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## Gardeners sow good deeds and reap therapy

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Someone told Carol Moilanen that no one in the area would be interested in a new horticultural therapy project right now. She wouldn't buy that and called several nursing homes who begged for her club to start such a pro

ged for her club to start such a program

Carol's group is the 16-month-old
Southfield Branch of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association
Just 28 members strong, they have
taken on a number of busy projects.
"Our club is quite new and I'm a
charter member." Carol said. "Most
of our women are from Southfield We
meet the third Wednesday of each
month in the members homes and occasionally at the Southfield Presbyterian Church."

Carol is chairwoman for the horticultural therapy project which is a part

Carol is chairwoman for the horticul-tural therapy project which is a part of every branch's program, she said "11's a 12-month a year project of working with those who are mentally or physically ill or elderly." She ex-planted. "Our goal is to motivate them. The work is usually done in hor ptals, nursing homes and schools. "We work at the Lahser Hills Nurs-ing Center here in Southfield. We have involved about 18 elderly people, and what we want them to know is that we care about them."



CAROL MOILANEN

SEVEN OF the garden club members are part of the horticultural therapy program. They are: Peg Baldwin Peg Stowers, Irene Solomon. Mary Lou Johnson, Marge Short, Ruth Mur phy and Carol Moilanen.

"We help them make simple projects like flowers from plastic egg cartons," said Carol. "Also, you can take a small bottle, cover it with masking tape and then shoe polish. It looks just like a leather vase. Then they are filled with straw flowers and each patient takes one to their room.

"They're really proud of making something on their own. We also help them plant flowers in egg cartons and they take them to their rooms and care for them and water them."

The seven women visit the nursing home twice each month for about 90 minutes, but this month a special picnic for 100 patients was undertaken. The branch members served a lunch prepared by the nursing home kitchen and provided some tasty extras like sauerkraut which the patients requested.

sauerkraut which the patients requested "We're all brand new at this but we're learning." the garden club chairwornan said. "We attended a workshop at the Clinton Valley Centre recently which was headed by Alice Burlingame, and we learned a lot. "Nationally, our association provides scholarships for universities and colleges worldwide 'so students can learn about horticultural therapy." The new garden's club biggest project to date is their very first garden show scheduled for June 3 and 4 at Somerset Mail.

"REFLECTIONS of Love Garden Show" is the name given the event being presented as a public service free of chage.
"It's our first and we're very nous," said Carol. She will be preparing an exhibit on horticultural therapy for the show and other entries as well.

Chairwoman of the show is Marie Becker, garden club president. For further information, call her at 569-

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