

Foundation chief is two-fisted fighter

By JACKIE KLEIN

Most of the workers in the Southfield-based Childrens Leukemia Foundation of Michigan (CLF) have an afflicted child or suffered the loss of a youngster to the dread blood disease. But that's not the case with CLF president Alan Cornfield who 12 years ago joined the fight against leukemia



DR. ALAN

because of his concern for others and to help prevent the serious illness from striking his own family. The 40-year-old, podiatrist from Farmington Hills is serving his fourth term as president of the non-profit, volunteer organization incorporated in 1952 to fund leukemia research projects.

"Twelve years ago," Cornfield recalled, "my wife, Sharyn, became involved in the Michael Stark chapter of the foundation which was comprised of members from Southfield and Oak Park. Michael, who died of leukemia, was the son of friends of ours."

"I couldn't join the chapter because membership was restricted to young ladies. I and other husbands were recruited to do the heavy work like lug a variety of items for rummage sale fund-raisers."

"SINCE I couldn't really be actively involved in the chapter, I decided to do my thing for the parent organization. I took the job as president because I can't be a passive member of any group."

Cornfield, who has four children between the ages of seven to 18 and a busy practice, also serves on the board of American College of Foot Surgeons and Michigan State Podiatry Assn., southeast division.

He is a member of the budget panel of United Way of Michigan when funding for organizations other than CLF is considered. He appears on the other side of the financial ledger when he represents the foundation in budgetary matters.

Merely conducting CLF meetings isn't Cornfield's style. For the past several years, he's been involved in organizing theater party benefits as major fund-raising efforts.

A state-wide medical advisory board of hematologists suggests funding for research grants to University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Beaumont Hospital and Childrens Hospital Child Research Center, Cornfield explained.

"United Way of Michigan, with which the foundation is affiliated, requires organizations to give value for money received in fund raising efforts," he noted.

"United Way frowns on bikeleasts, walkathons and telethons. That's why CLF sells Christmas cards, maintains a tribute fund and sponsors entertaining events to raise money. We provide

about \$200,000 a year for research and \$35,000 for patient services.

"CLF is available to anyone who requires its services including financial assistance. Patients don't have to prove their inability to afford to pay for their own treatments. They're suffering enough traumas without being stripped of their dignity."

The foundation also maintains a medication aid committee of parents who have lost children to leukemia and related blood diseases, Cornfield said. Committee members are trained to speak to other families experiencing similar heartaches.

About 50 per cent of persons in contact with CLF are adults who may be long-term survivors.

About 50 per cent of patients in contact with CLF are adults, Cornfield said. With existing medication, persons with leukemia and other blood diseases may be long-term survivors. Some doctors contend simple forms of the illness are curable.

Cornfield, who has received a number of foundation awards for his dedication, is a "one in a million volunteer," according to fellow workers. And volunteers are the heart of the leukemia foundation.

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EMS unit gets nod for township

Purchase of "Life Squad One," West Bloomfield's first Emergency Medical Services (EMS) rescue unit was authorized by the township board recently.

Cost of the vehicle, one of two proposed, will be \$28,404. A "life pack" or telemetry equipment will cost an additional \$11,000. The money has already been budgeted.

Delivery is expected in 120 days with the township hoping to implement its EMS system by Jan. '71.

The rescue vehicle will enable a team of two to three paramedics to rush to the scene of medical emergencies and stabilize victims until they can be transported to the hospital of their choice.

Paramedics, now in training, will stay in constant communication with a base hospital, yet to be chosen. Pontiac Osteopathic, St. Joseph, Beaumont and Providence hospitals have been scheduled to make presentations to the local EMS residents' advisory committee next week.

THE TOWNSHIP board also authorized spending \$27,500 for a new fire station site at Hiller and Greer roads in the northwest area of the township. Money for the site, which measures

slightly more than one acre, would come from the local share of federal block grant funds.

"It would house one of our rescue units," Twp. Treasurer Sue Warner said. "We have the site on our master plan."

The proposed station would eventually replace Fire Station No. 4 on Coolidge Lake Road.

Trustee Raymond Holland voted against authorization for the site since the land's owner has not accepted the township's offer.

"I don't like that type of bidding," he said, adding that he thinks the price should be negotiated.

THE BOARD also voted to investigate the use of a 911 emergency telephone number. Trustees will meet with Michigan Bell Telephone representatives to discuss the system.

Mrs. Warner said trustees have been told that a 911 tie-in is possible in the township but that it would only be "feasible" if about 20 neighboring communities agreed to participate.

A central receiving station staffed with dispatchers would have to be provided.

"It has been recommended by the EMS committee," Mrs. Warner said. "We owe it to them to investigate it."



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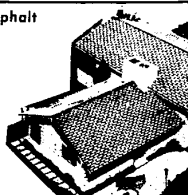
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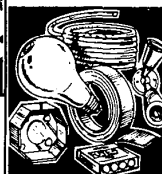
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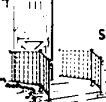
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