## Agency aids hearing impared Margaret Neubacher programs for the hearing Impaired is another Important service of CSIII. And Welling an Interpreter, Wanda Biser

Life without Community Services for the Hearing Impaired would be tough, Wanda Biser said with a gesture.

She ought to know. Biser is the chair-man of CSHI's Advisory Board, and the's deaf.

would spend a lot of time bother-ing my neighbors," she said in sign lan-grage to an interpreter at the CSHI off-ties in downtown Pontiac.

ACTING AS interpreter, CSHI Directory Marcy Cotton said, "Wanda is a girly capable person. But even for her, pissing a simple thing like the telephone an inconvenience."

Relay calls are a vital service of-fifed by CSHI, a two-year-old non-prof-ity organization partially funded by Thitted Way.

If I need to get an emergency mes-lake to my husband, four people get in-volved, said Biser, who was born deaf and is the mother of two deaf children. First Leall Marcy, she calls my hus-band's secretary, and she calls my hus-

Dand. "Colton explained how they communi-cate. "Using a Telecommunication De-vice for the Deaf (TDD), we're able to help deaf people communicate through typing rather than speaking," said Col-ton. When the phone rings here, if there's a silence at the other end, I put the phone into the cradle of the TDD, and it types out the caller's message which they are typing into their TDD at home.

"Michigan Bell has made it possible for the deaf to lease these machines, which cost anywhere from \$199 to \$1,000, for \$5.88 per month. After five years they own them. But Bell is going to discontinue the service next month when AT&T breaks up."

COLTON AND her part-time secre-tary spend the majority of their time providing information.

"There is no typical day for us," said Colton. "We spend a lot of time answeri-ing phone calls, facilitating relay calls, meeting and talking with people, both hearing and bearing impaired," said Colton.

"We also act as an interpreter refer-ral center and can provide interpreters so that deaf and bearing persons can communicate with each other," said

communicate with each other," said Colton.

Using an interpreter from CSHI, slier, who attended Gallaudet Collega. In Washington, D.C., became the first Geaf juror in Oakland County last summer. "I chose an interpreter I knew yeal," said Biser, who drew a murder case. "It was a good experience for both of us."

"In the past, the court refused to according to the court refused to according to the court of the court with the court refused to according to the court refused to the court refused to a facets the court refused to a facets the court refused to a facets the court refused to the court refused to the court refused to a facets the court refused to the c

PROVIDING CLASSES and social

programs for the hearing impaired is another important service of CSHL Ad-visory board members, half of whom are deaf, meet once a month to plan CSHI activities.

"It's important that our members so-cialize with one another," said Bleer. A recent interest survey showed a large group of members interested in a weight loss class. Recently a Red Cross CPR class was interpreted into sign language for deat people interested in learning CPR.

"I look to the advisory board to tell me what kinds of programs and ser-vices they need," said Colton. "I think it's important for the deaf to partici-pate in the planning at CSHI."

CSHI members, who pay annual dues of \$15, receive a mouthly newaletter in addition to other mailing. December's newletter, which went to 302 members, detailed the next showing of captioned films, special tours of the Detroit Institute of Arts, free admission to Oakland County Parks, the World Games for the Deaf in Los Angeles this summer and the latest information about relay calls.

"STATISTICAL averages show that close to 1 percent of any population is deaf," said Colton.

"In Oakland County alone, there are 9,000 deaf persons, but our service is not limited to them," said Colton. "We are looking to expand our services to reach people throughout the greater Detroit area.

"Our agency was founded out of need. The director of Flint's Social Ser-vices for the Hearing Impaired real-ized we needed an organization here because he was seeing so many people from this area at his Flint center.

"That was in 1981. We were under their direction for a year and their be-came an independent organization. The Detroit Hearing and Speech Center is the only other center for the hearing impaired in metropolitan Detroit.

"Part of the reason there is a greater concentration of hearing impaired in the Pontiac area is General Motors," Colion said, "They are a good employer. They pay well and offer job continuity to hearing impaired employees."

COLTON, 25, earned a degree at the University of California-Berkley and did her graduate work in deafness rehabilitation at New York University.

She joined CSHI in January of 1983. As director, she works closely with a board of trustees, which is responsible for fund-raising and long-range plan-

Plans to increase and expand its services are evidenced in CSHT's 1984 budget. Colton is projecting \$82,000 for next year, half of which will come from the United Way, she bopes. This is more than double the 1983 budget of \$40,000, to which the United Way contributed \$23,000.

"We are here to work with people, hearing and non-hearing," said Colton. "Community awareness and education are an important part of our services. We've trained local police departments to use the TDD equipment and worked

Using an interpreter, Wanda Biser became the first deaf juror in Oakland County last summer. A 1982 state law requires that any state-funded program be accessible to all people. 'So Wanda had to be accepted as a juror. The question was would the lawyers seat her, and they did.'

- Marcy Colton

with hospital personnel and many public and private agencies teaching techniques for communicating with the deat.

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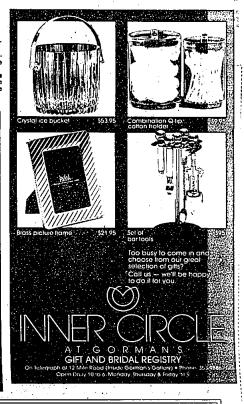
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