

Pregnant teen program cut by state

By Teri Banas
staff writer

A teenage parenting program that has helped nearly 100 girls in western Wayne County deal with unexpected pregnancy is being phased out. The program, administered by the Northwest Guidance Clinic in Garden City, will likely close when state funding runs out by the end of January, said the project's program director, Teri Banas.

Program coordinators say the only hope is to find some other source of money.

THE STATE Department of Social Services has funded the program as part of a statewide "initiative" last year but discontinued the project here on Sept. 30.

The program has been temporarily continued by special action of the clinic's board of directors, which agreed to fund it through the end of this year. But that money — \$8,600 — and some small donations won't see the \$4,000-a-month program cost past January, Banas said.

"We're pursuing the state Department of Mental Health and the local office of the Department of Social Service for some discretionary funds. But it's very unlikely that'll turn over fast enough to stop the discontinuation of the program," Banas said.

SINCE IT was started last year, the counseling/education program has helped girls from 100 families in northwestern Wayne County, including Westland, Garden City, Wayne, Inkster, Plymouth, Canton, Livonia and Redford Township.

In most cases, the teens who enter the program want to keep their babies but need to learn how to care for them. The girls' average age is 16, and they range from 15 to 19.

The program offers group counseling sessions at three area sites — Garden City's Farmington Elementary School, Inkster High School and the Livonia Baptist Church. Classes cover such topics as child development, problem solving, self-management and budget.

A cadre of volunteers offers help in child-care and transportation.

According to Banas, a critical time to offer help to a teenager is immediately after she delivers the baby. That is when most drop-outs occur, she said.

PAM OSTROWSKI, 18, who gave birth to a daughter, Andrea, nine weeks ago, said the program

'My friends and parents supported me — my decision to keep the baby — but they didn't know what I was going through. It helped a whole lot to know there were other people around me who did.'

gave her what she was looking for when she faced pregnancy as an unmarried recent high school graduate — "a support system with other people in the same situation."

Although the Garden City resident finished out her high school courses in time to graduate, the pregnancy interrupted her college plans.

"My friends and parents supported me — my decision to keep the baby — but they didn't know what I was going through. It helped a whole lot to know there were other people around me who did."

Besides support, she said she benefited from weekly lectures that often gave advice on coping and particularly a film on teenage fathers. Said Ostrowski of its impact on her relationship with Andrea's father: "It was a little rocky at first. But

we're beginning to work things out. The program has helped a lot."

Now that her daughter is born, she says she still plans to attend the sessions and that teens in her situation often can help the newer members entering the group.

FOR THE teens, there has been little other organized help in this field in this area, project director Banas said.

"I don't know where we'll refer them," Banas said. "Part of the problem we're having is where do we refer girls to? There are no parenting programs for teenage parents in this area."

"There are public health nurses who will come out for visits, but that's only if there are severe problems — usually you have to have a medical problem."

Few local high schools offer help for pregnant students, as well. In this area, the only such program is housed at Garden City's Alternative Education Program.

A nearby Oakland County one is located in Farmington. Beyond that, Lincoln Park Schools offer an extensive program which accommodates teens before and after the baby's delivery.

A query to the state DSS's Teenage Parenting Program as to the reason for the funding cut went unanswered this week, but Banas said the decision was part of a \$1.2 million reduction in spending.

Thursday, December 12, 1985 O&E (10)D

For a perfect Christmas...



14 kt. yellow gold rope chain... slides set with diamonds and colored gems.

Open Sunday 12-4

Fredrick Jewelers
of BLOOMFIELD HILLS

859 West Long Lake Road, just east of Telegraph... 486-0973

CHIMNEYS Merry Christmas **Roofs**

- Cleaned
- Screened
- Repaired
- Built New

- Repaired
- Re-roofed
- New
- Leaks Stopped

Karney Denderian's CROWN CONTRACTING, INC.
427-3981
OVER 34 YEARS
LICENSED • INSURED • GUARANTEED
\$10.00 OFF ON CHIMNEY CLEANING WITH THIS AD
COUPON • Expires Jan. 31, 1986 • COUPON

50% Off
Samsonte Luggage
Palm Beach
Patio Furniture and Luggage
7350 Highland Rd. (M-59) at Williams Lake Rd.
4th Miles West of Telegraph 666-2880

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL
FULL BODY ROWING MACHINES
Formula for Fitness
An AVITA full-body rowing machine is the way to get in whole-body conditioning in the convenience of your own home or office.
• Aerobically conditions Heart and Lungs • Tones Arms, Legs, Abdomen, Waist and Chest • Reg. \$150
ACTON
Rental & Sales
18401 Van Dyke, Detroit 891-6500 540-5550

WANTED
Last Minute Shoppers For
• Discount Jewelry • Chains, Diamonds, Watches
• Gold and Silver Gifts • Now and Estate
• Coins, Stamps, Albums
BIRMINGHAM COIN/ABACO FINANCE
1287 Woodward • Birmingham
E. side of Woodward • 6 Bks., N. of 14 Mile
Mon.-Sat. 9:30-5 **642-1234**

SEASONAL RENTAL
the economical alternative for skiers
This is your own gear professionally fitted and ready to go at a fraction of the cost of buying!
Don Thomas Sports
1000 1/2 MI. N. OF 14 MILE

OMEGA
THE MARK OF ACHIEVEMENT
Omega, the highest of luxury in time, is power in time. It is precision, with delicate automatic winding mechanism, the mechanical definition of automatic time and which is recognized as the most often method of indicating the most exact, healthy and valid of time. It is the most precious treasure that has made Omega the official time of the world and the most beautiful of the world.

Wiggin FURNITURE
BANKRUPTCY SALE
CHAPTER 11 OF BANKRUPTCY ACT FILE NO. 85-00451
FORCES LIQUIDATION OF ALL INVENTORY FOR BENEFIT OF CREDITORS
Refused—Special Orders
MUST BE LIQUIDATED AT ONCE
NOTHING HELD BACK
HENFREDON, KAYLYN, HICKORY, YOUNG, HINKLE, STATION, HARDEN, SHEFFIELD, THANE, ALLEN, NICHOLS, STONE, CHAFFORD, SILE, SIMMONS, PEARSON, COLE, KIMBERLY, AMERICAN, OF MARTINSVILLE, SCHOONBECK, DIRECTORIAL
EVERYTHING 50% Off
SALE HOURS: MON.-TUES. WEDS.-THURS. SAT. 9:30-5:30 P.M.
FRIDAY 9:30-9:00 P.M. SUNDAY 12:00-5:00 P.M.
TELEGRAPH AT LONG LAKE, BLOOMFIELD HILLS

ODDS & ENDS, NEW AND USED SKI EQUIPMENT SALE

WE HAVE GATHERED UP ALL THE USED ALPINE & CROSS COUNTRY SKI MERCHANDISE, ODDS & ENDS, NEW & USED (OVER 1000 PAIR OF ALPINE BOOTS, SKIS, BINDINGS, POLES & CROSS COUNTRY EQUIPMENT FOR MEN, WOMEN & KIDS) FROM OUR 10 BAVARIAN VILLAGE SKI SHOPS & PUT IT ALL TOGETHER DOWNSTAIRS IN OUR BIRMINGHAM STORE, 101 TOWNSEND, CORNER OF PIERCE, DOWNTOWN BIRMINGHAM. GO TO THE BACK DOOR FOR THIS GIANT 3 DAY SALE: FRIDAY, DEC. 13, 12-6pm, SATURDAY, DEC. 14, 10am-6:30pm, SUNDAY, DEC. 15, 12pm-5pm. CASH & CARRY ONLY. LOTS OF CLOTHING TOO! LAST YEARS STYLES & BARGAIN PRICED. IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR SOME GOOD USED SKI GEAR, THIS IS IT! A SKI BARGAIN HUNTER'S PARADISE.

BIG SELECTION
FRI. DEC. 13 12-9pm
SAT. DEC. 14 10-5:30pm
SUN. DEC. 15 NOON-5pm
BACK DOOR
101 TOWNSEND
CORNER OF PIERCE
BIRMINGHAM
CASH & CARRY ONLY

Now! Buy All Vertical Blinds Direct!
BLINDS-TO-GO
We Make It! You Install It!
Custom-Made 6-FT. DOORWALL VERTICAL BLIND
SALE! \$58.80 PVC
PERFECT FIT GUARANTEED!
FINEST QUALITY you can buy at "blind-from-the-factory" prices! Bring your exact doorwall & window measurements.
ALL FABRICS & SIZES
Open Mon. to Sat. 9 to 5
SUNDAY 12 to 4
33710 PLYMOUTH RD.
CALL: 261-6530