

Board members confident, well informed

This is the second in a three-part series on Oakland Family Services. The non-profit social service agency with five Oakland County locations is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year.

By Judith Doner Berns
staff writer

Plan to come on time to the monthly board meetings of Oakland Family Services.

"Each meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. on the nose," says Colin John.

And he should know—the retiring advertising executive (MacManus, John and Adams) has been serving since 1984 when OFS was still known as Family and Children's Services.

"I was recruit-

ed," John says simply. "I do think it's important for an organization to have someone from an advertising agency."

John, from Bloomfield Hills, heads the board's marketing and public relations committee.

LARRY GLADCHUN, also, was recruited. But much more recently. The board, which sets the non-profit social service agency's policy, wanted a lawyer to help direct changes in the agency's corporate structure.

Gladchun, a Bloomfield Township resident, with Michigan National Corp. fit the bill. And Oakland Family Services apparently fits his—utilizing his expertise.

"From the very first instance when I joined it was different than any other board. Meetings were structured, fully informative. The information we get is as good as you'll find in most publicly held companies."

Gladchun, as many of the board members, serve or have served on other non-profit boards.

"I think the board members of this agency feel they make a difference—have a say," he said. "Everyone listens to everyone on this board. Most boards want board members strictly to be fund-raisers."

The OFS board sets policy. It never did the fund-raising common to many boards until recently when the agency decided to consolidate its various Pontiac offices, converting the old Pontiac Elks Lodge on Orchard Lake Road.

The building rests on donations—from the services of West Bloomfield builder Al Tobocman, to 78 paintings which adorn its walls by Franklin resident Max Fisher to the donations by contributors for each individual counseling room.

Prior to the building campaign, "We never did any fund-raising at all—we got all our funding from contracts, fees and insurance," said Di-

ane Graczyk who chaired the campaign.

"IT'S AN EASY organization to feel good about asking people for money," said Graczyk, of Bloomfield Township. She is one of the longest-serving board members, starting in 1983 with one of the organizations OFS has enveloped—the Michigan Children's Aid Society.

OFS offers protective and preventative children's services ranging from child abuse to pregnancy counseling to tutoring; family counseling for a number of problems; substance abuse treatment for adults and support services for families with schizophrenic or manic-depressive members.

Its 1990 revenues were more than \$4 million from: grants and contributions, United Way, government contracts and program fees. Graczyk and the rest of the board generally confine themselves to policy and rarely come onto the board after going through the volunteer program. Volunteers are more likely to go on to be paid staff.



Diane Graczyk



Colin John

"I'm not really a hands on person," Graczyk said. "What keeps me going is knowing (what the agency does) benefits other people."

A plus to her is: "Because of my involvement, my daughter went into social work."

Next: "She now does her hair. Her house is clean. She wears make-up," volunteer parent aide Connie Drew says of her client, Drew, of Rochester Hills, and four others, describe their volunteer experiences.

Fall enrollment up 130 at OU

Oakland University reports a final headcount of 12,530 undergraduate and graduate students for fall 1991, an increase of 130 students over fall 1990.

Undergraduate enrollment is down at the freshman and sophomore levels but up slightly for juniors and seniors, according to George A. Aktan, director of the Office of Institutional Research. The large headcount increase came at the master's level with 2,370 students enrolled, up from 2,168 a year ago.

Undergraduate totals for 1991 are 9,405, broken down according to

class as: freshmen, 1,850, down 146 from last fall; sophomores, 2,305, down 54 students from 1991; juniors 2,728, an increase of 84; and seniors, 2,522, up 49 students from fall of 1990.

Additional undergraduates enrolled in special categories (college guests and non-degree granting tracks, for example) bring total undergraduate enrollment for fall to 10,016, down from the 10,089 enrolled last fall.

Master's degree students enrolled for fall are up 204 over last year. Doctoral and specialist degree stu-

dents total 144, down 1 from fall of 1990.

OU's record enrollment was achieved in 1986 with 12,707 students. The university has downsized slightly since that time to increase the number of dollars in annual state support available for each student.

The headcount is used to report enrollment to the State of Michigan and for budget purposes. It is determined by taking average credit loads for undergraduates, master's and doctoral students and dividing by the total credits delivered in each area.

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