

'Army' fights to bring dignity to those in need

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Each day of the year, needy people take their place in the Farmington community, wracked with anxiety and stress. The Salvation Army and Neighborhood House stand ready to help them out of their plight.

Many people don't realize that if they want to target specific needs of Farmington area residents, they should contribute money directly to the Salvation Army Community Center in Farmington Hills, said Lt. Jonathan Rich, corps officer.

Most people think if they send monetary contributions to the main office in Southfield, much filters back down to the local center, at Shawwassee and Inkster.

IT ISN'T so, said Cheryl Carter, Farmington-Farmington Hills Neighborhood House executive director and a caseworker for the local Salvation Army center.

"Most people in this area want their money to stay in this community," Carter said.

"Many people think that everyone in Farmington Hills has a \$250,000 home and has an income of \$75,000. They don't see beyond that to the large homeless factor who are barely making it."

Through October, the local Salvation Army center assisted 528 families and 1,567 individuals and provided 124 nights of lodging, Rich said.

"We try to offer a cure-aid rather than a Band-Aid," Carter said.

PEOPLE STRUGGLING to make ends meet often spend a large percentage of their income on housing, center workers said. One Farmington Hills man, for example, receives \$297 a month in general assistance, but his rent is \$380.

The flip side in trying to help the needy are the few who try to take advantage of the system. They need to be re-educated that the \$5 left over at the end of the month should go toward the electric bill, not a steak or two pieces of Godiva chocolates, Carter said.

Neighborhood House, which opened in mid-1988, works in consortium with agencies like the Salvation Army, Goodwill, schools and local churches to help people in Farmington and Farmington Hills, specifically,

'One woman married to a successful lawyer who always beat her finally moved out and came in here, crying, with her son. She said that "I have a \$200 sweatshirt but no money to buy food."'

— Jonathan Rich
Salvation Army officer

cally, to find food, clothing, shelter and basic life services.

Several agencies come together to make Neighborhood House a clearinghouse.

The local Salvation Army center serves Southfield, Livonia, Novi, Farmington and Farmington Hills year-round.

Carter further illustrated the center's needs. During the winter, the disadvantaged need assistance with high utility bills. During the summer with the children at home, families need more food. Come September, school clothes are a necessity. Before long, the holiday season arrives and the cycle begins all over again.

THE SALVATION ARMY will host a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, with all the trimmings and special gifts for children, at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 20, at the Knights of Columbus, 21900 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills.

For reservations, call the Farmington Hills center at 477-1153 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays.

The Salvation Army hopes to serve 120 dinners.

The Salvation Army bell-ringer's kettle campaign starts Saturday. Last year's campaign netted \$70,000 in the Novi and Farmington areas.

On Dec. 16, World Hunger Day, a portion of the kettle proceeds will go to overseas aid. On Dec. 23, all proceeds will go directly to Neighborhood House.

THE CENTER is taking applications 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays for people who think they will need assistance for Christmas. People who wish to Adopt-A-Family are also being sought.

For people who call that the sky's the limit but so is your budget," Carter said.

Donors may designate the type of family they wish to assist — a senior citizen, a child, a family — and geographical location.

Last year, approximately 30 Farmington-area families were "adopted out," Carter said.

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE doesn't have the time to go out and buy gifts for the needy. Carter suggests that contributors buy Christmas presents, or gift certificates from a grocery or department store, for the needy.

Each year, the center is jammed with unsolicited gifts from the public. The site, in turn, opens up a Christmas store the Thursday and Friday before Christmas for those in need of assistance. All people are interviewed for eligibility, Rich said.

For all events or to volunteer, call Rich.

IT DOESN'T take much to plunge a family into a downward financial spiral.

"Their job may not provide insurance, and all of a sudden, they're bankrupt," Rich said.

For example, one single parent, after being laid off from her job, didn't allow her 12- and 8-year-old daughters to play outside. The woman had no medical insurance. She was afraid the girls would get hurt and she had no means of support.

Others have different stories. "One woman married to a successful lawyer who always beat her finally moved out and came in here, crying, with her son," Rich said. "She said that 'I have a \$200 sweatshirt but no money to buy food.'"

"In that particular case, we were able to help her temporarily and she was able to get enough help from her family to get an apartment and a job and was able to go back to school."



Salvation Army Lt. Jonathan Rich and Neighborhood House executive director Cheryl Carter discuss the red kettle fund-raising drive that starts Saturday.

Party preference rule angers primary voters

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

One constituent was so mad about having to declare his political party preference for the 1992 closed presidential primary, he mailed a party declaration form to state Rep. Jan Dolan in pieces.

"It was like confetti," said Dolan, (R-Farmington Hills, about the man's mutilated declaration card. "People are upset. I've never gotten so much mail."

Dolan isn't the only one getting complaints. Despite thousands of returned and completed political party preference forms, Farmington Hills city clerk Kathy Dornan has heard a wealth of complaints. Farmington city clerk Josephine Bushey has had fewer complaints, but they have to do with privacy.

"People don't mind the closed primary. But they object to declaring whether they are Republicans or Democrats. They think it's an invasion of privacy," Dornan said.

Complaints stem from a 1988 state law that forces voters to declare their political party to be eligible to vote — a first in Michigan history — in the March 17, 1992 presidential primary. The closed primary replaces the party caucus system established in 1963 for nominating presidential candidates.

DECLARATION FORMS have been available since September

1988. To vote in the 1992 presidential primary, voters must declare their party preference by Feb. 17, 1992. Forms may be obtained at city clerk offices or at each federal, state and local elections through Feb. 15, 1992.

If voters do not complete political party preference declaration cards or designate no party preference, they will not be allowed to vote in the 1992 presidential primary.

The political preference requirement applies only to the presidential primary, not state or local elections. The political party declared by a voter remains in effect until changed through voters can change their minds up to 30 days prior to the March 17, 1992 primary.

For information on the declaration cards, except the driver license or personal identification number, is public information, obtainable by anyone requesting it from city clerks.

"It will generate lists that will be public knowledge," Dolan said.

Patrick Anderson, Farmington Area Republican Club president, said he believes the closed primary will be "less intimidating" to partisans. In the caucus system, "you still had to make a choice and you were subject to intimidation from others."

Despite complaints, some believe the closed primary will attract more participants in the presidential nomination process than the caucus system did.

PROPOSERS SAY the closed primary will eliminate the cross over voting that occurred in the caucus system. Crossover voting allowed one party to help nominate a weaker candidate in the other party.

Farmington Democratic Club president Mike Breshgold said the closed primary is step in the right direction because only party members should be nominating their party's candidate.

"This (closed primary) is better because the political parties ought to nominate the best party," said Farmington Hills city councilman Aldo Vagnozzi, Farmington Democratic Club treasurer.

Many Republicans, however, are opposed to the closed primary. Dolan is a co-sponsor of a resolution urging the Democratic National Committee to rescind its rule refusing to recognize delegates to its national conventions if they are selected in an open primary system. If not, the resolution asks that Michigan be exempted from the rule as Wisconsin has.

The resolution states that the Michigan Legislature was forced to enact the 1988 law establishing a closed presidential primary to comply with the Democratic National Committee's rules.

The resolution remains in the state House oversight committee.

Downtown businesses honored

It's all in the family for several downtown Farmington businesses that are family-owned and operated. Together from "9 to 5" as well as during off-work hours, these people know the true meaning of "family togetherness."

For all the reasons that make families special, the week including Thanksgiving was declared for several years by the president of the United States as National Family Week.

Following the precedent, Richard Tupper, mayor of Farmington issued a proclamation to salute the family-run businesses in downtown Farmington.

The mayoral proclamation designates the week of November 19-23 as Family Business Week in downtown Farmington.

"Because of the contributions that these businesses have made to downtown Farmington, we would like to recognize them with Family Business Week," Tupper said. "Through their quality establishments, they have helped maintain the area's small community atmosphere."

CHARGED WITH the economic health and vitality of the downtown area, the Farmington Downtown Development Authority (DDA) realizes the importance of the family businesses.

"The family-run businesses are a special ingredient in our downtown's business mix. Several have been here for many years — such as the Civic Theatre and the Bon Ton Shoppe — while others are recent additions — such as Marco's Cocktails & Dining and Omirco Koney Is-

land," said Wendy Strip Sittsamer, DDA executive director.

"I think the proclamation and observance are wonderful ways to show these families our appreciation," she said.

The downtown Farmington area consists of 159 businesses anchored by the intersection of Grand River and Farmington Road. Since 1986, the DDA has executed a revitalization program in the area.

Downtown Farmington family businesses are: The Baker's Loaf, Bon Ton Shoppe, Civic Theatre, Cowley's Old Village Inn, Donovan's Country Store, Farmington Bakery, Farmington Insurance, Fiscal Point Studio, Grace Insurance, Hot Dawg! ... & More, Lace Curtain Shop, Marco's Dining & Cocktails, Mason's, Michelle Marx, Pictures & More, Precious Commodities and Ray Interiors.



KAISER PORCELAIN SHOW

Friday, November 17, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5-8 p.m., Birmingham
November 18, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Livonia

A wonderful opportunity to see a collection of these magnificent porcelain pieces and to meet Gisela Kaiser, here to answer your questions and personally sign your Kaiser editions. Also watch artist Konrad Wachter, with his delicate brush and sensitive hand, demonstrate the painting process.

Jacobson's

We welcome Jacobson's Charge, MasterCard® and VISA®
Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.