

Volunteer art corps to train

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

The Oakland County Cultural Council will begin training arts-minded persons for its new Volunteer Action program in the Arts Corps. In-depth seminars will be led by experts in five areas through the summer for the corps to go into action next fall.

The training is given without charge and is open to all persons who reside in Oakland County.

"All of the training will come from experts who are members of the Michigan Council for the Arts," said Marlowe Belanger, chairman of the county council. "In addition, we'll have consultants coming from time to time, so you know what kind of expertise we're talking about."

The training is offered in volunteerism; arts and education; promotion and publicity; community programming; and funding and grantsmanship.

Those who choose to be trained in arts and education probably will work with school systems bringing in all facets of enrichment programs for the students.

Promotion and publicity trainees will learn how to contact the media to best spread the word of an upcoming event.

The sessions on community programming concern those activities within a community that are developed in addition to strictly the fine arts. Examples would be programs for seniors, environmental or beautification events and activities.

Grants and funding is a special area of expertise that teaches how to raise money that runs from fun and games through filling out a form for funds from a foundation or a federal agency.

"WE HAVE MORE leisure time



MARLOWE BELANGER

than ever before, and we will keep getting more leisure time so it's important that we find more new and exciting ways to get ourselves and our communities involved in the arts," Mrs. Belanger said.

The Oakland County Cultural Council now has 65 communities committed to programs of arts-oriented activities, each with an officially appointed resource representative.

All of the training sessions and seminars will take place in the Pontiac Court House complex's conference room.

Co-chairmen of the new corps are Neve Williams, of Clawson, and Joan Kopietz, of Clarkston.

Inquiries can be made by calling the Oakland County Cultural Council, at 1200 Telegraph, Pontiac, 888-0100. Or, Mrs. Belanger will take inquiries by calling her at 888-0415.

Volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau, a program of the Volunteer Action Center of United Community Services, has weekly listings of agencies needing volunteer services. Further information about these and over 200 other agencies may be obtained by calling the bureau, 642-7722. Any non-profit agencies needing volunteer assistance may also call the bureau.

ACTION CORPS VOLUNTEERS—The Oakland County Cultural Council is forming volunteer Action Corps to assist with art and art activities. The group will work in areas of instruction, coordinating art involvement in communities and gathering art information. Training will be given June 12 and 19 at the Oakland County Service Center in Pontiac.

GROUPS—Franklin Manor Convalescent Center in Southfield is looking for groups or individuals interested in presenting special programs to the residents. Volunteers with musical ability are especially appreciated.

Hours are flexible but volunteers should be willing to come on a weekly visit.

MEN—Troy Youth Assistance is looking for men for their program, PLUS (People, Listening, Understanding and Sharing). This program is designed to assist young people to develop positive feelings of self-worth. A volunteer becomes a friend to a child by including him in social activities either on a one-to-one basis or with the volunteer's family. A training program is provided as is continuing contact with professional staff. The time per week is flexible.

CAMP ASSISTANT—Volunteers over the age of 17 are needed by the Oakland County Easter Seal Society to assist with their summer camp program beginning June 27. Duties include assisting handicapped children in being as independent as possible, aiding in swimming classes or music, craft or therapy, according to the volunteer's training or interests. All sessions are held at the Pontiac location.

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