

This counselor reaches out to youths

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

When Andrea Cooley Carr accepted her new job as child welfare counselor at Farmington Youth Assistance, she considered herself lucky. Except for a 45-minute drive from Rochester to Farmington, her job involves everything she loves to do.

"I was thrilled to find out this job entails all my favorite things. I see it as a really great opportunity to do the things I like best. It was a nice surprise," Carr said.

Carr began her new job with FYA in mid-February replacing former caseworker Pat Hinz, who wanted to work part time rather full time as the position demands. FYA offices are in the Shawwassee Center at 30415 Shawwassee, Farmington Hills.

The full-time hours are something Carr has been in search of for quite some time. Before her move to FYA, Carr taught human resource devel-

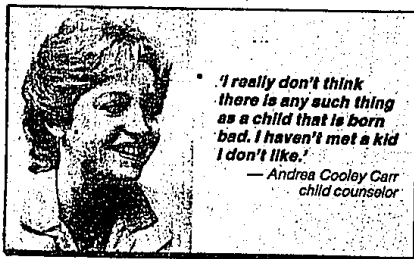
opment at Oakland University in Auburn Hills. She also taught under the Job Training Partnership Act in the Oxford and Brandon school districts. And she was a substitute elementary and middle school teacher in the Rochester Community Schools. But each job was only part time.

"I made a career of part-time work for a long time," she said.

ARMED WITH a bachelor's degree in elementary education and master's degree in counseling both from Oakland University — Carr's heart was set on a counseling career. But counseling jobs are not that plentiful, she said.

Then one day, Oakland County announced it was seeking applicants for the child worker one positions for the youth assistance programs sponsored in cooperation with the county probate court, school districts and cities.

"I really wasn't that familiar with the details of the child worker one



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child counselor

position," Carr said, describing the application process of testing and interviews. Out of 400 applicants, Carr and three others were hired as counselors for youth assistance programs throughout the county.

After two short months on the job,

Carr is finding that her philosophies about young people and counseling coincide handsomely with those of the FYA. The program's goal, like her own, is to provide "primary prevention" for youngsters of preschool age to 17.

"I really don't think there is any such thing as a child that is born bad. I haven't met a kid I don't like," Carr said.

MOST PROBLEMS, particularly if dealt with when a child is young, can be solved and future problems prevented, she said. "I would like to get away from the idea that youth assistance deals with the 'bad' kids."

Most of the problems dealt with in the FYA program cover truancy problems, "small brushes with the law (before reaching the court system), behavior problems and 'just regular life-crisis things,'" Carr said.

"It's important to help kids along the way. Today, teenagers particularly, are faced with so many pressures. There is an awful lot to deal with in the world," Carr said.

Although many of the young people are referred to Carr and the FYA, kids are encouraged to stop by if they just want to talk to someone, she said. Besides serving as a counselor, Carr also acts as a referral agency, guiding children and parents to the proper agency or professional when needed.

"We have a lot of talented professional people here. Why not tap their talents?" Carr asked, adding most referrals are made to agencies and professionals in the Farmington area.

WHILE HAVING a job that allows her to do the things she loves most — working with children and teens, as well as publicizing programs to help people — is great, the Farmington community has served as the icing on her cake.

From day one, Carr said, the Farmington Public Schools, the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills and both cities' police departments have lent an overwhelming amount of support to her and the program.

"I've been received very warmly here. I have felt very welcomed. It's a great community," she said.

Unlike other communities whose youth assistance programs have a difficult time getting participation, the Farmington program is successful and full of community participation, support and encouragement, Carr said.

"There are waiting lists, like for the Challenge class, for example. That's really something. In other communities, you don't even have full classes. We don't have that problem here and we're fortunate," Carr said.

Looking down the road, Carr intends to continue FYA's existing programs as well as develop new ones. "Hopefully, we will be able to keep growing with the community. I think it's important to always be forward thinking," she added.

Students show culinary skills

Thirty-six Farmington Hills students were judged winners when professional and aspiring chefs converged on Cobo Hall April 20, bringing with them 400 edible creations.

It was judged that the Hospitality Industry Culinary Arts Salon, Michigan's largest culinary competition.

Over 10,000 people viewed the hors d'oeuvres, pates, cakes and pastries created for this annual competition, sponsored by the Michigan Restaurant Association and the Michigan Chefs de Cuisine.

Professional chefs and apprentices displayed 100 platters and buffets of their finest cold food, hot food (displayed cold), and pastries. The student competition, running concurrently, featured works by food-service students from high schools and colleges across the state.

Gary Beaubien, a student at Oakland Community College and a resident of Plymouth, received the Detroit News Best of Show Award in the College Division, an "Angie" and three gold medals for his creations. An Angie is the Oscar of culinary competitions.

LOCAL WINNERS from Oakland Community College were: Timothy Toland, poultry and game platter; Karen Towers, poultry and game variety platter; Gary Beaubien, chicken galantine and decorated cake; Vicki Bertschinger, galantine platter; Michael Connery, galantine of rabbit; Grace Drowl, galantine; Carol Fritz, galantine; Errol Koda, galantine; Thomas Lieb, variety of meat and game; Jeannette Kodan, galantine.

Also Anita Sudakin, galantine and terrine; Janice Spica, centerpiece gum paste; Kendra Zapfen, pulled pork display; Joseph Kingsley, hors d'oeuvres; Debra Borth, platter; Vance Riley, chicken galantine and pate en croute; David Robertson, chicken galantine; Lydia Briggs, petit fours; Paul Burnash, petit fours; John Iaconelli, petit fours; Cheryl Kisabeth, petit fours in gum paste box; Paycia Ivasan, Australian lace wedding cake; Michelle Davidson, fruit basket; Janet Thurman, backgammon game.

Also: Dan Ireland Jr., assorted appetizers; Daniel Lilar, seafood; Chris Cohoon, tureen of chicken liver; William Thompson, lobster galantine; Denise Galyon, appetizers of various origins; Carrie Foster, filled chocolate box; Ginger Marshall, gum paste box filled with truffles; Patrick Rafferty, french pastries; Solene Toliver, petits; and Anne Bleisch, decorated cake.

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