Suburban Life

Thursday, January 14, 1988 O&E



Foater families are needed for a new program gram's goal is to offer safe and nurturing that will offer homes to teen mome under age homes to teens who would otherwise have 16 and their bables. Sponsored by the Saint nowhere to turn. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center, the pro-

Foster care

Homes needed for teen program

ANTED: AREA FAMI-LIES to participate in a foster care program involving unwed teen others under age 16 and their in-

involving unwed teen mothers under age 18 and their infants.
This new program being developed by the Saint Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center in Farmington Hills will attempt to offer a caring, stable environment for these teens who often fall between the cracks, ending up on the street or back in an unloving home from which they originally ran.

"We really felt there was a gap in care, so we approached the state to see if we could get funding for a foster care program," said Wendy Lane, licensing worker and training specialist at the center. "Our residential program (for pregnant teens and teen mothers) states at age 16, and there really isn't much offered for younger teens; offered for younger teens; offered for younger teens; offered for younger teens the center's common fall, for the boung for pregnant teens unable to remain at home. This program accepts all ages but stipulates that the oldest resident can be no more than 10 years older than the youngest Louise Hall is a residence for teen moms 16 and older.

"WETRE LOOKING for foster

"WE'RE LOOKING for foster homes in nor-hwest Oakland Coun-ty because of its proximity to Pon-tiac," Lane said, adding the Ponti-ac schools are one of the few dis-tricts that offer day care to allow the moms to continue their educa-

'With an unstable home environment and the expense involved in day care, often these girls are forced to drop out of school to care for their child.'

- Wendy Lane Saint Vincent and Sarah Fishe 'Center

Frequently these teen mothers are forced to give up custody of their child, and if they can find a home in which to live it isn't always a healthy one.

Barbara Tochet, program direc-tor for the center's foster care pro-grams, said a girl under 16 is still a child herself.

"She still needs nurturing and mothering and generally isn't ready for independent living," she sald. "It's really bables having ba-bles.

"With this new program we can provide a service so the baby can provide a service so the baby can grow up in a healthy and positive of an environment as possible," she said. "The foster parents can be there to nurture the young mother and teacher her how to be a mother herself. We don't want our foster parents to take over care of the baby. We want them to function more in grandparent roles."

PROSPECTIVE FOSTER par-

PROSPECTIVE FOSTER parents may attend an orientation program at the Saint Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center tonight 6:30-9. The six-week training course begins Jan. 21.

"Foster parents for this program will have to fall under the same rules and regulations that any other foster parents would have to meet," Lane said, "Basically we'll do assessments of the family members and home environment, and we'll look at the family's motives for being foster parents." Aside from looking for interested couples in the Birmingham, Bloomfield, West Bloomfield areas, the program organizers would prefer home and the program organizers would prefer to the foster child.

"These teens have lots of needs and will need lots of attention," To-chet said, "Prospective foster parents need to be empathetic and non-judgmental, of adolescents, who we already ratsed teens, would be good candidates."

Plungers place is the stock market

There are no laggards in Birming-ham's Plungers Investment Club, whose steady portfolio growth and zeal for annual-report research and analysis impressed Better Investing magazine enough to warrant place-ment on its investment club ali-star team.

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The Royal Oak-based national
magazine has named its investment
can all starsers on a how-to models for
other investment clubs, according to
Dan Danko, editor of the investment
trade journal.

Grant Ruttinger, the magazine reporter who profiled the top 15 allstarsers was ald the Plungers Club
was picked because of a well-put-toggether "fun-and-learn quis" and because it researches companies throoughly before investing in them.

The five-year-old, all-woman club,
which has 18 members from Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and
Franklin, invests \$20 per member
per month in one to 15 stocks. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of
every month at members' homes.

THIS YEAR, the club portfolio's

THIS YEAR, the club portfollo's worth has ranged from \$29,000 to \$34,600, and leading investments are in American Family, American Home Products, Wal-Mart, Russell Leona Gates, treasurer of the club. "We don't buy on tips — we get ahead by investigating and studying," said Gates. "By doing that you don't get rich quick. We hope to dou-



Research is the key to success for the Plungers investors Club. Sealed from left to right are: Donna Dennis, Mary Ellen John-son, Eva Mirit, Joyce Manby and Mary Jane Snow. Standing are Sally Janke (left) and Leona Gates.

ble our money in five years. . and believe in investing for the long term club consists of American Association of University Women members, all of whom are college graduates.

"Five years ago, the AAUW want-dwomen to have a working knowledge of business, money and how to manage it," Gates sald. "Sits other clubs like ours formed in the city at the same time. We've stuck with it, and we've done well.

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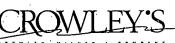
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