

She reaches out to help the homeless



THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer

Farmington Hills resident Lillian Schneble, who works at the South Oakland Shelter in Royal Oak, handles the daily frustrations of the homeless who come from the tri-county area.

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through donations, sits unconnected in the back room, waiting for a volunteer to hook them up. Piles of emergency clothes sit on tables.

"There's people sleeping in abandoned cars; there's people sleeping in doorways; and there's people sleeping in alleys," Schneble said. "For 99 percent of the people who come in here, there is a total lack of a support system."

SCHNEBLE is continually taken aback by the treatment human beings receive by their own blood relatives — treatment that makes people homeless in a matter of minutes.

Last week, she referred a pregnant mother of two, due in a few days to have a C-section, to another shelter because the woman's grandmother evicted the family.

Other times, adult children drop off their elderly parents — as well as their responsibility and conscience — at the shelter.

"Part of my job is not to judge," Schneble said. "But sometimes I just cannot understand it."

THE HOMELESS are castoffs amid the backdrop of Oakland County's affluence.

"Shelters are dehumanizing," Schneble said. "Shelters are not, and were never intended to be, a way of life. Low-income housing, in every community is the solution."

The SOS Shelter program runs from September through June. Although the SOS intake office is in Royal Oak, nighttime housing is rotated among 35 churches in the area whose members volunteer their site for a week.

JUST AS shelter living was never intended to be a way of life, churches were not designed to serve as hotels. Many do not come equipped with showers. Old-fashioned sponge bathing is the best that can be supplied.

Shelter living is not featured in Architectural Digest or Metropolitan Home magazines.

At best, it provides a temporary, warm place for the homeless to sleep in dormitory style, with women and men separated. And it supplies nutritious meals.

The shelter is financed through donations and grants through the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act.

SCHNEBLE GROWS weary of explaining why some of the people who come to the SOS shelter do not have jobs.

As an eight-year resident of Farmington Hills, Schneble is well-aware of the numerous "Help Wanted" signs that hang in fast-food restaurants along Orchard Lake Road.

"If you're homeless and you can't afford meals, you certainly can't afford a car," Schneble said.

Lack of a reliable mass transit system in the metropolitan area is but one contributor to a myriad of reasons for non-employment and under-employment of the homeless.

IN MOST instances, the homeless are limited to a 30-day stay at the SOS shelter.

"Then they move on to another shelter. Hopefully in 30 days, they have gotten through the social services system and found a job and a place to stay," Schneble said.

Meet the Easter Bunny at fund-raising lunch



THOMAS ARNETT/staff photographer

Come and meet the Easter Bunny and have some magical fun with Geri the Clown at the Easter Bunny Luncheon given by the Farmington Area Community Women. Appearing with the Easter Bunny and Geri the Clown are (from left) Jenny Matous, 4, Jimmy Matous, 1, Joey Albrecht, 4 months, and Jason Albrecht, 4.

Farmington Area Community Women will sponsor their annual Easter Bunny Luncheon/Canned Goods Collection Saturday, March 18, at Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road.

The church is between 13 and 14 Mile, east of Farmington Road, Farmington Hills.

The event, noon to 2 p.m., will start with lunch and visiting with the Easter Bunny. Moto Photo will take pictures of children with the Easter Bunny at \$1 per shot. Geri the Clown will entertain.

A Discovery Toy display also will be featured. Proceeds will go toward Easter baskets for needy children.

THE COST is \$2.50 per person paid in advance; a canned good per person is asked to be brought that day for Easter baskets for needy families.

Limited seating is available; call Diane Matous, chairwoman, at 851-3072 as soon as possible to reserve seats. Checks should be made payable to Farmington Area Community Women and mailed to FACW, 28817 McFarland, Farmington Hills 48018.

Local merchants who are helping put on this event include Domino's

on Orchard Lake Road, Burger King on Orchard Lake Road, Jane Toomajian at Real Estate One, 744 M. A.A. Farmington Observer, Orchard United Methodist Church and Moto Photo. Proceeds from the lunch will be turned back to the community in different charitable ways.

ferent charitable ways.

FACW is a community service and leadership organization. It has fund-raisers throughout the year with proceeds helping various areas of the community. The organization contributes to the community through

financial support, services and various club social events.

There is no age limit; women from all backgrounds actively participate in programs. To find out more, call Connie, membership chairwoman, at 478-0654.

Angel collectors name favorites

Dorothy and Les Hogg of Farmington Hills have been named "Angels of the Year" for the 1988-89 season by Angels of the World Inc.

Angels of the World is a collectors club that meets once a year in convention and keeps in touch with their fellow collectors of angels by trad-

ing, sharing and buying gifts of angel figures for one another throughout the year.

Dorothy Hogg's collection of angels numbers about 600. It was her hobby a long time before her husband became involved with the collection and subsequently the collec-

tors club.

Dorothy Hogg is greeting card chairman of the group and was the banquet speaker for the collectors' last Reunion Weekend in South Carolina. Les Hogg served as the group's official photographer for the past Reunion Weekend.

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