

The Poverty Room

Helping the needy is not seasonal work

By LORRAINE McCLISH

JoAnn Sexton and Betty Holbert worked in the Poverty Room in Duns Scotus College leading up to Thanksgiving five filling up and distributing food baskets until "we were ready to fall over and out."

The two, who travel from their Farmington homes several times a week to volunteer their time in the Southfield college, described their work as "like housework. You just never catch up."

Now they are on the countdown to filling the needs of what they expect will be 112 families, and that will not only be food, but toys and gifts and clothing for Christmas.

"We might be working a little harder this time of the year, but our work isn't seasonal. Needs are there all year around," said Mrs. Holbert of 2280 Tu-lane.

The two are among a total of seven volunteers who work with the college's Brother Martin with a never-ending flow of used clothing, toys, household items, food, and just about anything a family could need that comes in from contributors and goes out to the needy.

FORD MOTOR Co personnel suffering temporary hardship from the recent strike were the latest big influx of persons who came to the college for help. Families whose homes and possessions have been destroyed by fire have been outfitted with the necessities, and that sure isn't seasonal," Mrs. Sexton said.

It is only when the shelves start looking empty of food that the two women staff to worry. Then the call goes out generally to churches, through their newsletters and

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—Betty Holbert, volunteer at Duns Scotus

bulletins, for either money or canned goods because "that's what goes the fastest."

"And that's what we're down now," said Mrs. Sexton, who lives at 2023 Goldenruth.

Summed up, their job is to sort items from the contributed boxes that come in a size 6 pair of boots, or a size 12 coat we'll know where to find it," Mrs. Sexton said.

But money also is important, to be used for items that are not in stock, the two were instrumental in staging two Christmas concerts, for the express purpose of filling this kind of need.

Margaret Colla, music director at Power Junior High School, and the school's Madrigal Choir, supplied the Christmas Concert during the pre-Christmas season in 1975 and were back to do it again this year.

MRS. SEXTON has been working in the Poverty Room for the past five years and jokes about the fact that "we are both Baptists, but we are learning fast about the Catholics."

Mrs. Holbert came to the college when she found herself in need, "and now it's six years later and I'm still here," she said.

She told a story about how bad she felt when a "really desperate woman came for food and we only had two cans of soup on the shelves to give her. I guess we must have made a fuss about it because some one heard about her and the next day we found ourselves on TV."

"But I have been down that road asking for help. I understand what it is like to have to ask. I guess that's why I do what I do," she said.

Everything distributed from the Poverty Room is given without charge, and "there is no red tape. No filling out forms. Just check in with Brother Martin and tell him what you want and we do our best to fill your order for you," Mrs. Sexton said.

"No money changes hands. Matter of fact, some Girl Scouts wanted to hold a rummage sale there, but because they would be charging for their rummage, Brother Martin said they were going to have to put their show on somewhere else," Mrs. Holbert said.

"There is still time for contributors to send money or food, or small children's gifts we can stuff in the baskets," Mrs. Sexton said. "So far as clothes go, all we ask is that it is clean and in good condition."



Brother Martin and Betty Holbert work together in The Poverty Room at Duns Scotus. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Emergency Medical Service

Club chairman alert is sent out by AAUW

By LORRAINE McCLISH

The League of Women Voters of the West Bloomfield-Farmington Area Branch has put out a call that they are anxious to share some of the facts they've gleaned in their year-long study of Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

The group has prepared a program on the subject with speakers who will talk before clubs and organizations, mornings, afternoons or evenings any time after Jan. 1. They are particularly concerned that the communities not be lulled into a sense of false security because of two new ambulances in Farmington.

It would be more accurate to describe Farmington Hills Ambulance Company's new vehicles as one component of a first class EMS system, said Paula Tobocman, president of the local league, "because without highly trained personnel and sophisticated communications, the ambulances themselves cannot guarantee first class service."

THE LEAGUE SPEAKERS want to emphasize the difference in capability between a basic system, such as Farmington Hills Ambulance Company reportedly provides, and an advanced life support system, such as is in operation in the City of Southfield.

A first class EMS system is known as an advanced life support system, and is operated by paramedic personnel, or advanced EMTs.

When any agency, public or private, calls an advanced life support system, or paramedic service, at least one of the attending personnel on every run must be trained from 200 to 300 hours beyond the basic 8-hour EMT course. And such service must be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It is also important to stress that only advanced EMTs are qualified to use the so-

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—Paula Tobocman, AAUW president, West Bloomfield-Farmington Area Branch

phisticated equipment on such units. These units carry all the basic EMS equipment, plus a defibrillator, biomedical telemetry equipment, intravenous solutions and medications, Ms. Tobocman said.

Direct radio telemetry communications between the paramedics at the scene of the incident, and a physician in the hospital emergency room is also an essential component of an advanced life support system.

Further, an advanced EMT is trained to help identify and treat a life threatening condition at the scene, in consultation with the emergency room physician, with whom he is in direct radio contact.

MS. TOBOCMAN stresses that the big difference in service could be a life or death matter, where, for instance, the use of a defibrillator could shock the patient per drug in time could save a life," she said.

After a year-long study, the local league is now working toward the implementation of an advanced life support system of EMS in the communities.

"So we ask our citizens to view with skepticism any suggestion that the rescue service we now have comes near to living up to this high standard," Ms. Tobocman said.

Summed up, the speakers will describe

the components of an EMS system and show how the proper combination of well trained personnel, quality equipment and rapid response time can achieve dramatic results in saving lives.

THE FIELD of EMS is comparatively new. It was introduced in Ireland in 1964 and based on the idea of bringing the emergency care to the patient directly, instead of rushing the patient to the emergency care. What this involved was putting a hospital intensive care unit on wheels and sending it to the patient, whether this was at his home, his work or the scene of an accident.

Statistics the league has state that in Oakland County alone about 250 coronary deaths and 30 accidental highway deaths could be prevented each year with proper emergency care.

The league speakers will describe EMS in general, and local emergency care is delivered now in the communities as determined in interviews with city officials, fire chiefs, hospital emergency room physicians and ambulance service operators.

To schedule a program, organization representatives in Farmington and Farmington Hills may contact Mary Lazaranton at 831-6077.

For programs to be given in West Bloomfield, call Charlotte De Roover, at 628-4366.



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Suburban Life

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Series on children resumes in January

"Children, Yours and Mine," a mini-series sponsored by Adat Shalom Synagogue last year, will be repeated on Wednesday mornings beginning Jan. 12. Sessions will be held in the Adat Shalom synagogue from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Baby sitters will be provided for children over one year of age.

The series will feature various speakers who will talk on parent-child relationships, the teaching of learning disabled, helping the dyslexic to read, foods that can affect behavior, and how women can become more exciting mates for their husbands while still raising children. The speakers' lineup includes Dr.

Thomas Z. Cassel, At Koral, Rabbi Jeffrey Lazar of Temple Beth El, Janet Bowen, Jerry Borham, and Barbara Blatt.

Reservation forms are available by contacting the synagogue office at 831-5100 and must be made before Jan. 5.



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A tree for the Finns

The birds on a Finnish tree signify love and peace, the yarn dolls wish you good luck for the year, the apples and candy wish you luxury. Linda Weiskopf wraps one of the candles, set on the tree to light the way for Santa, after the tree was completed by her Girl Scout Troop

703. The fourth, fifth and sixth graders researched the traditions of Finland with their teacher, Ann Weiskopf, before the girls began making their decorations. The tree meets in Eagle school. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)