

Conference's aim is to ease family pressures

By JEANNE WHITTAKER

Coping with less, and figuring how to stretch time between work and family responsibilities are also major concerns, he said.

The increased need on the part of families to find answers to these problems is due, in part, he said, to the rising cost of living and the resulting heightened pressures are other factors.

Families are becoming more aware that it is a do-it-now or we'll never do it situation, he said. Parents and children alike are seeking better ways to enjoy the time they spend together.

SUE MARIANOVICH, who works in the Oakland County Home Start program, and Lynn Hirschelman of Southfield, are typical of the persons who

have signed up for the Family Day, he said.

"I want a sharing experience with my children," said Mrs. Marianovich. "It was really neat watching my daughters (Holly, 9, and Lisa, 12) look over the list of courses. They really worked to make sure that they can get in all the things they want to get in."

When setting up her own schedule for Family Day, Mrs. Marianovich said she made her choices based on "dividing my time between things I want to do and things I can take back with me professionally."

Lynn Hirschelman also picked areas of interest to herself, her husband Mike and their children, Wendy, 7, and Evan, 3 1/2.

"All this stuff is right up my alley," she said looking over the list of topics. "They get me at every turn. Basically, I've got a lot of areas I'm interested in; but I'm contemplating going back to work and I've really got to prepare myself. My degree is in education, art education, of which there are about two job openings in the country."

DROTOS said he first got the idea for a Family Day five years ago when he decided that he wanted to work with

families with real problems. The project took on momentum, he said, when he met with a group that really wanted to do something to help families under pressure. Serious preparations for a Family Day started last February, a dry run took place in April, and work for the actual presentation was intensified during the past two months.

When preparing the Family Day proposal, he said, the planning group opted for an upbeat program, one which would be fun as well as provide solid information that participants could take home with them.

"Then we looked for a central location," he said. "I realized that this area would be ideal because people here are very active and involved. Southfield offers a good location and ideal facilities for such a program." The program's offerings include 42 workshops and activities for adults, and another 26 for children, he added.

"The response we have gotten has been remarkable," he said. Both families and community agencies have reacted with more enthusiasm than the committee could have hoped for, he said. Primarily co-sponsored by Family and Children Services of Oakland

and the Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Services, Family Day has also received much support from other agencies and organizations.

Many of the supporting agencies, he added, will set up booths to distribute information about their services and programs.

Registration is being handled by the Michigan State Cooperative Extension Service, 858-0895.

"THEY'RE ALL going to be there on one day," he said. "In a time of tightening, it's a chance for a family to spend the day together and have some fun together at the same time."

Well, not totally together, said Mrs. Marianovich. While she attends workshops on reducing stress through relaxation, weapons to fight inflation, and the impact of unemployment on families, her daughters will be busy learning how to create a Halloween costume, attending a Detroit Pistons basketball clinic, as well as attending a workshop on woodcarving and another on non-sexist, non-competitive games for fun.

"We should get a costume and a woodcarving out of this," she said with a chuckle. "Considering what we'll be

getting for our time it's an awful lot for the \$5 family registration fee."

The Hirschelman family will also divide its time between family activities and individual workshops. Mrs. Hirschelman and her husband Mike plan to attend together workshops that deal with parenting. Then they will go their separate ways when she attends a workshop on coping with transition and he attends a presentation on stocks.

While their parents are involved in Family Day, Evan is signed up for a puppet presentation in arts and crafts.

"There will be plenty of activity for the children while their parents are in their own workshops," Drotos said. Other activities for children, he added, include a magic show and a presentation by the Common Ground theater group.

"Then we will bring them all back together for a brown-bag lunch, or they can buy a lunch in the cafeteria," he added.

The sponsors, he said, are interested in reaching all families in the Oakland County, not just those who are experiencing extreme degrees of pressure or stress.

Semivan-Funcannon

Kathryn Elaine Funcannon and Andrew John Semivan were married Oct. 4 at Lawrence United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, Ind. A reception followed the church ceremony.

Parents of the newlyweds are Mr. and Mrs. John Semivan of Southfield and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Funcannon of Indianapolis.

The new Mrs. Semivan was graduated from Indiana University. Her husband, a graduate of Groves High School in Birmingham and Kalamazoo College is employed by Aetna Life and Casualty Co.

After a honeymoon in the Bahamas, the couple will reside in Indianapolis.



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