

How Boysville aids youth to integrate into society

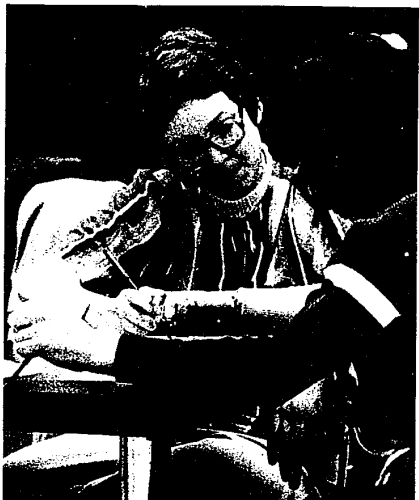
By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Two boys sit quietly in their school's reading room. Two heads are bent over the same lesson. One boy carefully reads through the lesson; the second helps him.

They look like the type of students teachers would welcome.

But they and their classmates at Boysville have been kicked out of the public school system.

The Boysville campus, a 360-acre farm southwest of Ann Arbor in Clinton Township, is a last stop for many of the teen-aged boys there. The campus combines a structured environment with peer pressure to convince the boys they can be academically and socially successful.



Rita Guistino works in the reading laboratory with one of the students at Boysville. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

The organization's Oakland County administrative offices are located in Mercy Center, Farmington Hills, but the boys on its Clinton campus and in its community homes hail from the tri-county area.

At the helm of the campus is Brother Francis Boylan, who has been executive director of the organization for 13 years.

It is Boylan who juggles the boys around on the farm campus. In an enrollment of 120 boys from the city, suburbs and farms, there is one thing in common: they've all lost their places in homes and schools.

BOYSVILLE APPROACHES these youngsters through 'reality therapy,' a system which assumes that persons

choose their own definition of reality.

Reality therapy, as practiced at Boysville, says the boys have many choices and they can realize their goals if they want them badly enough.

Special programs help the boys with their goals. In the classroom, each teacher works individually with the boys. Special education teachers help the youngsters catch up with others their own age.

Reading and arithmetic pose problems for the boys. Five years ago, Sr. Amrita Bauer set up a remedial reading program at the school which stresses using books, for information and entertainment.

The boys she teaches have reading skills comparable to those required in first through sixth grade. Some are learning letter recognition and basic reading skills at a time when they should be going through junior high school level textbooks.

Because standard textbooks would appear uninteresting and haphazard to teenagers, Sr. Bauer collects simple books on such topics as hot rods, Evel Knievel, adventure tales and karate. Primers look like glossy magazines instead of textbooks.

TAPE RECORDINGS AND film strips are used to help students learn to read at a pace comparable to other readers. The boys study at their own pace.

Sr. Bauer expects her students to accomplish a gain of one school month in reading skills after one month of work in her lab. Some more ambitious students accelerate that to six months work in one month. One student accomplished five years work in one year.

"Many think they're not going back to school," Sr. Bauer said. "We give them functional skills here, and some are serious enough to know this is their last chance. They don't say it in so many words to me. They don't say it to each other. But we know."

One day a week, the boys must read a book other than one of their texts. They can sit in the sofa chairs or lie on the floor and read.

"Many never had the opportunity to say 'I read this book all by myself,'" said Sr. Bauer.

The decision concerning the amount of work put into their stay at Boysville

is left to the students. They progress through three levels of development at the school, called sub, total and individual.

EACH LEVEL GIVES the boy more independence until he is deemed ready to return to his family, job or school.

The first level requires that the boy be accompanied by others during activities. With each succeeding level, he is allowed more independence.

This group feeling is evident when the students are addressed by various teachers. Instead of addressing the boys by name, the students are addressed by their group name. Boys are grouped together by size and the groups are given a name, such as Carlyle.

The group name in a sense protects the individual. If the boys make a mistake, it's a group mistake. If the boys are reprimanded, the group is addressed, not individuals.

Teaming the boys by size rules out the possibility of fights breaking out instead of compromise and discussion, says Boylan.

THE STUDENTS AT Boysville making pots in art class and playing floor hockey in the gym were referred there through the juvenile court system. The 25-year-old school claims as former students, a state trooper, a small-town police officer, an administrator at Wayne State University and a TV news commentator.

Most of the 5,000 boys who've been at the school and successfully live on the outside are factory workers with families. Some return to Boysville and others go to prison.

Most of the students at Boysville have a poor opinion of themselves, according to Boylan. Drugs and relating to authority are among their main problems.

"These kids don't know how to deal with authority properly," said Boylan.

Boysville receives 85 percent of its \$3.5 million yearly budget from the state. It began as a Catholic orphanage when the archdiocese of Detroit received the land from Henry Ford. In the mid-'60s, the predominately Catholic institution became a home for boys in trouble with the law.

The organization has five community-based homes across the state in addition to the Clinton campus.



Learning crafts is part of the program at Boysville, which aids the youth in building themselves another life. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

THE LADIES AUXILIARY of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church is sponsoring a red barn sale from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 11-12 at the church on 25225 Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. New and used clothing, appliances, housewares, furniture and baked goods will be featured.

THE FARMINGTON NORTHWEST CHAPTER of Women's Aglow Fellowship, an interdenominational group, will conduct its May meeting and Spring seminar at 7:30 p.m. May 4 and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. May 5 at the Mercy Conference Center, 28600 Eleven Mile, east of Middlebelt, Gate 4. The focus of the seminar will be "Ways to Keep God's Love in Bloom."

OUR LADY OF SORROWS SCHOOL GUILD is sponsoring a preview and art auction on May 11 at the church, 23615 Power in Farmington. Wine preview will begin at 7:30 p.m. The auction is scheduled for 8:30 p.m. Donation is \$2 per person. There will be door prizes and hors d'oeuvres. Advanced tickets can be obtained through Mr. and Mrs. John Rice at 477-4032. Tickets are available on the night of the auction at the church door.

RESIDENTS OF OAKLAND COUNTY will be given the opportunity to speak at public hearings conducted by the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA) on May 15-17.

OLHSA serves Oakland and Livingston counties in the areas of health, education, child care, housing, energy, employment and transportation as well as senior citizen needs. Hearings are conducted every three years to evaluate these services as well as to learn of other human needs in the communities which aren't now being served by the agency. The results of the hearing will be reviewed by the OLHSA governing board to determine the priorities of OLHSA programs for the next three years. The programs are carried out through federal, state and local funding. OLHSA urges all persons from teens to seniors, service clubs and other local groups to attend the hearings to voice their needs and concerns in the human service areas and how their tax dollars should be used in serving their community.

Farmington residents can attend a public hearing in two sessions, from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. on May 15 in St. Alexander's Roman Catholic Church, 27835 Shawwassee, Farmington Hills.

GOURMANDS and cookbook collectors can obtain more than 800 recipes ranging from appetizers to deserts from the Farmington Community. The cookbook was compiled by Farmington Community Center supporters. It is bound in wipe-clean vinyl and indexed. Send \$6 plus 50 cents handling to the Farmington Community Center, 24705 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills 48018, or call the center at 477-8404.

YOUTHFUL PATRONS of the Farmington branch library came up with a novel idea about Lou Grant's background a few months ago. They're sure he started at the Farmington Observer.

RECENTLY the phone company triumphed again when an unsuspecting caller was waiting to be transferred to another department in the Farmington School District administration building. After several moments of silence, the caller heard a phone ringing on the other end. A voice answered the phone, "Holiday Inn of Farmington." (IA isn't willing to comment on this one.)

OAKLAND COUNTY Health Division will offer a free immunization clinic from 9 a.m. to noon May 10 in the First Methodist Church of Farmington, Warner and Grand River. Immunizations from measles, German measles, mumps, polio, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough will be given.

THE RED CROSS WANTS BLOOD from you. A bloodmobile will be at Nardin Park Methodist Church, 29887 Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. May 3. For an appointment call 476-8860 during blood drive hours.

FAMILY LIFE CO-OP Nursery is holding an open house from 9:45-11:30 a.m. on May 10. The nursery is in the North Congregational Church on Northwestern Highway between Civic Center Drive and Lahar. The open house is a get-acquainted program for potential members for the 1979-1980 school year. The nursery has two sessions per week for 3-year-old and three sessions for 4-year-old. The program is diversified and concentrates on helping the child make a smooth adjustment from home to school. It is non-sectarian and licensed by the state. Parents assist at school two-three times a month, attend monthly parent meetings and help out in other areas. Car pools and baby sitters are available. For further information call Mrs. Karen Cleveland at 552-9022.

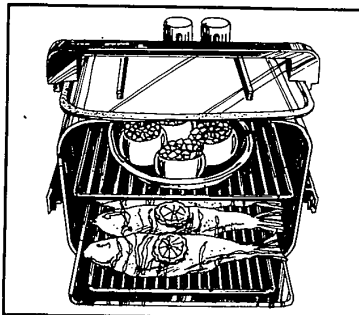
FOCUS ON LIVING WITH CANCER will meet at 7:30 p.m. May 10 at Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road in Farmington. For additional information call the American Cancer Society at 557-5353.

DEADLINE

Material submitted for the Inside Angle, 23352 Farmington Road, 48024, should include the name and phone number of the sender and should be typewritten if possible. Allow one week for publication. Photos can't be used. All materials become the property of the Farmington Observer.

Introduce yourself to "convection cooking" in this energy-saving new breed of oven by Maxim \$225

Imagine, an oven that costs about 4¢ an hour to operate. And it's not a microwave, but the same kind professional chefs and commercial bakeries have been using for years. Only now it can fit on your counter top! It works on the forced air principle. A silent fan causes the heat to become active, keeping it in constant motion, surrounding the food and cooking it uniformly from all sides, sealing in the natural juices, and taking 1/4 less time at a lower temperature. Big enough to hold a 14 pound turkey too, and with a continuous self-cleaning interior, and temperature control from 150° to 450°. It's a kind of rotisserie in reverse, turning the heat and not the meat. Only 17½" wide, 18½" deep, and 13¾" high, it plugs into any conventional outlet—so it can be used not just in the kitchen, but in vacation homes, boats, motor homes and trailers. Even has a filter (which is dishwasher cleanable) that traps excess fats and oils. A modern little marvel to see now in The Marketplace at Hudson's Downtown, Northland, Eastland, Westland, Oakland, Southland, Fairlane, Twelve Oaks, Lakeside and Ann Arbor stores.



See the Maxim convection oven demonstrated from 11 to 3 daily at:
Friday, April 27, Oakland, Northland, Fairlane, Lakeside, Eastland, Twelve Oaks, Downtown
Saturday, April 28, Oakland, Northland, Fairlane, Lakeside, Eastland, Twelve Oaks
Friday, May 4, Downtown
Saturday, May 5, Eastland, Fairlane, Northland, Lakeside, Twelve Oaks, Oakland
Friday, May 11, Downtown
Saturday, May 12, Northland, Eastland, Lakeside, Fairlane, Twelve Oaks, Oakland.

Let Hudson's Brides Registry help you select your gift preferences. A computerized list with the bride's wants and needs is kept updated in all of our Hudson's stores. Visit us soon.

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