

## Collection Summary

**ID Number:** CS 516

**Title:** Sevenoaks Pathwork Center

**Extent:** 1 Folder(s)

**Span Dates:** 1984

**Language:** English

**Geographic Location:** Madison, Virginia

**Abstract:** This collection consists of flyers and handout about the organization's services.

## Selected Search Terms

**Subjects:** Communal living; Collective settlements; Housing, Cooperative; Commune; Spiritual retreat centers; Nonprofit organizations

**Historical Notes:** Sevenoaks Retreat Center was founded by Donovan and Susan Thesenga in 1972 as a center for personal and spiritual growth on land called "Sevenoaks" since the Civil War. Named in honor of the seven majestic 300-year old oak trees that crowned a ridge with breathtaking views of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Sevenoaks was long a working farm nestled on the banks of the Rapidan River. At that time, they founded Sevenoaks Retreat Center, the Thesengas were practicing Zen Buddhists and psychotherapists utilizing a form of body-oriented therapy called bioenergetics and incorporating encounter group techniques from the human potential movement. The original Oak House continues to provide guest accommodations. They led weekend groups in the only building then on the property, Oak House, which also served as their home. Their passion to combine therapy with spirituality, led them to the Pathwork®, a contemporary psycho-spiritual path. In 1976, the Thesengas donated Sevenoaks to the non-profit organization of the Pathwork, which developed a strong presence and community in the Mid-Atlantic region. Afterwards, energy for giving in the community exploded, and all the buildings on the Sevenoaks campus were constructed with contributions and loans from members. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s Pathwork programs expanded, and Sevenoaks also attracted other compatible groups to use the Retreat Center. In 2001, a beautiful round sanctuary building (52 feet in diameter) called Light House was erected and became the spiritual heart of the Center, attracting many other groups, those training in acupuncture, meditation, yoga, sacred dance, shamanism, and spiritual healing to enjoy our facility. Sevenoaks is now extending its base to include many other paths and groups as we seek to expand our mission of awakening light and love in the world. **Sources:** [Sevenoaks Pathwork Center](#)

## Administrative Information

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Contents	Date	Container	Folder	Location
<b>"Sevenoaks Center." Flyers about Organization and Services (3 pieces)</b>	1984	Filing Cabinet	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 16-C