

Ballroom from page 1C

The Botaford class precedes the regular dance (\$4), and last week a huge group of men and women were following Nader's instructions. The class was so large, the teacher needed to resort to the whistle around her neck to get their attention.

One of Kowall's friends is former Bloomfield Hills resident Marge Ellison Black, who was visiting from St. Louis. "I like the Latin dances and the waltz," she said. "I think those are my two favorite dances. I love them."

Before Black got up to dance with Joseph Tucher of Livonia, he replied to the question about which dances he preferred. "I do them all because when I retired eight years ago, I went to many senior centers." He said he has a regular partner when he goes dancing at the senior centers.

Even in Australia

Another of Kowall's friends at the Botaford was Beverly Currie, visiting from Sydney, Australia. She said, "The old time (ballroom dancing) is starting up again," in Australia.

She mentioned the current movie "Strictly Ballroom" that is luring people back to the dance floor. "It was filmed in Australia. I haven't seen it yet."

Most of the people at the Bota-



SHARON LAMIR/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Watching dancers: Sheri Shannon of Birmingham and Chuck Brudhomme of Berkeley, from church singles group, watch more experienced dancers do the tango.

ford dance were mature adults, but there was a group of young people too. Christi Ondo of Southfield and Jerry Stutzman of Farmington Hills are both enthusiastic about ballroom dancing. They came with a group of six that night, from their college-age church group at the Highland Park Baptist Church in Southfield.

"A friend of ours found out about it. This is something we'd

like to do — this kind of dancing," Ondo said. "We've been coming for three weeks. About 10 people come off and on."

She said her group has learned to do the rumba, the swing and the waltz. "And the cha-cha," Stutzman said. He added, "I've been inspired by two movies, 'The Swing Kids' and 'Strictly Ballroom.' 'Strictly Ballroom' is my favorite movie of the year."

Usually about 150 people attend the Botaford dances, which feature music by popular area bands such as Mike Overton, Joe Vitale, and the Blue Tones. Jack Ennis of Livonia is one of three buddies, all now retired, who started the dances.

"We operated at a loss the first two weeks," Ennis said. "We're just starting to break even. We eventually want to start a Society for the Preservation of Ballroom Dancing. At present, if we lose money, it comes out of our pocket."

Those who haven't tried ballroom dancing lately might want to bear in mind Ennis' recommendation: "This is great physical or mental therapy for anyone involved."

Volunteer-A-Thon needs helpers

BY ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

A chance to combine doing volunteer work and fund-raising in the same day is the purpose of the Volunteer-A-Thon, which will be held Saturday, May 15, in Detroit.

Carolyn Iwrey of West Bloomfield is president of Volunteer Impact, the sponsoring group, which is encouraging hundreds of individuals to volunteer for this special day.

"I was one of the founding members of Volunteer Impact," Iwrey said. "We started talking in 1989, and began our first project in 1990." The organization began with "nine like-minded people, who got together. Several moved here from other states," she explained. "We wanted to volunteer but were frustrated. We were all

so busy. We started calling agencies to see if they could take volunteers who would work on weekends."

Iwrey, who is originally from Washington, D.C., said that Volunteer Impact was "the brainchild" of Lisa Kanter of Southfield. Kanter, who came from Boston, is employed as an estate planner with the American Benefits Group.

Volunteer Impact has no "members" as such and no fees. "Anyone can be on the mailing list," Iwrey said. A newsletter goes out every month, and volunteers can sign up for any project they want to work on, for the amount of time they have available.

To volunteer, the individual calls the coordinator of the project that appeals to him or her. The

only requirement is that if they say they'll be there, that they show up.

"We now have 3,000 people on our mailing list," Iwrey said. A total of 760 people volunteered for projects between June 1992 and March 1993. "We coordinate seven to eight projects a month," she said. "Between June 1992 and March 1993, we did 54 projects." At present, 2,689 volunteer service hours have been put in.

Volunteer Impact works through presently existing community service organizations in metropolitan Detroit, helping them primarily on weekends and evenings. Some of these "partners" are Borman Hall, COTS, Detroit Meals on Wheels, Eastwood Nursing Center,

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