

Area people reach out to handicapped

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Life isn't always fair and the folks connected with ALYN, a hospital in Israel for crippled children, know all about that.

The four letters—ALYN—spell out handicapped in Hebrew but Goldie Eskin says they also stand for "all the love you need."

ALYN is a long-term hospital and school with about 100 patients, mostly from impoverished homes. "They are economically and culturally deprived homes," Mrs. Eskin said.

She added they have approximately 2,500 out-patients for treatment, therapy and rehabilitation who are taken

care of in five clinics.

"The goal of the hospital is to teach them independence, giving them dignity and self-worth," Mrs. Eskin explained.

There is a teenager named Yaffa at ALYN who moves around in a wheelchair which she propels by breathing into a sensitive apparatus.

"Before Yaffa got her chair, she tried to commit suicide," Mrs. Eskin said. "She's a quadriplegic and there wasn't a bright future for her, but now she has hope. She's even learning to type with an instrument held between her teeth."

Goldie Eskin is a Cleveland native who lived most of her life in Detroit. In 1973 she visited Israel on a sabbatical and liked it so well she decided to stay. Today she is back in this country as a representative of ALYN.

HER MISSION is to tell the ALYN story here and form chapters made up of people who care about children such as Yaffa.

Take Florine Mark, for instance. A busy executive in Southfield who lives in Farmington, she has come to the fore in the challenge of forming this new helping organization in this area. Mrs. Mark said she has five whole and healthy children and two beautiful grandchildren for which she is grateful. She also has a living reminder that tragedy can strike anyone.

"The year before the polio vaccine was perfected, my younger sister Sonya Berlin was struck with polio," she said. "If not for the March of Dimes, I don't know what would have happened. Today, she walks with braces and crutches and uses a wheelchair when necessary. But she's alive."



FLORINE MARK

"We're lucky and we feel we have to give back, so both Sandy and I have been active and chaired Mother's Marches for the March of Dimes. Helping crippled children is something very close to my heart."

On Wednesday, May 24 at 8 p.m. she will open her Farmington home to a large gathering of people who will become charter members of the ALYN Society for Physically Handicapped Children.

Anyone desiring an invitation to the

wine and cheese party can call 557-7885.

Other chapters have been founded around the country. In California, a group has been organized under the leadership of entertainer Frank Sinatra.

SINATRA visited the hospital in Jerusalem when he was in Israel recently.

"Until seven years ago, the hospital was in a monastery," Mrs. Eskin said. "Then a new facility was funded. It's

beautifully equipped and we have a school for children below high school level. They are taught a vocation.

"Every patient is ambulatory by means of wheelchairs and other special equipment. They play soccer and basketball and lead active lives." Mrs. Eskin said the hospital lobbies for the handicapped and tries to find housing and jobs for them. "We have to remodel the kitchens and baths for their needs so they're able to take care of themselves."

"Right now we're building a hostel. We have an excellent volunteer staff who come for six months or a year but we need to build housing for them."

She said 10 per cent of the patients are Arab, some of them having been injured in the recent hostilities in Lebanon. "We'd like to build a surgical wing too, but that's in the future."

What they really want to do is to redress some of life's unfairness with a lot of love and care.

Amit BPW close season

Each spring the American-Italian (Amit) Club plans a distinctive closing event to its annual season. On Saturday, May 20, at Somerset Inn, Troy, Amit will meet for a noon luncheon preceded by refreshments at 11:30 a.m.

Entertainment will be provided by the Pasiche Woodwind Quintet, a professional group of young, talented musicians, whose previous perform-

ances include the Brunch with Bach Series at the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Colegrove Series at Orchestra Hall and the Meadow Brook Festival. Currently the group is performing at Somerset Mall each Monday evening.

The quintet has also been cited by the mayors of Detroit and Florence, Italy, who appointed them to represent Detroit in the Renaissance Cities program in Florence later this fall.

Special guests at the luncheon will

be the Sisters of Providence, who will receive proceeds from a recent Amit fundraiser. The funds will assist the sisters in their work at Our Lady of Providence School for mentally impaired girls in Northville.

Amit president Mrs. Felix Abaldo has appointed Oakland County members to serve as hostesses at the luncheon. Among them, Mrs. Edward L. Baker, Orchard Lake; Mrs. Carl Barbach, Lathrup Village; Mrs. Howard

Colby, Rochester; Mrs. Frank Franco and Mrs. Remigio Garcia, Farmington Hills; and Mrs. Nino Genna and Mrs. James Holden of Birmingham.

Also, Mrs. Anthony Marchese and Mrs. Paolo Polidori of Troy; Mrs. Edward Nielson, West Bloomfield; Mrs. Thomas Palmer, Bloomfield Hills; Mrs. Robert Riccardi, Orchard Lake; Mrs. Mario Trafletti, Troy; and Mrs. Steve Petix and Mrs. John Wrobel of Birmingham.

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