



Vocational Service Award

Winner takes role of father for his family of teen employees

By Loraline McClish
staff writer

WINNER OF Farmington Rotary's 1985 Vocational Service Award is Donald Bosco, owner of Bosco's Party Store on 12 Mile and Orchard Lake Road.

Bosco was chosen for the award from a list of nominees as the one who best fulfilled the service organization's motto, "Service Above Self," said Ernie Thomas speaking for the club.

"He has worked with young people for 13 years that I know of," Thomas said. "He has given them opportunities of all kinds to help them enter the business world, and is somewhat of a father figure to them."

"They are my family," Bosco said of the he-can't-remember-how-many teens he has chastised, prodded, pushed along, encouraged or juggled schedules for as they worked for him through the years in every possible capacity in the store.

He has taken his teen family members in groups or individually on camping trips, water skiing and snow skiing, and to sports games. The softball teams formed for league play "are always invite-your-girl-friend-or-the-family affairs," he said, and so are the after-the-game parties or commiserations.

Bosco hired one young man, Todd King, at the age of 12 to sweep out his parking lot. Now 23, King is the store manager.

Bosco sponsored two of his employees when they were confirmed in their church. He has received Father's Day gifts from some of his teen family. He has attended numerous graduations and still keeps in touch "with an awful lot of them," he said.

"I RESPECT them. I respect them all," Bosco said. "I almost flunked out of high school, and I did flunk out of college — twice. It wasn't until I got out of service that I got my act together and all of these kids have their lives together at a very early age. That's impressive to me."

"Every one of the (about 20) kids I have working for me now is getting C's or better, mostly better. Everyone of them have some kind of extracurricular activity they are involved in plus

merce Board because I couldn't even promise them one meeting a month," he said.

THOMAS' reference to Bosco as a father figure is in evidence in the party store's back rooms where photocopies of news articles on marijuana, drugs or drinking are more likely than not to be posted. The day we visited copies of a magazine article about Leo Buscaglia and his philosophy on loving and hugging were prominent.

The father image is also evident when Bosco tells of the possible troubles he is prepared to handle when he puts teens into an environment where they are surrounded with cases and cases of beer and wine.

"I told you I had respect for these kids and I do. I've caught a 14-year-old smoking. I can tell in a blink if one of my kids is on drugs by their change in attitude, and that's happened. I have fired four kids in my life for shoplifting, but even then after making things clear as to why they were fired, checking back with the parents to make sure they had told their parents the truth, they all left me with their self-esteem still intact."

"I treat them as if I were their father, the same way I would treat my own family, my own kids. I never married so these kids are my family. I once nursed a broken knee on a skiing trip so I guess I've done a little mothering, too," he said.

Bosco has worked in conjunction with the vocational co-op programs in several high schools in Farmington and Birmingham public schools, as well as hired teens who just stopped in the store looking for an after-school job.

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— Don Bosco

Recipient of Farmington Rotary's 1985 Vocational Service Award



Don Bosco (at left) checks out an order with every capacity within the store since he was first hired for a sweeping job when he was 12 years old. Todd King, manager of Bosco's Party Store on 12 Mile and Orchard Lake Road, King has worked in the store since he was 12 years old.

the co-op programs are given a grade, but that is generally for just one term. Most of them, the majority I'd say, stay for another semester, another summer, another year. A lot of them grew up with me," he said.

ROTARY got its start in Chicago, Ill., in 1905. The Rotary Club of Farm-

ington, which includes members from both Farmington and Farmington Hills, is one of 15,200 clubs in the world.

The objective for them all is the same, the development of fellowship and understanding among the business and professional men of the community, the promotion of community better-

ment endeavors and high standards in business and professional practices, the advancement of international understanding, good will and peace.

This is the sixth year Farmington Rotary has awarded the Vocational Service Award.

For information about the local club, call David Gronbach, 471-0100.

Free tests offered for diabetes detection

Gov. James J. Blanchard has declared November Diabetes Month and Nov. 3-9 Diabetes Detection Week in Michigan. The Michigan Affiliate of the American Diabetes Association will sponsor free diabetes screening tests throughout Michigan in cooperation with over 180 hospitals and health facilities during Diabetes Detection Week.

The tests will be given for persons in this area from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, Nov. 4-8 in Botsford Hospital, 2830 Grand River.

It is estimated that there are approximately 600,000 people in Michigan who have diabetes, and 240,000 of these are unaware that they have it. The purpose of this drive is to identify these people and to alert them to the need for

proper treatment. The earlier diabetes is detected, the better. Diabetes with its complications is the third leading cause of death by disease in the U.S. Diabetes causes heart disease, kidney disease and blindness.

The testing is limited to those over 18 years of age and persons who have not previously been diagnosed as diabetic. To assure an accurate test, it is important to eat a high carbohydrate meal, one with large amounts of starches and sugars, two hours before the test. A good breakfast to have before the test, for example, would be fruit or juice, cereal with milk and sugar, and coffee or tea. A person planning to take the test after lunch could have a bowl of soup, a sandwich, cake or pie for dessert, and a glass of milk. The meal should be eaten within a 15-minute time period and nothing else except water should be taken before the test. The name and address of the family physician is needed for follow-up.

PERSONS WHO are over 40, overweight, and blood relatives of persons with diabetes are particularly urged to take the test since they are in

the high risk group of those most likely to develop diabetes.

The most common symptoms of diabetes are excessive thirst, frequent urination, blurring vision, constant hunger, or the slow healing of cuts and scratches. The disease, however, may be present without any symptoms.

Although a year-round effort is made to educate the public about the seriousness of diabetes, a more concentrated effort is made during the month of November.

At 9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11, Lifetime cable network will present "Diabetes: Update '85." The two-hour live program, produced in cooperation with the American Diabetes Association and sponsored by Squibb-Novo Inc. will allow viewers to join millions of other cable subscribers across the country in learning first hand about the disease.

Nationwide, viewers will be able to call a toll-free number, 1-800-828-LIFE, and have their specific questions on diabetes answered by a panel of doctors who specialize in treating diabetes. Consult your cable-TV listing for local time and channel.

For other information, contact American Diabetes Association at 552-0480 in Southfield.

Grants to Harbinger will bring dance to elementary youth

Harbinger Dance Company will devote a major part of its 16th season to performing and teaching in Detroit Public Schools, bringing dance to children and children to dance.

"Dance Around," Harbinger's first major residency in the Detroit schools, will include 20-30 performances of "Dance American Style." Its informative program for elementary school children, intensive choreographic workshops in elementary schools and master classes for high school students. The project will begin in December and culminate in the spring with a full concert in a Detroit high school to which the community will be invited.

Harbinger's "Dance Around" residency has been funded in part by a \$15,000 grant from Hudson's and the Dayton Hudson Foundation.

Richard Casado, Hudson's general manager, said of the grant, "Hudson's and the Dayton Hudson Foundation are proud to support the efforts of a community-based arts organization such as Harbinger in this partnership with the Detroit Public Schools. Through the initial grant of \$15,000, we hope to en-

courage arts involvement in the daily experience of children in school."

HUDSON'S is a longtime supporter of the arts in Detroit and has been a prime contributor to Harbinger for the past six years.

The company recognizes that its responsibility as a corporate citizen goes beyond day-to-day business activities. The grant represents part of more than \$1 million contributed annually by Hudson's to community-based arts organizations and human service programs in the 20 communities where it has stores.

Harbinger has also received funding in the amount of \$4,000 from the Skilleman Foundation and \$500 from Exxon-Shell-O Corp. and will continue to solicit matching funds from Detroit area corporations and foundations to fully implement this project.

"Dance Around" is being accomplished with the support and direct participation of the Detroit Public Schools administration. In addition to performances and classes, many innovative activities are being scheduled for students and teachers.



RANDY BORSST/staff photographer

Circa 1910

Two white bustle gowns, first worn in about 1910 and given to Farmington Players in 1960, were made gifts to the Farmington Historical Museum this month. Above Hope Nahstoll models one of the gowns for Rita Mooshammer. At right, Nahstoll, Dick Carvell, and Clara Carvell surround Nancy Leonard, who wonders if the decades-old gown would fit her. Nahstoll is custodian of the players' costume department. Mooshammer, Leonard and the Carvels are all members of the museum committee.

