

Volunteers double efforts to aid the handicapped as funds take drastic cut

By Lorelne McElish
staff writer

Members of Junior Group of League-Goodwill who ordinarily would be taking a vacation from volunteer duties about now, will be working straight through the summer months, doubling up on duties and calling for more volunteer help.

"This is indeed The Year of the Volunteer and a hard one," said Jerry Wendt.

The Farmington Hills resident said that rehabilitation work for the handicapped was clicking along pretty well in Detroit until League-Goodwill suffered a \$850,000 cutback in state and federal funds.

"I don't suppose we'll ever be able to pick up that slack, but we've started with FIGHT which stands for Food in Goodwill Homes Tonight," she said. "Many of our handicapped clients who are not a part of our group homes have little resources to buy food. Although they are receiving training in

get jobs they still can't always support themselves. Now even those we can help with training have been drastically reduced in number," she said.

LAST YEAR League-Goodwill helped to take 2,334 off the welfare rolls with training that made them self-sufficient. This year 1,797 will be trained.

The number of people evaluated for training fell from 925 to 383. The number in the work-adjustment program fell from 424 to 106.

"These are people you just can't tell to go look in the want ads for a job," Wendt said. "We don't give charity. We help with rehabilitation and a hope for an independent life. I think that's what keeps us going at the pace we're going."

The Junior Group of League-Goodwill, formed as a money raising auxiliary, ordinarily concerns itself with one major fund-raiser a year, the Antiques Market staged in November. The money raised was put into the

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extra that made life, work and training for the handicapped a little easier and a bit more pleasant.

"Now we're back to the basics with FIGHT," Wendt said.

"We have members who will still be contributing to the success of the Antiques Market, which has got to be bigger and better to attract more patrons this year, but will also be soliciting, collecting and distributing food for at least 130 people."

WENDT SINGLED out Barbara

Smith as an example of the doubling-up, a West Bloomfield resident who will be carrying on workshops in her summer home up north to stock the Antiques Market's boutiques, while at the same time carrying on her solicitations for FIGHT.

"So far as I know we have never asked for donations before," Wendt said. "It's one thing to write out a check and another thing to work, and we work. If you can sew or can arrange flowers or bake, then that is what you do to raise money and we are looking for workers."



Members of Junior Group League-Goodwill are now taking on the responsibility of collecting and distributing food to their handicapped clients.

Two of the FIGHT (Food in Goodwill Homes Tonight) committee members are Muriel Olsen (at left) and Barbara Williamson.

Wendt said the Junior Group of League-Goodwill "was very firm about no idlers," as she spelled out the requirements for membership.

"You must have five letters from five different members of the group testifying to your character, your ability to work, what contribution you will make, what area you can help, your sobriety, and then you are voted upon by the other members," she said.

"After that you are on probation and have to start earning points. We're the only organization I know of that has ever asked that of their volunteers. We have no social climbers, no big donations, how much money you give just doesn't count."

"We are not a social group but that doesn't mean we're not friendly with one another. We know there is work to be done and we concentrate on the work at hand."

AS FOR THE work at hand, while some members give their time and talents to stocking the Antiques Market's boutiques, others give the same on a

one-to-one basis teaching the mentally and emotionally handicapped grooming or the social graces, for example.

Yet others work to finish and restore furniture donated to League-Goodwill for resale.

"It is a different work than giving to the poor," Wendt said. "To help the handicapped, well it is just a remarkable feeling when you see them move up and out and on their own."

Newly elected president for the 1983-84 year is Sue Prowse of Birmingham. Her vice presidents are Barbara Randall of Royal Oak and Mary Jane Watkins of Farmington Hills. The new cadre of officers and committee chairwomen will carry on the work of serving the handicapped in the Detroit area that was begun in 1921. By coincidence both League for the Handicapped and Goodwill Industries were organized within a few days of each other. The groups merged in 1970.

For information about membership in the Junior Group, call Jean Dichting, in the Trumbull Avenue plant, 264-3900.

Substance abuse is a problem for the whole family

By Wendy Farnsworth
staff writer

Only one family member may drink heavily or take drugs.

But substance abuse still affects everyone in the household.

So both young people and their parents were invited to a seminar last week in Rochester's Van Hoesen Junior High School.

More than 150 attended "Substance Abuse: The Harsh Reality," sponsored by Rochester PTA Council and the Treatment Center for Chemical Dependency at Henry Ford Hospital's Troy Center.

"It's very important that the whole family get help with chemical dependency," stressed James Wratkowski, coordinator of the Troy program.

"There is more to abstinence than just interrupting drinking. People need to learn to have a quality sobriety; a

quality lifestyle without chemical dependency."

Billied as "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Substance Abuse," the free evening seminar updated residents on types of drugs now available to youth.

A slide presentation prepared by the Oakland County Sheriff's Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET) showed them hash oil, marijuana, LSD and fake LSD, cocaine, heroin, "downers," caffeine pills and even blotter acid on stickers featuring popular characters like Pac-Man and the Smurfs.

POLICE OFFICERS cautioned the young people that the drugs they buy may not be what they think they're getting. LSD can actually be pills formed out of Play Doh or mescaline could be LSD.

"There's no such thing as mescaline in this county," said Mark Welling, Ro-

chester Police Dept. school liaison officer.

"What we fear the most is that you don't know what's in it. We don't know sometimes."

While drugs were talked about, the major emphasis of the seminar was on a much more commonly abused substance—alcohol.

"A lot of publicity has been given to other drugs, but the primary drug being abused is alcohol," said Wratkowski, adding that alcohol is responsible for more than half the fatalities and homicides in this country.

Janice Cotter-Leacock, who developed the Adolescent Outpatient Program at Ford's Maplegrove Center in West Bloomfield, said patterns of drug use have changed among teens.

The University of Michigan graduate cited a 1981 national study done by the school revealing that there has been a decrease in use of tranquilizers and

hallucinogens. She believes the decline is due to the drug education young people are receiving.

BUT THE STUDY of 10 U.S. high schools showed there has been an increase in use of methamphetamine, cocaine and amphetamines.

"Marijuana use has decreased somewhat, but alcohol and marijuana are still the most abused drugs by high schoolers," said Cotter-Leacock.

She said 1 out of 14 high school seniors reported smoking marijuana daily and that only 7 percent had not tried alcohol.

"The most common cause of death in teens today is car accidents where alcohol is involved," she said.

"With proms coming up, they're nominating someone to drive so the rest can get drunk. But at least that

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Teen drinking is portrayed in this car scene from "One for the Road." Teens Alice (Irene Schweser), Vikie (Annette DePetris) and Marcia (Debbie Kovelle) go out for a ride while drinking.

Telltale signs listed

Janice Cotter-Leacock, adolescent outpatient therapist for Henry Ford Hospital's Maplegrove Center in West Bloomfield, offered some guidelines for family members or friends who suspect a loved one is abusing drugs or alcohol.

"Often, they tell me about this healthy kid they once had and say they didn't know he was using drugs," said the therapist. Cotter-Leacock started the adolescent program a year ago. "If you see one symptom, don't be alarmed. But if you see a combination of signs, it's time to be concerned."

Indications of substance abuse are:

- Increased tolerance for alcohol;
- Drinking alcohol and marijuana more frequently;
- More "hits" taken and more grounding by parents;
- Chasturbate;
- Talking to parents increasingly;
- Money is missing from the house;
- Unusual amount of fighting with parents and siblings;

- Mood changes;
- Grades drop, lack of ability to concentrate and do homework;
- School activities are dropped;
- After 16, the youth requires a lot of time away from home;
- Youth change from non-drug-using friends to friends who use drugs;
- Brothers and sisters become concerned but often don't tell parents what they see;
- Strange phone calls, lots of secrets;
- Signs of depression but there seems to be no reason for it;
- Increased napping and general fatigue;
- Chronic coughs and chest pains, complaints of allergies;
- Red or dilated eyes;
- Drug paraphernalia (pipes, glass bowls for cocaine, baggies, eye drops);
- Disoriented sense of time;
- "Stoner" or "crazy" name; the changes appear to be what he or she did the night before;



Debbie Kovelle (left), Annette DePetris and Irene Schweser are not a part of the problem of teen drinking. The actresses are members of Crossroads Productions of Southfield, which

brought the presentation to a substance abuse seminar staged for both young people and their parents.