## Filling the gap to bring help to the abused child

as in counseling offices and private homes.

But the type of advocacy does not come naturally to those with little or no legal training, according to Lisa E. D'Aunno, adjunct assistant profes-sor of law at the University of Michi-

E. D'Aumon, adjunct assistant professor of law at the University of Michigan.

For four years, D'Aumon has been working to fill the gap in the background of Michigan social workers. D'Aumon and Clyde Owings, U-M associate professor of pediatries and communicable diseases, conduct interestive two-day training sessions for nearly 400 social workers throughout the each year.

"Although Michigan's Department of Social Services recommends such training, it does not require it of the state's litenaced social workers," D'Aumon said. "And they receivery little legal training in their graduate degree program.

"Yet, caseworkers otten find themselves making decent that after the state of the state of the court process in order to work knowledgeably on behalf of abused and egglected children."

The legal training is funded by the Michigan Department of Social Services and focuses on the legal aspects of child abuse and neglect including the rights of children and their families and constitutional limitations placed on social workers.

their families and constitutional limitations placed on social workers.

THE FIRST session leads protective services and foster-care workers through the legal steps lavolved in non-voluntary intervention in an abusive or neglectiful family.

The second session focuses on the legal limitations of investigating suspected child abuse, on strategles for termination of parental rights and on caseworker lability.

Social workers' jobs become more complicated when they are undertaking non-voluntary intervention, according to D'Aunno, About 85 percent of the families will cooperate with protective services caseworkers, but the other 15 percent to 20 percent "say 'get off my porch," she said.

"Such families present a significant risk to their children," she said. "In such non-voluntary, high risk cases, social workers must decide if the child involved is in an emergency situation and, if so, obtain the proper authorization to enter the home."

D'Aunno cited the situation in which a teacher reporting a child's continuous absence from school as an example. A social worker must decide whether the child is in danger, needs non-voluntary intervention or, in extreme cases, police protection, she said.

The social worker would need to alow reasonable cause that abuse or niglect was being committed and, except in emergency situations, would be required to obtain a court order or search warrant to enter the cilid's home, she added.

"PART OF my job is to sensitize secial workers to these important idualis to help them use the juvenile system to help the child," D'Aumo add, "As it is, child welfare workers oten feel the legal system is weighter of against the state's interests in protecting children."

An important part of a casework-

potecting children."
An important part of a caseworker's job is to see that children's
rights are upheld, D'Aunno said.
Complicating that responsibility is
the apparent contradiction between
two of these basic rights — childen's right to remain with their parerts and the right to protection from
purental abuse. pirental abuse.

pirental abuse.
"The children often appear caught
bitween those two rights," D'Aumo
sid, "In general, the parents are the
clid's best protectors. The social
worker must be able to prove that a
clid is in danger at home in order to
recommend placement in a foster
home as a final resort."

Social workers should use their knowledge to help the court protect the child and "to shape the case," DAunno said.

DAunno said.

"As a strong advocate of the repossibility to do more on the stand than answer 'yes' and 'no' questions," she said. "I suggest they present any information they consider important and make sure they provide factual proof that a particular parent isn't capable of caring for a thild."

THAT APPROACH goes against the grain of many social workers wio see themselves primarily as mediators between parents and childens rather than as opposing partles. I advise them to take their place whin the law, to stay on the beels of hawyers and follow them into the julges' chambers rather than waiting out in the courthouse hallway," she said. "If a case is leading to a negotiated outcome, the social workershould know what's going on." in addition to the level aspects of

ershould know what's going on."
in addition to the legal aspects of
chid abuse intervention, the U-M
trining program presents technices for investigating and verifying incidents of physical abuse. Owing shows social work'rs haw to use
ther skills of observation and to collect information that could belp
them reconstruct injury seenes and
how to distinguish normal, accidenalchildbood injuries from those resuting from abuse.
"Social workers should look very

"Social workers should look very carefully at the total situation before quickly accepting glib explanations of an accident," D'Aunno said.



Dorothy O'Bara (left), promoter of the upcoming antique show, and Lois Scupholm of Scupholm Antiques fasten the sign ouncing the show at the historic Botsford Inn.

# Antiquers host Christmas show

The Botsford Inn Anlique Show celebrates its 20th year as it stages its Christmas show and sale during the Thanksglving weekend. The event will be open to the public from noon to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 26 and from noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 27. The historic inn is proud of the

said Dorothy O'Bara, one of the show's promoters.

Admission is free and guests are invited to tour the inn and views its remarkable collection of antiques. Local the dising room from noon to 10:30 p.m. on Saiday a brunch is offered from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with

### Jingle bell run benefits arthritis foundation

Runners will tie bells to their shoes at the start of the "Max & Erma"s I Ingle Bell Run for Arthritis" at 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 4.
The 5K inn run will start at Hunter Square Tally Hall at 14 Mile and Orchard Lake roads in Farmington Hills. Along with the 5K walk, there will be a one-mile walk, wheelchair division and holiday costume competition.

division and holiday costume competition.

The best costume will win air fare
and accommodations for two to
Busch Gardens in Florida. Awards
will be presented to the top runners
in each division. The awards ceremony will be held at the finish line
and a post race party chili buffet
will be at Max & Erma's restuarant
to Hunter Sund.

in Hunters Square.
"This is a fun run that is unique in several ways," said Marilyn Fessler,

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Young or old, fit or not, all will be able to gear up for an exciting day of fun and fitness. Registration starts today and is 82 a person. The first 500 registered runners will receive "Max & Ermas Jingle Bell Run" long sleeved 7-shirts.
Registration information may be obtained by calling the race/hotline/ Arthrits Foundation at 350-3030. Ask for Marllyn Fessler or Barbara Waters. Entry forms are available



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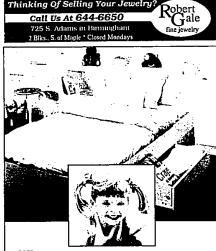
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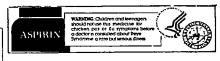


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