

Program puts the mentally retarded to work

Thursday, May 6, 1988 O&E

(F13C)

By Susan Buck
staff writer

PUTTING THE mentally retarded to work is the work of Peter Frey.

Frey is the newly hired director of the new ADAPT program based in Bryant School in Livonia. ADAPT (Adults Developing Abilities, a Program of Transition) is a program to provide job training, support, skill development and assistance to adult mentally retarded people. It is targeted at people over age 26 for whom existing daytime programs are inappropriate or unavailable.

ADAPT is a project of the Association for Retarded Citizens/Northwest Communities/Business Ventures Corp., an advocate society based in Redford. The program will serve Western Wayne County communities and western Detroit.

Frey, 31 and a Farmington resident, has plans to have 20 retarded people placed in jobs this year. ADAPT provides a trainer to work with the clients. There is no less than one trainer for four clients and sometimes the trainer works one on one, he said.

"When you consider how many mentally retarded people there are

— every two babies out of 100 are going to be born mentally retarded that's a pretty large statistic. What you probably are doing is hiring a friend or a neighbor," he said.

THE OBSERVER & Eccentric Newspapers is the first employer in the area to hire a retarded person working under the ADAPT program. The individual, a 43-year-old Redford resident, whom Frey identifies only as Bill, has been a two-route newspaper carrier in Livonia for a short, but so far, successful time. Frey accompanies him on his route.

"It usually takes about three hours to do the route that we had, but we did it in 2 1/2 hours," Frey said.

AHC/Business Ventures Corp. has been in existence for five years.

Several years ago, the Business Ventures Corp. opened the Cambridge Club Restaurant in the Cambridge Center, a closed school building in Garden City.

"The problem was that they didn't accept any funding from any outside agency. They kept it in-house, and after 2 1/2 years of very successful placement and track record they had to close because of lack of funds," Frey said.

Through the ADAPT program, Frey hopes to provide employees for

businesses, some of which have high employee turnover. He said these high-turnover situations could be stabilized with mentally retarded people, who for the most part are noted for their job loyalty, responsibility and perseverance, and are looking for self-sufficiency.

"WE FOLLOW the dictates of Dr. Lou Brown of the University of Wisconsin, who has placed severe and profoundly mentally retarded people in such things as restaurants, hospitals, nursing care centers, doing various things — entry-level or simple, repetitive-type jobs, which often have high turnover."

"Most of our clientele and most of the mentally retarded fall into what we call the mildly retarded range. They're not that much different than you or I. Many of our trainees are coming straight out of vocational training and already have the skills needed for the job. The only thing they really need us for is to provide a trainer at that particular site until they become comfortable with that job."

"We will supply the employee with a trainer for as long as it takes the trainee to learn the job. Our goal is to match the mentally retarded individual to the job. They do work better than most people, because once they're trained in the task, they stay on that task. Their productivity becomes higher because they don't get burned out and lose interest in the task. And they stay on with that employer for years."

ADAPT can give an incentive to the employer in the form of deviated wages if the client doesn't quite measure up to regular productivity level. If the trainee can do only half the work that is expected, ADAPT can pay a pro-rated wage. Many of the jobs are minimum-wage positions, but some will progress to higher pay levels, he said.

The development of work crews for janitorial, domestic services, gardening, catering assistants, auto maintenance, is another goal of the ADAPT program.

BEFORE his involvement with the mentally retarded, Frey spent

five years as a retail worker for Stride Rite Corp.

"I woke up one morning at the end of my retail career and realized that I was no longer happy making money for other people, and I really didn't care about the monetary rewards I was getting. I went to my wife and said 'Dear, I'm quitting, and I'm going back to school.' She supported me during that time."

He began working part time as a direct-care worker for a group home in Farmington in 1981.

"I knew I wanted to do something different after retail, and the group home was right around the corner so I was able to walk to work. I guess you could say I just got hooked."

"The biggest myth going around

today is that the mentally retarded can't be assimilated into the community. All they really need is just a little extra help to get started."

Frey later went to work for New Horizons, a rehabilitation facility in Oakland County. He graduated summa laude from Mercy College in Detroit in 1985, with a bachelor's degree in political science/public administration.

His wife, Karen, does data processing for the Detroit Symphony. Both love to bicycle and will be rejoining the American Youth Hostels this year.

For further information about the ADAPT program, call Peter Frey at 422-9130.

"I'VE LOOKED AROUND, AND I'M CONFIDENT THAT LIBERTY GIVES ME THE BEST PROTECTION FOR THE RIGHT PRICE"



Jim West and daughter Allison. Auto, Home and Life Policyholder.

"Choosing the right insurance company wasn't easy. I compared, and found that Liberty Mutual offers the best protection at the right price for my auto, home and life insurance. And because Liberty Mutual is located nearby, I'm sure to get the individual attention I need. Try finding that somewhere else. Call and compare. You'll see why I believe in Liberty."

AMERICA BELIEVES IN LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE.



Liberty Mutual Insurance Company 30400 N. Telegraph Road
Birmingham, MI 48010 645-2700

Petland

VETERINARIAN OWNED & OPERATED

MOTHER'S DAY

AKC PUPPIES



Cocker Lhasa Apso
Cairn Bulldog
Schnauzer Old English
Sheepdog

CFA KITTENS
CFA Registered Kitten-Domestic Kittens available, too.

5 Gal. Aquarium Kit.....Reg. \$54.99 \$39.99

10 Gal. Aquarium Kit.....Reg. \$69.99 \$54.99

Mixed Swordtails.....49¢

Marigold Swordtail.....99¢

Marigold Wag Swordtail.....1.29

Finch Seed 2 lbs. \$1.99

Parrot Seed 1 1/2 lbs. \$1.99

Parakeet Seed 5 lbs. \$2.99

Cockatiel Seed Mix \$4.99

Parakeet Starter Kit.....Reg. \$29.99 \$24.99

All Parakeet/Finch Cages 10% off regular price

2135 Telegraph Rd. • Bloomfield Hills • 338-0484

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun. noon-5 p.m.

30 Years Experience

CASWELL MODERNIZATION

Spring Price Reduction!



Pella Contemporary French Sliding Glass Door

We Honor Pella Doorwall Coupons

No. 1 Installers in S.E. Michigan

Licensed & Insured • Free Estimates
We Install Siding, Windows & Trim

CASWELL MODERNIZATION CO., INC.

SHOWROOM: 9450 Elizabeth Lake Rd., Union Lake

698-2081

HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 9:30 to 5:30; Sat. 10 to 4; Evenings by Appointment



Pella

Sliding Doorwalls (6 & 8 Foot Only)

10% Off
Installed Price



Quality maker dusters comparable in quality at \$34

17.99

Short, summer lounging coats with snap fronts. Prints and stripes with fashion trims in easy care cotton/polyester. Sizes 8 to 20. First quality.

REMEMBER MOTHER'S DAY MAY 11th

Gift Certificates in \$10, \$25 and \$50 denominations. Available at the Service Desk. Redeemable at any Marshalls store.

Famous name 2-piece sleepwear

Pajamas **12.99**
comparable in quality at \$26

Baby dolls **8.99**
comparable in quality at \$24

Comfortable, 100% nylon from two quality makers. Sleeveless or cap sleeve baby doll tops with shorts, and trouser pajamas with short sleeve tops. Assorted colors, some with lace trims, sizes S-M-L. First quality.



Stores featured are representative of the above listed groups and occasionally specific styles may not be available in every store.

The comparable prices are in compliance with FTC comparison similar quality and obtainable in the same area.

Over 235 stores nationwide

LIVONIA
Middle Belt and 7 Mile
opposite Livonia Mall
Open 9:30 to 9:30 • Sunday 12 to 6 • 30 day layaways • Moneyback refunds

SOUTHFIELD
Southfield Road between
12 and 13 Mile
Open 9:30 to 9:30 • Sunday 12 to 6 • 30 day layaways • Moneyback refunds

WESTLAND
Warren Road opposite
Westland Mall
Open 9:30 to 9:30 • Sunday 12 to 6 • 30 day layaways • Moneyback refunds

FOR CUSTOMER INFORMATION, CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-654-6543

Fashion value
Mother's Day and
every day. That's
buying smart.



Semi-precious stone jewelry

Necklaces **9.99**
comparable in quality at \$20

Great fashion value! Many lengths in necklaces. Ball earrings in 8 and 10mm. Sizes. First quality.

Earrings **3.49**
comparable in quality at \$5.50

Women's and Men's Fragrances comparable in quality of \$18 to \$31 8.99 to 19.99
A collection from several top designer names.

Marshalls
Brand names for less.

20% to 60% less

than department store, regular prices, every day