



## Helping the homeless

'We're here because we felt this was a good cause' — students

OCC students raise money at Sleep Out



OCC students huddle around a bonfire to keep warm during their Sleep Out for the Homeless Friday night in Farmington Hills.

She provides refuge through shelter, food

By Susan Buck  
staff writer

**C**ALL IT fate or divine intervention, but the script for Lillian Schneble's role as program director of the South Oakland Shelter (SOS) in Royal Oak seemed pre-written two years ago.

Schneble's 10-year job as traffic manager and department coordinator at WWJ Radio was eliminated through a sale and reorganization. At the same time, the SOS program was looking for a full-time program director, and Schneble fell right into the position.

As a junior warden in Trinity Episcopal Church in Farmington Hills, she was already active with the two-year concept through the church's outreach program.

"I took a \$25,000-a-year pay cut," said Schneble, a Farmington Hills resident. "I'm here because my husband, Jerome, is an engineer. I could not exist on what I make here."

The SOS storefront office on Main Street is modestly furnished and neatly kept. Squirt, a black and white cat obtained from an animal shelter, greets visitors at the door. A washer and dryer, bought

THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer

Homeless tell their stories, 3B

By Susan Buck  
staff writer

**S**TUDENTS FROM Oakland Community College-Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills raised almost \$1,000 through pledged donations by participating in a Sleep Out for the Homeless Friday night.

The event, which took place in staff parking lot Number 2, raised money for the South Oakland Shelter (SOS) on Main Street in Royal Oak.

Lillian Schneble, SOS program director and a Farmington Hills resident, came to thank the group, after she made sure the shelter's homeless were settled in at St. Mary's School of Royal Oak.

BY 9:30 p.m., approximately 35 students and friends, some already shivering and sniffling, talked or warmed their hands over three trash barrels set up for a bonfire, under the auspices of the OCC Public Safety Department.

"We're here because we felt this was a good cause," said Leslie Ear-

Please turn to Page 3

Please turn to Page 2

## Miss Farmington

Organizers seek public's help for yearly scholarship pageant

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

The executive director of the Miss Farmington pageant during the past two years is asking the community for help.

Sarah D'Ascenzo wants to incorporate the 15-year-old franchised pageant, appoint a board of directors, plus beef up the volunteer corps for the annual event, which occurs in July in conjunction with the Farmington-Farmington Hills Founders Festival. The two events are unrelated.

"Most pageant people I speak with are all incorporated," D'Ascenzo said. "We are really behind the times. We have some nice ideas for this year, but it's too much for five or six people to do."

The handful of people doing work throughout the year put on the annual event, in which young women vie for the title of "Miss Farmington." Many go on to compete in the Miss Michigan and Miss America pageants, with which the local event is associated.

"I feel like the pageant should be set up to the point that if someone left, it would continue," D'Ascenzo said.

She became involved two years ago, when previous organizers left town and help was needed. Her daughter, Roxanne D'Ascenzo, was Miss Farmington in 1982.

D'ASCENZO IS seeking people not only with business backgrounds for the board, but others who can help with marketing, choreography, staging and production — all a part of the pageant production.

The Miss Farmington director approached the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, which sponsors the Founders Festival each year, for some tips on getting better organized.

Jonathan Grant, president of the chamber, said his group would not get directly involved, but will spread the word through the community to those who might wish to help.

"As far as us becoming involved in sponsorship of it, we don't feel that's the way to go," he said. "We have a responsibility to this community, but we also feel we fulfill that with the (Founders) Festival."

He said many people seem to vol-



File photo-RANDY BORSI/staff photographer

Kristen Lynn Conley was crowned winner of the 1988 Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant at Vladimir's of Farmington Hills. It's not clear what form the 1989 pageant will take because support is limited.

unteer on the day of the Miss Farmington pageant, but that the group needs help throughout the year. "She really needs a board to work on the event the whole year long," he said. "It's an extensive program and takes a lot of work."

D'ASCENZO WELCOMES any volunteers for either pageant work, or those who wish to serve on a board of directors. She hopes to get

the incorporation completed this year. She can be reached at 661-2048 or 365-5200.

Traditionally, each contestant in the pageant has a corporate sponsor. In addition, other businesses offer their support in a variety of ways. During the 15 years of the pageant, Focal Point Studios of Photography in Farmington has done the photography, and Vladimir's of Farmington Hills has hosted the pageant.

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