



Dancin'

Teens and adults at all levels of dance can participate in Oakland University's 10th annual summer dance workshops. The first, starting Monday and running through Friday, June 24, offers classes in modern dance, ballet, jazz and laban movement analysis. The second session, Sunday, June 28, to Friday, July 8, is devoted to jazz dance. For more information, call 377-3012.

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Extra funds feed women, children

By Suzie Rollins Singer
staff writer

A county-based public assistance program is searching for 2,600 women, infants or children who need free nutritional food.

The federally funded program known as WIC (Women, Infants and Children) has just received additional funds to serve 8,600 persons a month by the end of September.

WIC is a nutrition program that help to improve health beginning with pregnancy and continuing through the baby's early childhood years. The program has been operating in Oakland County since December, 1976.

"We've never gotten additional money before, but we got this extra money in April through President Reagan's job bill," said WIC coordinator Peg Sobly.

"We hired six new staff people and will be able to serve an additional 2,600 people," she added.

To be eligible for the program a woman must be pregnant, breastfeeding or a mother of an infant. Infants

from birth to 1 year and children under 5 are also eligible. All applicants must live in Oakland County, have low incomes (185 per cent of poverty level — for a family of four an income of under \$17,000) and show a medical-nutritional risk.

"Persons who believe they are eligible can come in here for a 'need' screening and a basic health screening. Then they must be rescreened every six months," Sobly said.

RECIPIENTS receive coupons for fruit juices, milk, cheese, eggs, iron-fortified cereal, beans, peanut butter, iron-fortified formula, infant juice and iron-fortified cereal. They are issued coupons every two months.

"These are just supplemental foods; we don't provide everything a pregnant woman needs. But we do offer a lot of nutrition education," Sobly explained.

Persons who think they may be eligible should call the WIC office nearest them. In Birmingham, call 645-1150, Ext. 81272; in Northville, call 349-7850, Ext. 81272; in Holly, call 634-4418, ext. 81272; and in Pontiac, 958-1272.

Prior to this year, Sobly said most of the clients were ADC mothers. Now more of the "new poor" are showing up at her Pontiac office.

"These are people whose unemployment benefits have run out and are new to the welfare system. Many of the women's husbands would be angry if they found out their wives came here because they're too proud to admit they need help," Sobly explained.

"But we tell them that it's just a temporary situation and that they've paid taxes for benefits for a long time

so they shouldn't be ashamed," she added.

WIC funding comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is given to the state health department which provides the Oakland County health division with the money to administer the program.

"There's no guarantee that we'll have the funding next year, so if we have to cut back, we'll stop adding new people and then use a priority system of serving pregnant women first, then infants, then children," Sobly said.

County has jobs for youth

Applications are available for summer jobs for 2,000 disadvantaged Oakland County youths.

Oakland County Executive Daniel Murphy announced that \$3.2 million in federal money will be used to provide jobs for students between the ages of 14 and 21.

Paid the minimum wage of \$3.25 per hour, youths will work between 20 and 40 hours per week. The program will

begin Monday, June 13, and provide such jobs as park attendant, summer camp aide, groundskeeper, clerical aide and child-care worker.

To be eligible, students must be members of families receiving public assistance or with an income below the federal poverty level.

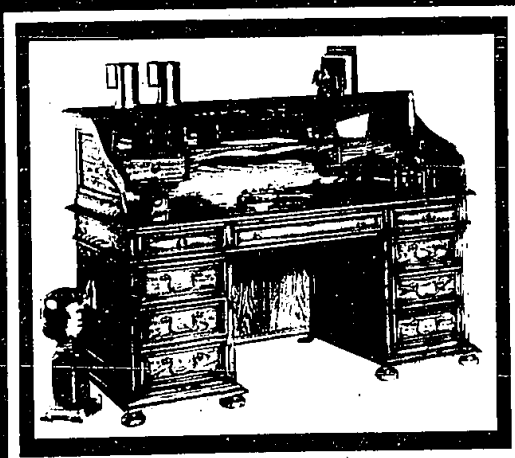
Applications are available from the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency, 198 Oakland (858-5134).

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