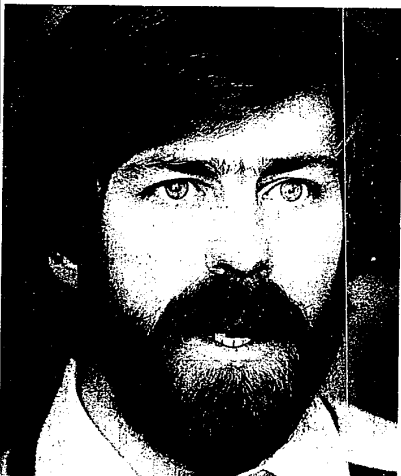


Project Find's searching for youth in need



Psychologist Jim Miner asks anyone who has a preschooler, or knows of a preschooler who has difficulty seeing, hearing, talking, moving or learning, to contact Project Find.

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

two weeks.

Project Find is a cooperative outreach program aimed to locate all persons in the state with special needs who are not receiving special education services through the schools.

"The figures from Washington and Lansing tell us that 12 percent of the population has need for the help we offer, but Oakland County has only identified seven percent of that number," said Jim Miner, a coordinator for the program in Southeast Michigan.

"Whether that missing percent is out there and we haven't identified them, or if we just don't have the full 12 percent living here, we don't know," he said.

Miner spoke for all school systems in his area of jurisdiction who are involved in locating the child from birth to kindergarten age and those from 16-25 who are eligible for public school special education.

"When we catch a kid after he's been in kindergarten for a few months, and determine he has a problem then, that kid has lost maybe three or four years of help he could have had," Miner said.

"As to the older ones, the drop-outs, we've had a tremendous amount of success turning them around, getting them training, getting them independent, getting them into sheltered workshops."

MINER STRESSED the importance of "catching the kid early" because as success builds upon success, so does failure build upon failure.

"Even a minor learning disability can compound itself over and again until the kid has lost all confidence, all assertiveness, and then a social problem develops," Miner said.

"And it gets progressively worse. By the time he's at the junior or senior high level, the peer pressure really comes to bear."

Obvious physical, emotional, neurological and mental maladies are not the problem for Project Find. It is the not-so-obvious, or even barely undetectable ailment to the untrained eye.

"If a parent suspects she has a 'awkward kid, maybe she has just got an awkward kid. If a child is slow to talk, he may very well be a late bloomer, but that's what our committee is all about. We're here to find out," Miner said.

Miner asks anyone who has a preschooler, or knows of a preschooler who has difficulty seeing, hearing, talking, moving or learning, to call Don Place at Project Find, Oakland Schools, 858-2082, or contact their local district special education department.

ANYONE who feels they have a legitimate concern about their preschooler's progress will have a screening set up. The longest wait has been

A team of social workers, speech pathologists, school nurses and psychologists goes to work on testing that takes about 45 minutes. Then heavy emphasis is put to zcoring in on the suspected area.

Therapy comes sometimes with parent and child, or parent and infant, either at home or at school, or full time school for the tot. "But always with much parent-teacher contact."

"Very often parental support and acceptance will make the difference. We have a saying here: There are people who happen to be handicapped and there are handicapped people."

Heavy thrust of the special education departments is on making the child want to learn with constant innovations to bring the child to maximize the best of what he's got.

"We determine where the child is now, where is he capable of going, and how we are going to get him there. We do this by instilling self-confidence and making him as comfortable as possible along the way," Miner said.

Special education classes extend through the summer with a total of 230 school days annually.

PROJECT FIND came in with the tide of Public Act 118, the mandatory special education act in 1972.

The act provided that all persons with special needs, from birth to 25 years, have special education classes or training made available to them. It revamped special education programs throughout the nation.

The outreach program identifies most of its handicapped through its contact with pediatricians, hospitals, public health nurses, and agencies, such as March of Dimes and Easter Seals.

Economics can play some role in an area's population of handicapped.

Miner believes that because Oakland County has always had a very fine reputation for servicing the handicapped, affluent persons with handicapped children have moved here to take advantage of the special education program the county offers.

At the other end of the economic scale handicapped children may be more prevalent because of nutrition deficiency connected with the pregnant mother or poor pre-natal and post-natal care.

MINER, a psychologist who works out of offices in Farmington's Cloverdale School, will take calls of inquiry at 477-7373.

The number to call in Birmingham is 644-9306; in Bloomfield Hills, 851-2000.

Persons with questions in Rochester are invited to call 651-6210, and in Southfield, 554-4350.

The number to call in Troy is 689-6000, and in West Bloomfield, 682-3555.



Diane Maloney models a natural acturus mink with wing cross-cut collar. The light beige toned-skins with a tinge of lavender is becoming very scarce.

The split skin natural jersey muskrat is fashioned to make one continuous vertical stripe on the coat worn by Theresa Adler, which is topped with a brown dyed fox collar.

The three-quarter length coat worn by Jean Thomas is natural European nutria, let out to give a straight line. It is fashioned with a self scarf and tab ties to pleat the sleeve ends.

Workers of Mary call:

Time out for fur fash bash

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

Workers of Mary members covered their heads in furs that ranged in cost up to \$13,000 to form a parade of fashions from Dittichs.

"The natural autumn haze mink with the classic lines is still leading the pack in demand," Douglas Behrend told the women who filled St. Alexander Catholic Church hall for the show.

"It's the full length coat women still buy to wear everyday rather than for only special occasions."

The general feeling was that though the white and lighter colored minks are glamorous, they are not as versatile as the darker shades of the fur.

Behrend, representing the fur specialty houses in Detroit's New Center area and in Bloomfield Hills, acted as commentator for the 50 pieces he brought to the fundraiser.

The wide range of styles ran from a white crocheted mink shawl to curly Spanish lamb numbers suitable for the skier.

His something-for-everybody went from the sporty racoon and contemporary red fox up to the classic natural stone martin and Canadian sable.

BEHREND DIDN'T quote prices during his commentary, but the message was clear enough: buy now if you are thinking fur.

Prices have jumped dramatically during the past two and three years and will continue to do so.

One ruse furriers have used to cut down costs is the combination of fur and leather, in varying amounts and an infinity of styles.

Behrend pointed out several pieces

in the show, examples of the perfection of this combination, known as the corduroy look.

The leather is there, cutting down the cost of the coat, but fashioned in such a way as to hardly be seen. The tiny vertical strips of leather between the strips of fur give the overall effect of the well on corduroy.

Leather down a side panel, Behrend told the guests, "always narrows the look."

He told of the many furs used for dressing, mink which comes in 15 colors and 78 shades; the wide range of fashion and price.

"But," he said, "Dittichs, who are known as the finest manufacturers of furs here are particular. We won't handle rabbit, for example, because it won't hold up, and we stand behind every item we sell."

DIANE MALONEY, president of Workers of Mary, was pleased with the event's turnout of more than 200 women, but not surprised.

"We've worked to build up a following for our fundraisers," she said, "and you can see we're doing it. These women know we have quality, fun and pleasant parties. They know they are going to have a good time when they buy one of our tickets."

The group's spring rummage sale has a big following now, and is always a big money-maker.

"That's because the church hall looks like a department store that weekend," Mrs. Maloney said. "We sort items for quality and we're very organized."

In the three years Mrs. Maloney has been president, Workers of Mary has provided carpeting and drapes and

completely remodeled the church hall kitchen.

The group's prime function is spiritual direction and friendship; after that, helping with the needs of the church.

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The mix of natural Norwegian blue fox and leather make up the powder puff look. The jacket, worn by Rita Turner, is a sporty number for the young, but very versatile.

Helping the kids who can't make it

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Sometimes a kid just can't make it. There are children who fail to make effective relationships with their peers, their families and other adults. Some don't work in their potential in school and some have behavior problems.

Some youngsters who are disturbed may be passive and withdrawn and have no friends. Others may be actively aggressive, hostile, bullying -- also without friends.

These kids can be reached and helped. In some Oakland County schools including Southfield and Oak Park, the Orchard's Children's Service is trying to do just that.

On Tuesday, Feb. 6 the Orchard's dedicated new offices in the Eleanor Roosevelt Service Center in Oak Park. The service is not new. It has been serving community youth and their families since 1962.

"From this office, we hope to reach further than ever into the communities

in Oakland County with help," said Barbara Stone, chairwoman of the Orchard's Children's Service for the National Council of Jewish Women.

The Orchard's was started to help emotionally disturbed boys and branched out from there. This summer a day camp for pre-schoolers will open.

GERALD LEVIN, executive director of the Orchard's, said the National Council of Jewish Women was "courageous to start a residential care program, because you just can't lock up and leave it things get tough."

And it's even more courageous for them to have gone into the schools to help kids already identified as not going to make it.

Children with problems are referred by Oakland County Schools. The program's focus is on the child, his family and his school.

Beatrice Rowe of Southfield, coordinator of the Orchard's Outpatient Pro-

gram, said once the school personnel identify the children in need of service, social workers from the Orchard's select five children to make a group.

The groups have the five children with children who may have emotional and personality difficulties. Problems interfere not only with the child's work, but the teacher's work as well.

THE ORCHARD'S' relationship with the teachers is aimed at helping them to understand the nature of the child's problem and to deal with it in such a way that both child behavior and teaching climate are improved.

Currently, the out-patient group therapy program of the Orchard's is funded by the school systems served, the Department of Social Services and private donations.

Guests at the dedication of the Orchard's' new offices included Carl Hasel, superintendent of Southfield Public Schools, Southfield Councilwoman Vicki Goldbaum, and Southfield school board Trustee Zeida Robinson.

Others were Oak Park Mayor David Shephard, and representatives from the offices of Sen. Donald Riegle, State Sen. Douglas Ross, U.S. Reps. William Brodhead and James Blanchard.

Mrs. Rowe concluded: "We're trying to help children and their families before they reach a crisis."