

Suburban Life

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Easter hunt in the snow

IN A SEASON OF erratic spring weather area youngsters hunted for their Easter goodies in the snow. It was Farmington Area Jaycees 35th annual Easter Egg Hunt and the first time in memory treats were wrapped specifically to protect them from the elements.

But that didn't stop the Easter Bunny, who arrived with much fanfare in a Farmington Hill Fire Department truck, or 450 youngsters dressed in their winter's warmest from scrambling in the spring ritual.

The grand finale of the morning was the drawing. Guy Kinsey won the boy's bicycle donated by Farmington Bicycle and Repair Shop. Kirsten Kamerman won the girl's bicycle donated by Town and Country Cyclery.

"There were lots of kids who had lots of fun," is the way Kate Spangenberg, who chaired the Easter Egg Hunt with Tom Griswold, described the event.

Spangenberg and Griswold worked with a committee of 10 and spent about \$400 to stage the hunt.



With arms outstretched, the Easter Bunny greets the children before the scramble begins.



Kip Robinson of Farmington Hills gives his 2-year-old daughter Julie a better view of the Easter Bunny.



Steven Paul, 4, and Ryan Ellis, 5, both residents of Farmington Hills, make their plans for how to amass the most candy.



Photos by SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer



With Easter basket in hand (at left) youngsters find their Easter treats in the snow-covered grass. At right, Farmington Hills resident Amy Hunter, 5, put her basket over her head while waiting for the signal for the hunt to begin.

Another Way

Volunteer-staffed pregnancy center passes the test of time

By Lorraine McClish
staff writer

ANOTHER WAY PREGNANCY Center passed its fifth anniversary without fanfare or any formal celebration.

"There was reason to celebrate if you go by the statistics that tell you how many small businesses fall within the first five years," said Julie Raguse, a Farmington Hills resident and one of five housewives committed to getting the center under way to give alternatives to women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy.

"We did observe the fact that the first babies we saved will be entering kindergarten this year, but we have reason to celebrate almost every day."

"It is not uncommon now for one of our volunteers to be approached in the A & P or in the post office by a

'We had about three clients a week when we first opened. Now we're getting four-five a day five days a week and are thinking about getting more space.'

— Julie Raguse

woman who says, 'My daughter is two years old now and doing fine' or 'Thanks for being there when I needed you' or 'Here's the baby!'

"These are very good days and very rewarding times," she said. "We have a lot of success stories to tell — and a lot of heartbreakers — but I guess we've stood the test of time."

"We had about three clients a week when we first opened. Now we're getting four-five a day five

days a week and are thinking about getting more space."

ANOTHER WAY is housed in second floor offices in a renovated building at 49175 Pontiac Trail, in Wixom. Space in the basement is used to store maternity clothes, infant clothing and baby equipment, that "keeps coming and going," Raguse said.

One full-time paid office manager mans the office with 15-20 volunteers. Of the volunteers 12 are counselors, none professional but all intensely trained for their jobs, and all who hold to a deep personal conviction that abortion is wrong.

"We don't ram anything down anyone's throat," Raguse said. "We are there to listen one-to-one and everything told to us is strictly confidential."

"We are strong Pro-Life, but the choice is her own. We are there to

give the choices and alternatives," she said.

Everything that is offered in the center is offered free.

There are free pregnancy tests, complete privacy, information on human life matters and community services, and help with housing, transportation and maternity needs.

Another Way is supported by gifts from individuals, some families who are committed to Pro-Life, some businesses, and a number of churches who give annual pledges.

Raguse's church, Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington, is one of several in the surrounding communities that budget a specific amount each year to keep the doors of Another Way open.

The bank account has been as low as \$50 at times, but the center was opened on faith, Raguse said, and the faith has never faltered.

WHEN ANOTHER Way opened Raguse served as its president and did some counseling. Now she is on the administrative end of things, helps with the newsletter, the fund raising and the speaker's bureau.

"It's worthwhile," she said. "This was the issue of the '70s — the '80s — and is still an issue in the '90s. I didn't want to be home reading about it."

"I watched Another Way being built and now I see it growing and expanding — in large part just by being a good listening ear when there is no one else there to listen. We don't replace the family — but we are there if you need us to listen," she said.

"Most of our clients come by word of mouth. We have a small ad in a shopper's guide, and one in the Yellow Pages, but we get our clients by word of mouth," she said.



Julie Raguse