

PTA book answers parents' questions

By Rebecca Haynes
staff writer

Parenting often seems like an endless question. Friends and relatives can offer only so much constructive advice.

That's why the "Parents' Answer Book" sponsored by the Michigan PTA was created, said its executive editor Alice McCarthy, a longtime Birmingham resident.

McCarthy and her colleagues, Patricia Peart and Marcia Danner, put the book together as a result of the "Parent Talk" page they helped create at the Detroit Free Press.

"We felt our columns hadn't covered certain topics, and there's so much information and so many resources available to parents, we needed someplace to put it all down," McCarthy said.

"We solicited questions from parents at the national PTA convention, and we also did a study on topics of most concern to parents."

THIS INFORMATION was used while compiling the book. It has three chapters: Home-School Connection, Parenting and Family Life, and Contemporary Issues. Answers range from how to foster

an appreciation for art in the home, to how to encourage a girl's interest in math and science, to AIDS education, drug abuse and financing a college education.

All of the editors and special contributors to the book are experts in the fields of education and family life.

McCarthy earned a doctorate from Wayne State University in education and the family. She is chief executive officer of the Center for the Advancement of Family and is affiliated with Oakland County Youth Assistance, Oakland Family Services, the Substance Abuse Advisory Council at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, the National Council on Family Relations and many others. Peart was the founding publisher of "Kidding Around," a parents' magazine in southeastern Michigan. She now is vice president of Bridge Communications. She once owned and operated her own graphic design studio, was an art director for an advertising agency and an art teacher. She serves on the board for The Sanctuary, a shelter for runaways in Oakland County, and the Committee for Children's Television and the Media.

EACH QUESTION in the book is answered by one or more of these local family and education experts. "I think that's one of the best things about the book, because it is so local and the questions are an-



Alice McCarthy

answered for Michigan parents," said Peart.

Whittling the list of questions to the final 85 in the book was no easy task, McCarthy and Peart agreed that there were only a few that they argued over.

"We kept saying we'd put it in the next book," McCarthy said. "We ended up with about 50 more pages than we'd originally planned on, but there were things we felt we just couldn't leave out."

Another feature of the book is the list of resources after each answer.

They range from books to read, to area and national agencies and experts that can be contacted for more information.

The "Parents' Answer Book" should be available in local bookstores soon, McCarthy said. Cost is \$8.95.

The book also is available through many local PTAs. Non-profit groups wishing to sell the book should contact the Michigan PTA, 1011 N. Washington Ave., Lansing 48906.

"This book is really a dream come true for me," McCarthy said. "It's great to know that we've been able to put out a book that gives power to parents. The suggestions weren't made lightly."

"Every resource in the book has been very carefully validated," Peart said. "These are people who know what they're talking about."



Patricia Peart

ACLU to honor 'choice' chief Frey

The Oakland County branch of the American Civil Liberties Union will honor Judith Campbell Frey at its eighth annual dinner Sunday, Jan. 29, in Ramada Inn, Telegraph near 12 Mile, Southfield.

The 6:30 p.m. dinner will commemorate the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court decision establishing a right to abortion.

Frey, 51, of Grand Rapids, is president of Michigan Republicans for Choice. She also is a hospital trustee.

a county board of health member and a member of the AIDS Foundation of Kent County.

Speaker will be Atlanta attorney Margie Pitts Hames, who argued an abortion case before the high court. She also has handled employment discrimination and police brutality cases.

Tickets at \$30 are available from ACLU Oakland chairman John E. Grenke at 642-5770. Cocktail hour is at 5:30 p.m. followed by the dinner.

Stress class open at OCC

Techniques to cope with stresses of work, family and the winter season will be offered at an Oakland Community College workshop from 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7.

It will be taught at the Highland Lakes Campus, 7350 Cooley Lake

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Cost is \$10. Registration information is available from OCC at 360-3041.

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