through part of the 60s. When I went on the Rosemary Cottage Board the finances were at a very low ebb. There was an incompetent administrator. Things were really in a dreadful state. So much so that three of us board members went down to the head of the United Way in Los Angeles. The woman's first name was Irene. I don't remember the last name(Liggett). She said to us, "You don't need to keep

Rosemary alive forever. Try to keep it alive for one more year. Why don't you invite your friends to a luncheon at the Cottage and ask them to give you a hundred dollars and become a patron?" Well, it was a wonderful idea and many patron lunches were held and we certainly succeeded in raising quite a bit of money and meantime the county had raised its allotment to the girls. The County had not quite caught up with the fees.

MCBROOM: Do you remember what the fee was?

GANTVOORT: No, I don't really. But I can tell you what it is today. It is \$3500 a month for each girl.

MCBROOM: And in those days, can you remember anything what it was in the neighborhood of?

GANTVOORT: No, I really can't. I really can't.

MCBROOM: Okay, but a very small fraction of that.

GANTVOORT: Oh yes indeed. The county wasn't aware actually of how living costs were rising so very, very fast so finally we fired the incompetent administrator and hired Ella Reese. Perhaps you knew her.

MCBROOM: I knew Ella.

GANT VOORT: And she was a wonderful director, and we certainly enjoyed her and eventually she retired and Hank Cohen took her place in 1964. I remember very well being in the group that interviewed him. Now as I looked around at the needs of the Cottage, I felt I could provide something, which was a little unusual. Some years ago, I had worked at Young and Rubicon, an advertising agency in Hollywood. There was no brochure of any kind, no literature to give to the public, so I asked my former boss, the art director, if he would design a brochure for us, which he did. A very, very beautiful design. And one of the copyrighters wrote the text and Grant Dahlstrom, who owned the Castle Press, did the printing, and he took the photographs. His wife, by the way, was president at the time of Dahlstrom; so the brochure was very successful in interpreting the program. It was a tool which we needed. And then what was the other thing? Oh yes, then

I started to write some newsletters and I used my daughter as a model. She was a teenager then. So that went out to our patrons and many interested supporters and I think this publicity did an awful lot for Rosemary Cottage. I truly do. I felt that it was a contribution. And then in 1961, Julia Child, whom everybody knows, published her big book, "Mastering the Art of French Cooking." One of our guild members, Edith (name indistinct) knew Julia very well from Julia's Pasadena days, and Julia had come with her co-author, Simone Beck to Pasadena to autograph the book and to publicize it. So Edith persuaded her to do a benefit for us, which she did at the San Marino's Women's Club. I don't have to tell you it was a great success although Julia's reputation hadn't grown up big at that time. And she autographed the book and one of the local bookstores took charge and we got a percentage on the sale of the book. I still have my autographed copy. Now, another advance was made under Hank's administration, and believe me, he was an absolutely wonderful executive and administrator.

MCBROOM: Yes, he was very innovative, wasn't he? On the advancing edge of practice and child care.

GANTVOORT: Yes, and those girls couldn't get away with anything under Hank.

MCBROOM: He was very realistic.

GANTVOORT: Very realistic. He said, "I know all their tricks. They can't fool me." And of course, there were many efforts to fool him. Well, one of the steps forward was to build the administration building which is right next door to the big building at 3244 East Green. Joe Johnson, who was a very well known architect, gave us the plans. We raised the money somehow and this gave the staff some space that they badly needed. Joe Johnson's wife, Peggy, was president at that time. You know I think back to the very beginnings of Rosemary, if that's of any interest to you. Well, in the twenties, there was a great need to shelter abandoned and runaway girls in Pasadena. They were found on bus stops, corners and the rest of it. And there was a very dedicated policewoman who saw the need and didn't want to send these girls to Juvenile Hall which was the only shelter

available. So she and some of her friends rented a cottage. That's how the home came about, in Pasadena, which housed several girls under the care of a matron. That program was so successful that these same women, with the help of other people, built the big house at 3244 East Green Street. At that time, it was not a treatment center. It just took care of girls in need.

MCBROOM: It was a shelter.

GANTVOORT: A shelter. But I recall hearing this; it was during World War II that the county saw the need to protect girls. It was a very turbulent period. So Rosemary was developed as a treatment center at that time. What has happened under Hank is that we've had three group homes he organized: one was on Oakland in Pasadena and that was when Bob Jurgensen was president. That was a wonderful old house and of course we housed only six girls because of the limitations of unrelated people living together. Then in South Pasadena we bought a house which has been very successful, a wonderful house with great protest from the neighbors, believe me, but we finally got it. And now there is a kind of temporary shelter called "Bonnie House" which is on Bonnie Street not far from PCC (Pasadena Community College) and that is a kind of temporary shelter to try to find out just how best these girls can be placed. Perhaps they can go back home or perhaps they can be placed in one of the group homes. Now, as of yesterday, I heard that they are planning another group house.

Something came up when I was talking to Hank. He believes firmly in the foster care program. And this is what is happening to Rosemary now. This is becoming a foster family service organization. And my understanding is that the county is going to provide care for infants to children eighteen years old, and they've opened an office as of yesterday in the Hastings Ranch area which will house the woman, Kathleen Mueller, who is the director of development. She will have a staff. There will be some other help up there, I know. The staff is going to be very well cared for, and they have a fax machine and all the rest of it and a staff of five under this program. It is expected that the

staff will increase in number. It really is kind of fantastic. In my early days, Rosemary was in such bad shape, but now, here they are, hoping to find a house, a new group home, in an area where there are good public schools. They don't want to place the girls in any more of the Pasadena schools because there are already so many foster children there and it's very difficult.

MCBROOM: It's kind of saturated with children in treatment.

GANTVOORT: Yes.

MCBROOM: Do you know anything about the South Pasadena facility? Are they finding a better experience with the public schools there?

GANTVOORT: I've never heard of any terrible problems actually because I'm not that close to the Cottage anymore so I can't tell you. But I have a very dear friend who just retired as a French teacher at Pasadena High School who had three Rosemary Cottage girls, she was telling me the other day, who took French, of all subjects. And one of them did very well. She said the problem was they came from such uncertain, troubled backgrounds that it was very difficult for them to concentrate and one girl dropped out. But she was very fond of the girls. She said she found that they were very sweet kids underneath and she was very sympathetic. She's a very sympathetic person. She said, "I'm sure they were at ease with me." So it would take somebody....

MCBROOM: It makes a difference to have a teacher like that.

GANTVOORT: Oh, you bet. And Jeffrey Salinas, the new director of what was called Rosemary Children's Services, is remaining at the big house at 3244 East Green. Now let's see, what else can I tell you?

MCBROOM: You mentioned something about your also being a long time board member of Planned Parenthood and you mentioned that Hank, in the beginning, didn't want this kind of service for the Rosemary's girls. Can you tell about how these two things interact?

GANTVOORT: Yes, I can. I can remember a discussion Bob Jorgensen, who was president, and I had with Hank on that subject. “No, he said, “our girls have to conform to the rules. We’re not going to issue any birth control devices or anything of the sort. They’re just going to have to follow the regular rules. Well, it wasn’t too long before he discovered that that wasn’t realistic and then Planned Parenthood became involved, sending counselors and the education specialists down there to talk to the girls. And so far as I know we still have a wonderful program between the two agencies. We have on the Planned Parenthood board a staff member of Rosemary, Rhonda Dates, and she is a great help in interpreting what is going on because we need that kind of information.

MCBROOM: Planned Parenthood needs to understand about the girls at Rosemary.

GANTVOORT: Particularly about emotionally disturbed teenage girls who present quite a problem to begin with, coming from the destructive homes that they come from and from the abuse. So Planned Parenthood, I think, has a good handle on the affairs of Rosemary Cottage and we send out education specialists to the community and to the schools and to Catholic and public schools, private schools of all kinds.

MCBROOM: The Pasadena Agency has been quite a leader in this peer-counseling program....

GANTVOORT: Oh, yes. There is an interesting article in this week’s United States News and World Report on and I think it is the State of Michigan that has had a peer counseling program and I was kind of amused because it appeared as though this were absolutely something brand new but we’ve been doing it for years. It’s a very successful program

MCBROOM: The Pasadena Planned Parenthood has been very innovative, I think.

GANTVOORT: I think so because we have peer counselors the age of the junior high students up to college age.

MCBROOM: In your board member career, what have you found that is gratifying to you, Dorothy?

GANTVOORT: Well, I have to stop and think. I think watching a program go forth and progress and to advance and serve the community has been my satisfaction. And I've been involved with fund raising. Certainly we got Rosemary Cottage on the road to stability through fundraising.

MCBROOM: I think you have quite a gift for that.

GANTVOORT: Well, I didn't know that I had. It came about through the League of Women Voters. I had to take on the job of becoming the financial director when one of the women in charge ran for public office and there wasn't anybody else to do it. So it was the hard way to learn because the appeal is so very different.

MCBROOM: Today your title would be the Director of Development or Advancement.

GANTVOORT: Yes, I feel that. I am very pleased with the experience that I've had in fundraising and especially through the Coleman Chamber Music Association concerts for public school children in the whole Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley. And that has been a satisfaction. But it takes a certain dedication, a feeling for the needs. But, I've enjoyed it all.

MCBROOM: As a board member, can you remember encountering obstacles that were frustrating to what the board was trying to do?

GANTVOORT: Yes, I can. I can. One knew the experience of going as a neophyte under the Rosemary Cottage board when the woman in charge was not professionally trained. She was a very hostile person who disliked two or three of us intensely. She knew nothing about fund raising. She was just there as a kind of matron/supervisor and we were embroiled in some heated arguments.

MCBROOM: She kind of wanted things to be the way they always had been.

GANTVOORT: Her idea of fund raising was to write a letter to one of her friends. There was no systematic structured kind of going out to the community through corporations and foundations or anything. It was a very unpleasant time. I can tell you that when a board has to decide to fire somebody, and they had secret meetings, it was very unpleasant. But she said she would not even continue as the director if Fran Anson and I stayed on the board. So some of us said that we couldn't tolerate that. After all these secret meetings, we finally fired her and Ella Reese came on up. So that was a very unpleasant episode, I can assure you.

MCBRROOM: How did you work it out actually?

GANTVOORT: We just told her to leave.

MCBROOM: So you fired her and you hired a professional.

GANTVOORT: Exactly.

MCBROOM: Started the process of bringing Rosemary into the 20th century.

GANTVOORT: Certainly; well, I was pleased last fall. There was a dinner to pay tribute to Hank Cohn after his retirement. I put my table together through various ex-board members and their wives and husbands I knew were going to come. We had a wonderful table and what was interesting about it was that we all got up and spoke about the early days and what we felt our contributions were and so forth. But there was a huge table which was devoted to Rosemary Cottage girls and their husbands and boyfriends and families. And it was really very reassuring to look over and see these attractive young women who had made it in life. Very pleasing.

MCBROOM: Did some of them speak as well?

GANTVOORT: No, I don't think they did. I don't remember because we were all so busy bobbing up and down paying tribute. I do think they did now as I look back. And some of them introduced themselves and their mothers and relatives. That was a rewarding evening, I can tell you.

MCBROOM: Have we covered all the items that you have in the statement that you made here. Can you remember back when Hank Cohn replaced Ella Reese and what kind of waves did it make to have a man at the helm there.

GANTVOORT: It made lots of waves because he was the first male director of an institute for girls who are emotionally disturbed. But there were others that followed him, indeed. Oh my, there was lots of criticism of how he was going to cope with those girls. He coped all right, believe me.

MCBROOM: I remember when we placed the first male student for fieldwork at Rosemary.

GANTVOORT: Did you?

MCBROOM: The other students were giving him really a bad time and kidding him about how he was going to be carrying on with these girls.

GANTVOORT: Well, there was at one time, too, a school on the grounds; it was held in a little trailer and it was quite successful. And there were two young men from the public schools of Pasadena who were simply marvelous. Because some of these kids have done nothing but fail.

MCBROOM: And they've known nothing but bad men who were trying to take advantage of them.

GANTVOORT: That's right.

MCBROOM: And it must be quite a different experience to encounter a kind man who they know is interested in their welfare and is on their side.

GANTVOORT: I don't know what happened to the school eventually but maybe we couldn't finance it any longer and it was in cooperation, of course, with the city of Pasadena. Now the city of Pasadena, I think, has been very kind to our girls on the whole, from what I hear in the schools.

MCBROOM: They've had a good experience. The move to get away from Pasadena schools is on the basis of the saturation.

GANTVOORT: Yes, of foster children. Then, too, there was a walk-in service which Hank started. I think maybe it was still in service. But it was a very good idea for youngsters who were desperate to just walk in and get some help.

MCBROOM: They'd come in with a crisis at home or a quarrel and then they'd talk to someone and go back home again?

GANTVOORT: Yes. I don't know how far that has progressed today. Hank would know of course.

MCBROOM: But there are so many changes. So many things that kind of come and go. Well, an agency is kind of a living, growing thing.

GANTVOORT: Well, it has to be. Oh yes, and at one time I know the problems of the cottage, well drugs are a problem, of course. And angry parents, all kinds of odds and ends, things like that. And then alcohol took over from the drugs and I don't know what some of those problems are today. But I would guess....

MCBROOM: But you were very close to these at the time of being a board member. And you would hear about all the problems that needed to be coped with.

GANTVOORT: Of course, all the things would be reported and we did have a good five year plan which took place and was eventually realized.

MCBROOM: And what was that?

GANTVOORT: Well, to begin with, was the building of the administration building. That was costly. But Joe gave us the plans. He was responsible for the whole installation.

MCBROOM: Joe?

GANTVOORT: Johnson. His father, Reginald Johnson, was one of the great architects of Pasadena. You may remember he built the Faculty House, there on the campus and he was renowned for many of the beautiful residential houses.

MCBROOM: He built the Atheneum at Caltech

GANTVOORT: He built it, but not the design. Those were not his designs. Those were the designs of Gordon Kaufmann. His granddaughter was a friend of my daughter. Well, in any case, I think that is about all I can supply that could be of any interest. Oh, excuse me, one more thing.

There were guilds that were developed that helped financially. Well, there was a very old guild when I went on the board that had been established probably in 1950 or something. And those women were very loyal and they did a lot of special things for the girls. They would occasionally even take them home for the weekend which is a rather dangerous thing to do. It didn't always work out, I can tell you. We had that guild which became the Chef's Carnival Guild and the Chefs offered to present benefits at which they would do their own cooking and supply everything and they would also receive some of the funds for their own scholarships. And that worked very well. Finally, that guild got a little bit tired and moved to the beach and sort of collapsed. Then I started a guild, which turned into an arts guild, and they had lunches, and I think that may even still be in existence. Loraine Stinson was the president of that and Nina is still around very active. She would be a source of information as to what they are doing. And then I started another one but everyone fell apart on that one. It was up in the residential area of Hastings Ranch. That didn't last for very long. So now there is a resurrection of the Chef's Carnival.

MCBROOM: That was quite famous here. Everybody knew about that.

GANTVOORT: And then they had one at the Civic Center. You may have gone to that one in the open air there. And the Kiwanis Club took over. Now we're coming to something. The Kiwanis Club is on the board of Rosemary, I think the president is still a member of Kiwanis and they were just wonderful. You can ask Hank about that. And very devoted people and they had that benefit at the Civic Center there next to the big theatre. Oh they did that for several years. And then this year they had a wonderful benefit at the Shakespeare Club. It was astonishing really. The chef at the Annendale

Country Club, Wolfgang Kaufmann said, "Look, I'll do this. I'll get all the chefs together." And this is the way it had worked before: one man would be in charge of getting all these other chefs from country clubs, restaurants and so forth. So Wolfgang Kaufmann said, "We'll do it all ourselves and we won't even ask for money for our scholarship." It was very stylish. The food was wonderful. Everything was attractive. They even had a dance floor with a small band. It was a beautiful evening and I enjoyed it thoroughly. I didn't know anybody there.

MCBROOM: Is it going to be repeated?

GANTVOORT: Oh, I have no idea. But it should be. It is so hard to get into the Shakespeare Club to begin with. But the Shakespeare Club was one of the original groups that supported Rosemary in the very early days, as you may know.

MCBROOM: No, I didn't know. So they have a long history as a friend of Rosemary.

GANTVOORT: Well, this is a great benefit and they didn't charge too much. I think it was fifty dollars for a fantastic dinner, buffet style, but the food was marvelous. So that was quite a triumph for Rosemary. I don't know if they made a lot of money, but I hope they did. I think they might have. It was very well organized.

MCBROOM: Dorothy, we've kind of touched on this but I want to ask you the question directly. From a board member's perspective, what do you think is possible for a board member to do to really affects the program and the policies of an agency?

GANTVOORT: First of all, I think any board member should be chosen on the basis of what he or she can bring to the board, whatever talent, whether it's a lawyer, a financial expert, a social worker, someone who is interested in publicity as I am, public relations. These people have to be chosen. Certainly, that's how we operate on the Planned Parenthood board and we are very successful in getting the very people that we need. So you have a well-balanced board in terms of ethnic groups and color and so forth. In the early Rosemary days, it was extremely hard to get anybody who wasn't white to

serve on a board of directors and the few that you could get, some of them just came on as token board members, you might say. And that was not successful in those days. Now it's entirely different. You really have your choice.

MCBROOM: Tell about some of your experiences with some of the newer type of board members.

GANTVOORT: Well, I would say, judging from the Planned Parenthood board at the moment, we are very well balanced in ethnic groups. We must have at least four Latinos and Latinas. I would have to say, off hand, I would have to think more seriously, at least three black members who are highly gifted people. One is a doctor and two are school administrators with Ph.D.'s. One is a social worker. This is another one. And out of a board of say twenty-two or three people, I think we're balancing pretty well.

MCBROOM: And do they keep examining policies that work or don't work as well and think of new programs....does the board initiate programs?

GANTVOORT: No, I wouldn't say that. No, I think this is done primarily by staff which is just as well, in this case. Now at Rosemary, we did look at policies, and I kind of expected that when I went on the Planned Parenthood board. It's a different system, but it still works.

MCBROOM: The staff at Planned Parenthood tends more to present a program for the board's approval or a policy for the board's approval. And at Rosemary and some of your experience there, the board took initiative in developing new programs or policies?

GANTVOORT: Like the five-year plan. Well, we have a five-year plan at Planned Parenthood.

MCBROOM: Is that a board project? Did the board really write the five-year plan?

GANTVOORT: I think it was primarily the executive committee. For instance, we want very much to establish a prenatal clinic. That's part of family planning, too.

MCBROOM: And is that quite central in the five-year plan?

GANTVOORT: Well, we've talked about it and talked about it. We were turned down by every hospital imaginable. They didn't want to get involved. Then, I believe it was the Methodist Hospital, I'm not sure exactly where that was located...

MCBROOM: Is it the one in Arcadia?

GANTVOORT: I don't think so. Is there one in Glendale? In any case, right now everything is stopped because of Managed Care which is coming up. So people are holding back.

MCBROOM: Things are at a kind of standstill.

GANTVOORT: That's right. So until that is worked out, I don't think we'll be making any great steps forward.

MCBROOM: Has the Planned Parenthood taken some leadership in the move to get school clinics established in the public schools?

GANTVOORT: Not that I know of. But we have wanted very much to go out to the western part of Los Angeles County as far as Pomona.

MCBROOM: Eastern.

GANTVOORT: Oh, that's right. That's east. We have it in Glendora, Azusa, in that direction. But there is a need out there. Of course, everything is changing so rapidly in the field of population control. Norplatt and this "dopra" something or other, which I believe is effective for three months. They request that now, I learned yesterday. And then of course we have an abortion clinic, you know.

MCBROOM: Tell us about that.

GANTVOORT: Well, on Saturday morning an abortion clinic is run by Marge Gomez, who used to run the abortion clinic at the Los Angeles Planned Parenthood Agency. Very capable Latina.

MCBROOM: Is she a physician?

GANTVOORT: No, she's not a physician. No. I don't think we average more than six a week.

MCBROOM: Are they performed at the agency?

GANTVOORT: Yes. And we have a nurse practitioner, you know. Now I don't think that Marge performs the abortions herself but there is a nurse practitioner. We have a doctor. Dr. Norton is on call there. That it is handled very discreetly. But we are finding that so many of the girls want to keep their babies, whether they're married or not. It's the kind of epidemic which of course in turn puts pressure on the community, welfare and all that.

MCBROOM: Do you know anything about the follow-up? Some of them are very young, I presume.

GANTVOORT: You mean after they've had their babies?

MCBROOM: Yes.

GANTVOORT: No. They're encouraged, of course, to use birth control but many of the girls who have had that first baby have the second one as you know. Seems to run that way. But we wouldn't have the time or the money to follow-up on each case like that. If they come back...

MCBROOM: But there are some agencies who look after these young mothers and their babies.

GANTVOORT: Well, welfare if they can't live at home.

MCBROOM: A good many of them do live at home. And go back to school.

GANTVOORT: Yes. And once in a while they marry their boyfriends. Often happens.

MCBROOM: And I understand some public schools have infant care facilities.

GANTVOORT: Yes, I believe they have.

MCBROOM: But you see a trend that's different from what it was a few years ago, the number of girls who want to have the baby and keep the baby.

GANTVOORT: We were talking about that. We have a pediatrician on the board, and he always gives us an insight into what is happening among the pregnant girls in Pasadena. He feels very strongly that it is a very strong tendency today for the girls to keep their babies. He can't figure out quite why but they apparently feel they're going to get some emotional security out of this poor little infant who has no father. It's kind of sad.

MCBROOM: They need the baby.

GANTVOORT: To love. Without thinking of what the coming years are going to be. The responsibility.

MCBROOM: We've touched on this but I wonder if you are aware of influence that any of the innovations first that Rosemary has had beyond the immediate community. Has it been copied in other places?

GANTVOORT: I wouldn't be able to say. I've not had any professional experience with social work, and I wouldn't know what the effect is. But, I'm sure that the reputation of Rosemary has gone all over the United States. Just where it's had the most influence, I don't know. When Hank was administrator, we were very much aware through Child Welfare Conferences that Rosemary was renowned, definitely.

MCBROOM: And certainly, through some of these conferences and so on it must have had some influence....

GANTVOORT: Oh, I'm sure it did, yes.

MCBROOM: A kind of leading edge in child welfare practice.

GANTVOORT: Yes.

MCBROOM: And what about Planned Parenthood in Pasadena? Do you think their policies have had an effect beyond the immediate locality?

GANTVOORT: Well, remember Los Angeles County has its own Planned Parenthood. It's the only state in the Union where there are two Planned Parenthoods in one county. I can't tell you what goes on in Los Angeles except that it is a very dynamic

program and they are able to get movie stars and that sort of thing to do their benefits. We can't do that in Pasadena but if you're talking about Planned Parenthood as an agency influencing other family planning agencies, is that what you mean?

MCBROOM: I mean, for instance, the peer counseling, does Planned Parenthood take a lead, in Pasadena and that is why they are copied elsewhere?

GANTVOORT: Oh, I am sure. That is why this article in the United States News and World Report yesterday was not news to me but they presented it as though it was the greatest thing that ever happened.

MCBROOM: And as though it started in Michigan.

GANTVOORT: Yes. And we've been doing this for years. There have been two directors that I know of, maybe three and the one we have, this young girl, Pam Garcia is just fantastic. She's just marvelous.

MCBROOM: She's a dynamo.

GANTVOORT: She is. And she's so young and looks younger than she actually is, so she has the confidence of these children. Peer counselors are all paid, you understand.

MCBROOM: Well, I think that's very important.

GANTVOORT: It sure is. They're doing something. And she started out as a peer counselor herself so she feels it's important to pay them and they're highly respected in the schools, by the school nurses and so forth. The schools want them. They need them.

MCBROOM: They're welcomed into the schools.

GANTVOORT: Oh, you bet they are. When the Catholic schools call for help....you can be sure. Yes.

MCBROOM: This is an idea whose time has come. Well, is there anything else that you'd like to say?

GANTVOORT: I can't think of anything at the moment except that it's been very pleasant rehearsing and going back over these things that happened so long ago but are still effective today.

MCBROOM: Well that's a great tribute to what you did back then.

GANTVOORT: Well, I think so. We were determined not to see this thing go down the hill totally so we just got busy. That's what women can do, I think. And we had a strong board at that time, some powerful men, too.

MCBROOM: Rosemary could have just been buried in that hard spot back then.

GANTVOORT: Oh, I think they would have closed the doors, no doubt about that. They were just at the edge of falling over. But it shows what people can do when they are determined and believe in the cause.

MCBROOM: Well, it's a tremendous tribute to you and your fellow board members, I think, that Rosemary survived and has become such a model agency.

GANTVOORT: Maybe we were a little bit naïve, but we persisted.

MCBROOM: Never underestimate naivete. Or persistence.

GANTVOORT: There was a particular pleasure working with Hank Cohn. He was one of your students, wasn't he?

MCBROOM: He was our student, yes. And he was director for how long?

GANTVOORT: From 1964 until 1992.

MCBROOM: Close to thirty years.

GANTVOORT: And goodness, the stories he could tell.

MCBROOM: Well you had a long rich association with Hank, I think, as a board member.

GANTVOORT: I think a board has to be inspired by the executive director, there is no question of that.

MCBROOM: A good board and a good executive director is a winning combination. Well, Dorothy, I want to thank you very much for sharing this. The tape will be at the Archives in the Arlien Johnson Library at the school of Social Work in the University of Southern California. One of these days, it will be transcribed, and one of these days, we will have an archivist who will have these materials in order and available

to people who need to look to them for what they need to know about what they're doing in the present.

GANTVOORT: I'm sure that Kathleen Mueller, the new development chairman who is being paid for her job, I might add, would be very glad to hear this tape. Then she wouldn't have to listen to me tell it all over again.

MCBROOM: We'll see if we can get a copy for her.

GANTVOORT: That would be very nice.

MCBROOM: Thank you, Dorothy, very much.