

Directory helps domestic violence victims

An envelope-slim directory, just off the press and believed to be a "first," offers answers for the victims of domestic violence in the counties of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb.

This compact, how-to-and-where-to-help directory is a major project of the United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit (UCS). It is designed to help both children and adults, and to give immediate help as well as long-range assistance. Entitled "Help for the Victims of Domestic Violence," several thousand are being distributed to key locations throughout the tri-county area.

Richard F. Huegli, executive vice president of UCS has announced that a top priority of UCS is the expansion of help for the abused, both children and adults.

He said a special grant from the United Foundation in the amount of \$233,300 has enabled UCS to expand the services of its already established agencies involved in aid for the abused, and to also set up the first Family Trouble Clinic.

THE NEW CLINIC is working with two police precincts in Detroit and Wayne County, and is located at 11000 W. McNichols, Detroit. A daily service, it gives help for the troubled family after the police are summoned on a home violence situation.

"The American family is undergoing a revolution," Huegli said. "The

change is in the lifestyle of families, and we have to tailor our services to those who need help living in that new lifestyle. Today's families do not necessarily bear resemblances to the family we knew 50 years ago. Statistics show that one of every seven children today is being raised by one parent."

He added that the family problems which once were whispered over the back fence are erupting into the open. People are reaching out for help which they once believed impossible to get. Even HEW is having difficulty setting up the White House Conference, which was planned for the end of 1979, because of basic conflicts over the definition of "family," Huegli went on. The department is trying to come to terms with whether government assistance to families in stress should be neutral to all kinds of families, or slanted in favor of the traditional two-parent family, he explained.

"We believe that the composition of a troubled family is not the primary consideration," he continued. "If children are being abused, if wives are being abused, or if anyone in that family unit is being abused, it is vitally important that help be available and immediately."

TODAY A FAMILY unit may be one parent, it may be an aunt or an uncle or a grandparent rearing children and trying their best to fulfill the role of a parent. Problems from this family

spill over into the community, and society pays the price along with the involved individuals.

Huegli announced that along with the distribution of this 14-page directory will be a concerted public campaign to get the word to those who need help. Media will be involved and all of the agencies who come in contact with the community. "It is of the utmost importance that we let the public know this kind of help is available."

The new directory lists specific service centers for the three counties. It also provides a listing of emergency shelters for those in danger of being hurt or those who have been hurt. The

problem of runaways is included along with specific help.

Financial aid is explained for those who feel that they are caught in an abusive situation because of financial need. There is particular emphasis on sources of help for child abuse. Not only the public agencies, but other sources of assistance from volunteer organizations are included.

Copies will be available through police and sheriff's departments of the

tri-county area. School counselors, legal aid offices, libraries, some churches and religious organizations, nurses and medical associations, judges of all the courts, children's clinics and women's service centers, and all departments of Social Services.

Anyone wishing a directory and unable to locate one may call UCS Community Information Service at 833-3430 or a toll-free number for outside Detroit - 1-800-552-1183.

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Volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau, a program of the United Center of United Community Services, has weekly listings of agencies needing volunteer services. Further information about these and over 200 agencies may be obtained by calling the bureau, 642-7272. Any non-profit agencies needing volunteer assistance may also call the bureau.

OFFICE ASSISTANT—Previous office experience and a love for small children are the requirements for this job with Walcott Kinder House in Birmingham. Duties include answering the phone, and general office work. Hours can be flexible.

ACTIVITIES—Avondale Convalescent Home in Rochester is looking for volunteers interested in helping the elderly. Duties vary but may include transporting residents to and from activities within the home, visiting, writing letters and assisting with

activities. Training is provided.

HOBBY CONSULTANT—Volunteers who are interested in a one-time commitment and have hobbies or crafts they could share, are invited to visit the Southfield Rehabilitation Center. Consultants bring sample of their hobbies, explain how to get started, and answer questions. Time can be arranged at the volunteer's convenience.

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.

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Class Reunions
DETROIT MACKENZIE 1953
The Mackenzie High School class of 1953 is beginning a search for graduates interested in attending a 25-year reunion Saturday, Sept. 16. Those who want more information about the gathering may call Maureen (Carney) Kelly of Troy, 524-2581.
DETROIT ST. THERESA 1953
The class of 1953 at St. Theresa High School in Detroit will hold a 25-year reunion Saturday, Nov. 4, in Weber's Inn of Ann Arbor. Jerry Carrier of Carrier & Gable, Southfield, 275-5230, is collecting names of those interested in attending.

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