

At Sacred Heart

The shelves at the clothing center are bare

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

Two Farmington women who started collecting clothes to give to welfare families and ADC members about 12 years ago have a seasonal problem every August.

"We get shaky every year in our before-school crunch," said Donna Batchelor, who with Pat Schwartz operates the Sacred Heart Clothing Center in Detroit. "Our shelves are so bare of children's clothing it's scary."

The women need clothing for children from the cradle through high school. A critical need, that is perennial, in for boy's pants.

"Not cutoffs," Mrs. Batchelor said, "we get tons of those, and they go to summer camp. We want good school clothes. We have gotten a reputation for handling quality. I don't pass out rags."

"For years we kept the seminary incinerator busy with the junk we got, but finally got our contributors educated to the fact that we were selective."

Another need is for chubby children's clothing.

"Because of the starch and more starch in most welfare family diets, a

lot of these kids are overweight. We do what we can to try to keep them looking decent," she said.

MRS. BATCHELOR describes herself as a "professional beggar" stemming from the time she and Mrs. Schwartz opened their first center in the inner city in conjunction with a soup kitchen.

The move to the seminary was made nine years ago, when they realized they needed more room and began concentrating on stocking children's clothing.

Their biggest demands came when the seasons changed, and always just before school's opening. There is little demand for men's clothing because there are not many men within the families they serve, even though some of the teen-aged boys might wear men's sizes.

In the interim years, the two women have come to know some of the families that visit the center and at times have been able to act as a mini-referral agency.

"If you know anything at all about welfare agencies you know that you could drown in the red tape. We've been able to cut through it for some of

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— Donna Batchelor

them before they died of starvation," she said. SEVERAL OTHER realizations that came along the way have been manifested in a donation system and a Christmas party at the center.

The donation system allows for the shopper to fill a bagful of clothing of his or her choice for 50 cents.

"We found that a great many of the families wanted to pay something for the clothing they got. It gives them a little bit of dignity and for some that is about all they have left," she said.

The 50 cent donations go for purchasing underclothes, which are items that are rarely donated and badly needed or for the next Christmas party.

For the annual party, Mrs. Batchelor and Mrs. Schwartz devised a format which allows parents to choose a

gift for each of their children that they can give themselves rather than having the child receive the gift from a stranger or from Santa Claus.

"The list we get is staggering, but the Lord provides; the friends come through; somehow we make it," she said.

THE TWO WOMEN began their "professional begging" while Mrs. Schwartz was a service director for the Girl Scout troop at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, and Mrs. Batchelor was serving on the church's lunch program and Christian Service Committee.

"Do that for a while and it gives you a lot of contacts," she said. "We beg-

ged and lectured so much to the parishioners some wouldn't dare give their used clothes to anyone else. We started that center and when the shelves get bare, that's our responsibility."

The two women are sure that when mothers bring out school clothes they put away last spring, thinking they might fit for one more season, some of them will not.

Mrs. Batchelor said each of them are more than willing to accept clothes dropped off at their homes. She lives at 2414 Elizabeth Court, and Mrs. Schwartz lives at 23025 Maple.

Sacred Heart Seminary is located at 2701 W. Chicago, on the corner of Linwood. The clothing center is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., but clothing will be accepted there any time.

"The fellows who work in the boiler room there will take the clothing contributions. We have them helping us now, and we are not above taking money donations. There is always one particular item that's asked for that we know where we can buy wholesale."



DONNA BATCHELOR



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A new gallery is launched

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

Eight area artists have pooled their resources and talents to bring a new art gallery into the community.

The Spectrum Gallery, located in the Chatham Square Mall on Eleven Mile and Middlebelt, "just kind of fell into place," said Lou Gaddis, speaking for the co-owners who met one another through local clubs and exhibitions.

The name of the new shop comes from the spectrum of the color wheel but extends through the entire spectrum of art media the women produce to offer for sale.

Eileen Schenkel, one of the founders of the Farmington Artists Club, is an abstract painter. Ceil Surbrook specializes in collage. Carole Garzycki describes her work as semi-realistic. But to the woman they agree that most artists continually grow by changing, experimenting, testing, to develop new styles and trends.

ALL BUT A very few pieces in Spectrum Gallery are originals.

"Seventy five dollars is a lot to pay for a black and white," said Nancy Mudolf, whose forte is pen and ink. "But an 11 by 14 print of one of my prize winners can be had for \$4."

The only other reproduction in the shop was note paper, done by Emily Fox, a member of Detroit Society of Women Painters, who has often served as a critique for Farmington artists.

Framed pieces run from as low as \$10, up through \$500 for a humorous collage by Mrs. Surbrook. The Spectrum also carries a rack of budget-priced unframed pieces.

Gwen Tomkow emphasized that all

of the Spectrum artists were professionals and that every one of them had substantial backgrounds with a great many awards and, or, prizes to her credit.

Ms. Gaddis, who is president of the Farmington Artists Club this year, has won the James Wibby Purchase Award two years running.

"There are some shows that just getting into is tough, and when our work is accepted at something like the Hartland (Mich.) show, I consider that an invisible ribbon," Ms. Gaddis said.

"And many of us were accepted there this year."

THE EIGHT will rotate during gallery hours, tending shop, and continue working either in the gallery or in their home studio, to produce an ever-changing display in oils, aerovets, watercolors, pen and ink, and collage. And they all will continue to show their work in local shows and exhibits.

Next show for the Detroit Society of Women Painters is set for mid-October in Somerset Mall.

The Farmington Artists Club is moving its fall show to larger quarters this year because it has outgrown the space it had in its long-time home at the Farmington Hills Community Library. That show will be given in Mercy Conference Center in November.

Some of the Spectrum artists will be contributing to the Detroit Palette and Brush Club's show in Pontiac's Center of Creative Arts, set for next June.

In addition to the artists mentioned, Jo Schmidt is the eighth member of the new gallery.



Co-owners of Farmington area's newest art gallery are Lou Gaddis (at left) Emily Fox, Eileen Schenkel, Gwen Tomkow, Carole Garzycki, Ceil Surbrook and Nancy Mudolf. Jo Schmidt is the eighth

member of the Spectrum Gallery, located in Chatham Square Mall, which offers the original works of the women artists who are perennial prize winners. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Housing critical

Runaway's sanctuary searches for more space

Story By JEANNE WHITTAKER
Photos by STEPHEN CANTRELL

"Jim's father is an alcoholic. Several months ago he ordered Jim from the house. That first night, Jim slept in the back seat of a car belonging to his friend's father."

"At 6 a.m. the next day, Jim discovered he needed a better place to sleep. The people at Common Cause, referred him to the Sanctuary, a home for runaways in South Oakland County."

That story was written three years ago when an estimated 150 young runaways turned up on the doorstep of the rambling, two-story house on Ten Mile near the zoo. This year, said director Lisa Kaichen, the Sanctuary will probably receive and house as many as 300 young people fleeing a variety of home situations and problems.

"Traditionally," said Ms. Kaichen, "we have served the 12 to 17-year-old. Now we're lowering it to an as-needed basis to the 10-year-old. We want it known to every child that there's a safe place to go."

Approximately 80 percent of the Sanctuary's funds come from federal Title XX funds, administered through the state's Office of Children and Family Services. Twenty percent of the Sanctuary's budget is raised locally.

In the last several months, donations have been received from the Junior League of Birmingham, the Skillman Foundation, St. John's Episcopal Church, the Village Club, the Birmingham Woman's Club and numerous private citizens.

WITH THE RISE in numbers of young people who are taking to the streets to avoid home conflicts, the

need for more space in which the Sanctuary can house and counsel them and their families is now critical, said Ms. Kaichen. At the same time, rumor has reached her that they may soon be notified that they can no longer remain in their present rented quarters in Pleasant Ridge.

"We haven't been officially notified," she said, "but we are planning to expand our program to include foster care and an after-care alternative for kids we can't return home."

The search is now on, she said, for a big house somewhere between Ferndale and Pontiac with approximately 16 rooms, or 4,000 square feet, that will meet licensing regulations for care of children.

"It's a lot to look for," she said. Priority on the list of essentials, she added, is that the building be access-

sible from all directions of the county. In time, she said, there is a design to open other sanctuaries, because they do not want to house any more than 10 young people in a single home.

MS. KAICHEN can point to a number of references to prove that the Sanctuary is a model neighbor. When it first opened in May 1974, residents in the neighborhood feared the home would deteriorate into a dope pad and a place for young transients to crash for the night.

Petitions were started to boot the Sanctuary out of the community. But, she explained, the fears proved groundless and the petitions disappeared. They are now on such good terms with their neighbors that seldom does a holiday pass that there isn't a roast turkey sent over as a gift.

Kaichen attributes much of the success of the program to the kids who come to the door and the presence of "The Big Four" rules that govern their behavior.

"That's no drinking, no drugs, no violence and no sex," she said. Instead, what the young runaways find is a hassle-free environment where each of them takes responsibility for running the house when they sign up for chores.

"There are also extra chores, such as shoveling snow, cutting grass, washing walls or painting that can earn them some money," she explained. To further relieve tension, the Sanctuary will make arrangements to bus them to school or see to it that schoolwork is brought to them at the Sanctuary.

"What we are trying to create for them is an environment where they

can sort out how they feel about themselves and their lives. They're not delinquent kids. They come from typical family conflicts. My parents are stricter than others. I often hear them say, 'My parents don't trust me.' Or, it's parents not liking their friends, or a stepparent is present."

"We do have some situations where there has been physical or sexual abuse, but we are mandated by law to report such cases," she explained. "Then there is the problem of alcoholism, and we have some kids who have just found out that they are adopted. Some of them feel that their parents' expectations from them are higher than it would be for a natural child."

ACCORDING TO KAICHEN, the incidence of runaways is higher in (Continued on page 2B)