Continued from Page

Sunshine Foundation, which helps grant wishes for chronically ill children.

WHILE AT THE concert, the children received red and black leather jackets, replicas of the one often worn by superstar Jackson. They also met with Jackson's drummer, John Moffett, who sent them a pair of his drumsticks from California. "I felt very happy when we got the jackets," Kiranie sald.

Although their friends think the Pearce children are "really lucky" to be going to all these events and concerts, the Pearce children know it is not all fun and games.

and concerts, the Pearce children know it is not all fun and games.
"The reason we go to these concerts and meet special people is to tell them about our disease and ask if they can help CF," said Brett.
"It's really a job they do," Pearce says of her children's fund-raising, "You have to have the support of politicians and athletes in order to raise money for CF, and I think they (the children) have done a terrifle job."
Twins Kristle and Kimmle are the most well-known of the three children. The fact that they are identical twins afflicted with CF is advantageous in

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getting people's attention, says Pearce.

"Identical twins have always attracted attention," she says. "Hopefully people will see my twins, be attracted to them and their liliness and want to help light CF."

The blonde, blue-eyed twins have already captured national attention by being national CF poster children for the metro Detroit area.

"I want them to be well known in the Farmington area as children who have CF so people recognize the disease and will want to help us find a cure for it," Pearce adds.

it,"Pearce acts.

ONE DIFFICULTY in trying to raise funds for CF is that victims of the disease usually appear to be healthy, says Pearce.

People are more aware and affected by muscular dystrophy and cerebal palsy children because the effects of the illness are usually physically obtains the area.

the effects of the illness are usually physically obvious, she says.

That is where Kimmle and Kristle's tap dancing latent comes in. Dancing is used as part of the girls physical therapy, and they have been dancing for the past four years.

"They dance for their lives," Pearce says.

"Whenever the children's talent can be used to attract attention to CF, I will let them do it."

The girl's most recent appearance is on Metrovision's "Kids Only" — a television show for and about children. Airing Dec. 3 at 2 and 8 µm, the twins will tap dance and discuss their disease with another child interviewer.

This will be their first time speaking alone, without the help of their mother.

This will be their first time speaking alone, without the help of their mother.

"On the show we talk about why we are poster children and why we get to meet Michael Jackson and stuff like that," Kristle explains.

When asked about their illness, Brett takes over as spokesperson for the group.

"We understand it's a chronic disorder in the nation," Brett asys carefully." A disease of the lung which also involves the pancreas which helps you to grow."

grow."

"Itake medication," Kristle says proudly. "I take
"Itake medication," Kristle says proudly. "I take
"Mat I call my Halloween pill, because it's orange
and black."

THE PILL Kristle describes is an antibiotic used to help fight infections which are caused by CF. The children also take enzymes which help absorb food and enables them to develop properly. Broncho diators are taken for their asthma and CF. Altogether, the children take over 100 pills a day, according to Pearce.

Although most children balk at the idea of taking

medicine, Pearce stresses to her children that the medicine will keep them healthy. And so far it seems to be working. "They have never been in the hospital as much as other children their age who have CF," says Pearce.

arce. A lot of kids sick with CF are in hospitals,"

"A lot of kids sick with CF are in hospitals," Kimmie agrees, nodding her head.

Twenty years ago, doctors believed CF was a "dead ailey," says Peares, and children were not expected to live past their preschool years. But today the average life span is increased to 21 and 50 percent survive after that ago, she says.

To Peares, these statistics are a very good sign. "I used to feel like a semitruck was bearing down on my children, and that there was no getting away from it," she says.

"Now I'm a lot more relaxed as the kids get older and I am more hopeful of a cure."

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