

Respect is a key to a fulfilling life

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

THE STORIES that make the headlines — crack cocaine busts, shootings, robberies and Wall Street insider trading scandals — show people with a missing common thread: respect for others.

"If you have respect for people, all the things that are important will come," keynote speaker Murray Feldman, WJBK-TV2 business editor, told 15 students, their parents and guests at the third annual youth recognition breakfast hosted by Farmington Youth Assistance.

Feldman told the 15 students, honored Wednesday for their volunteer work in the community, that their respect for others — the elderly, the poor, the sick — set them apart as examples for other students and adults to follow.

"You've shown respect. That's why today the most important people in this community are here today to honor you and pay you respect," the Farmington Hills resident told the youth recognition award winners.

Feldman spoke of the need for volunteers and the rewards gained through volunteerism. He told of his own experiences as a volunteer, one such experience that gave him his first opportunity to report the news on a New Jersey radio station.

The 15 students, Feldman said, are among a great many in the Detroit area who volunteer their time and effort for others. Detroit and its suburbs has a 45 percent volunteerism rating — one of the highest in the country. Residents in the area give four hours and 20 minutes of their time a week to volunteer activities. The national average is three hours.

Volunteerism, Feldman told the students, provides them with knowledge that's not easily accessible through formal education. Considering world knowledge doubles every six months, he said, students must often gather information and knowledge on their own.

Reasoning abilities and decision making skills are some of the practical results of volunteerism, Feldman said. For example, of his Emerson



Murray Feldman
WJBK-TV2 business editor

College, Boston, graduating class of 400 students, only five are working in their chosen professions. Interestingly, those five students, including himself, volunteered their time for others.

Joan Dudley, FYA chairwoman, and Oakland County Probate Judge Barry Grant echoed Feldman's comments. The probate court's juvenile division is one of FYA's sponsors.

"This is the day we get to see and meet and honor you who are contributing in the best possible way to our society — by volunteering," Dudley said.

Grant offered his congratulations and a few words of advice. He encouraged the students to remember three important words: respect, honesty, love. "If you remember these three words, your lives will be happy."

MADELYN RYAN, FYA youth recognition committee chairwoman, encouraged the students to continue their volunteerism.

Nominees had to be Farmington-area residents in grades six through 12 in a public, private or parochial school. Bill Hamilton, FYA case-worker, presented Youth Volunteer Award plaques to each student.

Dedicated to preventing juvenile delinquency and promoting family well-being, FYA is also sponsored by Farmington, Farmington Hills and Farmington Public Schools.



RANDY BOST/Staff photographer

Youth recognition award winners are: Amber Arbuckle (left), Jennifer Church, Darcel Alloune, Christopher Cahill, Cindy DeSousa, Meredith Atkins, Todd Began, Christine Pattinson, Jana

Jensen, Sharon Allmen, Kiffi Malosh, Gina Hager, Nicole Nelson, Caryn Cavagnol. Award winner Jeannine Duplessie is not pictured.

Youth assistance honors students

Farmington Youth Assistance honored 15 Farmington-area students at its second annual youth recognition breakfast May 4 at the Farmington Community Center in Farmington Hills.

The students' community involvement runs the gamut of volunteerism, from providing services for the needy and handicapped to helping the elderly in hospitals and nursing homes.

"We think we made some very good choices," said Madelyn Ryan, FYA youth recognition committee chairwoman.

HONORED WERE:

• Darcel Alloune, Farmington Hills Mercy High School 10th grader, nominated by Mercy High School pastoral team moderator Sister Rachelle Harper. Alloune spends as many as nine hours a week on community service projects such as food, clothing and toy drives for the needy. She also organizes and recruits for trips to soup kitchens.

• One of Alloune's regular activities is visiting nursing homes after school and weekends. She is training to tutor adults in reading.

• Sharon Allmen, Birmingham Marlian High School 12th grader, nominated by St. Fabian Catholic Church youth minister Judy Thibodeau. For six years, Allmen has taught in preschool programs and served as an organizer and motivator for the youth group. She is organizing a trip to Appalachia.

Her sponsor describes Allmen's "personality, leadership qualities, dependability and charitable contributions to her community" as a reason to honor Sharon with a recognition award.

• Amber Arbuckle, Farmington High School 11th grader nominated by high school teacher and Special Olympics coach Sue Kistinger and teacher Payanne Kaufman. Arbuckle has coached the Farmington-area special education gymnastics team for the past two years and trains handicapped students for regional, state and national competition.

"When there is a conflict between her own gymnastics and track activities and her special olympians, her students always come first," said nominator Kaufman. Arbuckle often visits her special olympians at home for additional help and encouragement.

• Meredith Atkins, Farmington High School 10th grader nominated by Adele Emmer, Botsford General Hospital volunteer services director. Atkins works in the rehabilitation department helping hospital staff by providing water, equipment and helping therapists.

Aspiring to become a physician, Atkins began working in the physical therapy department in October 1986. She transported patients and spent time with them. Atkins is described by her nominator as "pleasant, willing to do even menial jobs and an asset to the hospital."

• Todd Began, North Farmington High School 12th grader nominated by St. Fabian Catholic Church youth minister Judy Thibodeau. Began works for the elderly and the needy.

Began has worked in inner-city soup kitchen and packed a great number of Thanksgiving baskets for the needy. He has shown leadership skills by chairing many youth group activities. For four years, Began "has always been there" when something needed to be done, according to his nominator.

• Christopher Cahill, Farmington High School 12th grader nominated by teacher Margaret Gagnick. Cahill gives his time to the elderly.

He drives a Farmington senior adult to shopping and church services and has delivered food from Mercy Center to Farmington seniors. He has delivered newspapers for the Goodfellows. As an athlete, Cahill has volunteered coaching and refereeing.

• Caryn Cavagnol, Birmingham Marlian High School 10th grader nominated by Adele Emmer, Botsford General Hospital volunteer services director.

According to her nominator, "Caryn loves to work with patients." Cavagnol works on the nursing floor providing water, making beds, answering lights and running errands for staff and patients.

• Jennifer Church, Farmington Hills Harrison High School 10th grader nominated by teacher Mike Teachman. Church joins other members of her church group and travels south for the summer working with local residents to improve their homes.

Church is active with her school's SADD (Students Against Driving Drunk) chapter and keeps statistics for the varsity basketball team.

• Cindy DeSousa, Farmington Hills Mercy High School 10th grader nominated by Sister Rachelle Harper, pastoral team moderator. DeSousa visits nursing homes, gathers and packs food and clothing for the needy and works on community-building in her school.

DeSousa tutors students in math and helps teach young children dance. In summers, she has volunteered at Girl Scout camp.

• Jeannine Duplessie, Farmington Hills Harrison High School 11th grader nominated by Adele Emmer, Botsford General Hospital volun-

teer services director. Duplessie gives her time in the X-ray department.

Her responsibilities include transporting patients, running errands for patients and staff. Duplessie also gives time for the hospital's special activities, such as the Halloween party. In the summer, she volunteers additional hours and is "keenly aware of her responsibilities," her nominator said.

• Gina Hager, Farmington Hills Mercy High School 12th grader nominated by Sister Rachelle Harper, pastoral team moderator. A member of the singing group, Mercyaire, Hager travels to nursing homes, schools and rehabilitation centers to entertain.

Hager is involved in several school honor societies, which volunteer at the school, for Mercy Center and for children's homes. She also tutors French and aids the needy in nursing homes and soup kitchens.

• Jana Elizabeth Jensen, Farmington High School 12th grader nominated by Farmington Families in Action. Involved in many school activities, Jensen provides peer counseling through SADD in the elementary schools and is active in the high school's High School Life program.

Jensen has helped repair houses in Appalachia and walked for Focus HOPE. She has served as a volunteer counselor for the Hugh O'Brien Youth Foundation, worked with Cloverdale School students, collected food for the hungry and tutored other students.

Jensen was a Rotary Exchange student in Denmark and participated in a week-long peace seminar at the United Nations and in Washington, D.C.

• Kiffi Malosh, Farmington Hills Harrison High School 12th grader nominated by teacher Charmaine Ragusa.

Through Catholic Social Services, Malosh has helped prepare food and distribute it to senior adults in need. During the winter, when it's difficult for the elderly to get out, Malosh delivered food directly to their homes.

Malosh has received a full scholarship to Trinity College, Hartford, Conn.

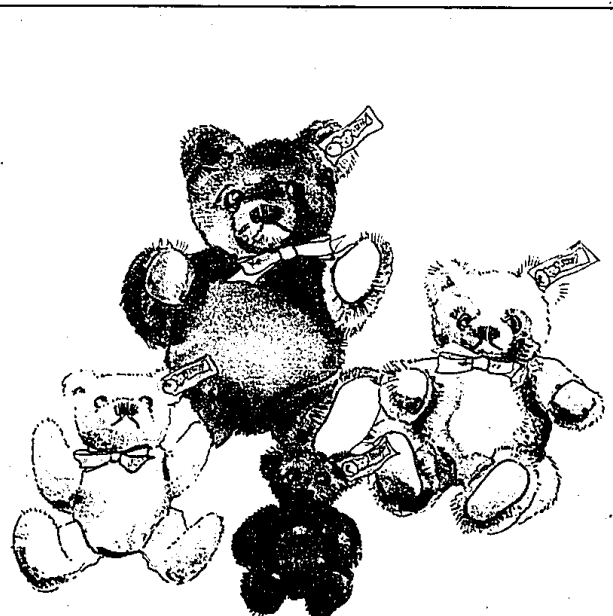
• Nicole Nelson, Farmington Hills Harrison High School 11th grader nominated by teacher Pi-cette Orlich.

A member of the B'Nai B'Rith Youth Organization, Nelson has worked with the elderly, the retarded and the poor. She has worked to help free Soviet Refuseniks and helped in youth crisis centers and in AIDS education.

• Christine Pattinson, Farmington Hills Harrison High School 12th

grader nominated by teacher Charmaine Ragusa. Pattinson volunteered 24 hours a week in the summer as a counselor for SCAMP, a summer camp for impaired children.

At the camp, Pattinson made sure the children had their supplies and she took them to their activities and dressed them for swimming. She also teaches Sunday school to children in preschool and kindergarten.



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Community center widens appeal

Continued from Page 1

No longer is there a major concern that the center might be offering programs similar to those at the Farmington YMCA and Farmington Community Library. "We have come to an understanding that duplication is not negative," said Pfaff, a member of the Council of Community Resources, which has discussed program duplication.

"There are so many people in this community, you can't have just one class," Pfaff said. "We all offer a

different viewpoint, different angles on similar topics and subjects."

PROCEEDS FROM Marks' fundraiser will be used to improve the facility to make it safer and more enticing for residents and businesses to use, Dolan said.

Safety improvements, including updating the electrical and heating system, as well as providing accessibility for handicapped patrons, is necessary. More restrooms are needed, perhaps in the basement, as well as air conditioning. There's a possi-

bility that the facility's third floor could be opened, improved and used for activities, Dolan said.

An improved facility is hoped to further improve the center as a rental facility. Center officials plan to aggressively promote the center to businesses as a place for meetings and seminars. An improved kitchen is necessary to maintain the center as a rental facility for weddings, Dolan said.

"We need that income (from rent) to put on other activities," Pfaff said.