

Children from page 1C

mother next month?" Looking back on what was like to become parents of an infant family, Wayne said, "It was kinda scary at first." Rhea said, "It was more difficult adopting older children because they had been in the foster care system several years. It takes a toll on the children."

Initially, the girls came on a pre-adoption basis. One of the kids, comparing the way Rhea poured orange juice to the way others had done it for them, said, "She doesn't know how to pour orange juice."

Getting adjusted

Having new kids in the family, "It's almost like getting married," Wayne said. "They had to get used to us. We had to get used to the way they had done things before."

When the Wrights' other children were born, Wayne helped out with the babies and "I'm good at pushing the stroller, and I've gotten pretty good at changing diapers."

The older girls also lent a hand. "I got them a lot of baby sitting jobs, too, because they were experienced with infants," he said.

In addition to all the usual work that goes into raising kids, the Wrights have expended extra effort with their youngest daughter.

"It's difficult," Rhea admitted. Ashley is handicapped. She had heart problems at birth and has neurological problems as a result of that. She is severely handicapped. We went through crisis time — a lot of tears for all of us. Fortunately, we are a strong family and will pull through this."

Two-year-old Ashley tests at the six- or seven-month level, as far as skills. She is unable to sit or to talk. "She is able to roll over," her mother said. Because Rhea is a nurse, "I know medically what is going on. Sometimes that's made it more difficult."

Ashley attends an early intervention program, offered through the Troy School District at the Wing Lake Developmental Center in Bloomfield Hills. "She has physical therapy and occupational therapy twice a week, and a special education teacher comes to the home once a week," Rhea said.

"I work afternoons. The sitter comes afternoons. She's really good with Ashley."

Kristyn and Michael do their part to assist little Ashley. "They help with feeding, giving her bottle. Michael pushes her in her stroller around the block when Mom's fixing dinner and Ashley is fussing."

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lunch instead. The escort arranged for the book seller to decline the luncheon, saying, "No, I brought a lunch in," and saved the signing. "It's not just driving," Carp pointed out.

Besides authors coming to talk about their books, her service escorts celebrities who may be traveling as a spokesperson for an organization representing a food product or for a drug or cosmetics company. These have included many sports figures. "They get on TV or radio because of who they are," Carp said. She also has escorted chefs who have written

cookbooks, and usually the publisher asks the media escort to make the dish that will be shown on television.

When she arranges accommodations, she may put the guest in one of three luxury suites with a Jacuzzi in the room at the Southfield Radisson Plaza. "For complete luxury and service I recommend the Ritz-Carlton (in Dearborn) and the Townsend (in Birmingham). Downtown, I recommend the Athenaeum (in Detroit's Greektown) because every room is a suite."

Celebrities she has escorted include Dr. Joyce Brothers, Smokey

Robinson, Kirk Douglas, Maureen Dean, Mickey Mantle, Al Newarth, Shirley Temple Black, Wilt Chamberlain, Liz Carpenter, Gloria Steinham, then-Sen. Al Gore, Martha Stewart, Oliver North and Carol Baker.

"I've had people say to me I've been their best friend for the day — their mother for the day," Carp said.

She wants to expand her business into the corporate world, calling it Corporate Concierge, and providing sightseeing tours, power shopping and other services for executives and their traveling companions.

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2 days per week \$40 Unlimited \$54 \$5.00 walk-in fee
Deerfield Elem.
(3600 Crooks, bet. S. Blvd. & Auburn) 10 weeks
MW 8:15 P.M. - 9:30 P.M. Low Impact Sept. 27 A. Corba
MW 7:25 P.M. - 8:40 P.M. HI/Low Impact Sept. 27 T. Sija

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Mini-Calendar starts week of Sept. 14
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Arling Presence Luth. Church

(1550 W. Walton, bet. Livernois & Old Perch) 10 weeks
T/TH 9:30 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. STEP Sept. 21 S. Wood
T/TH 8:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M. STEP Sept. 21 S. Wood
Sat. 9:00 A.M. HI/Low Impact Sept. 25 L. Jerrill

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Babysitting cost \$1.50 per child per class

University Presbyterian Church

(1335 Adams, S. of Avon) 10 weeks
MW 8:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. Low Impact Sept. 20 P. Chastain
• MW 9:15 A.M. - 10:15 A.M. HI/Low Impact Sept. 20 O. Wilke
• T/TH 9:10 A.M. - 10:10 A.M. Low Impact Sept. 21 S. Brochanski

Babysitting cost \$1.50 per child per class

Longmeadow School

(450 Altston, South of Tinkers) 10 weeks
MW 5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M. HI/Low Impact Sept. 20 K. Cadiz

Rochester High School

(Corner of Walton & Livernois) 10 weeks
T/TH 6:15 P.M. - 7:15 P.M. Low Impact Sept. 21 Staff
T/TH 7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. HI/Low Impact Sept. 21 S. Wood

Rochester Hills Tennis & Swim Club

(200 W. Avon, corner of Rochester Rd.) 10 weeks
MW 5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M. HI/Low Impact Sept. 20 Staff

St. Philips Episcopal Church

(100 Howe Rd., corner of Main, across from Dairy Depot, Down) 10 weeks
T/TH 9:20 A.M. - 10:20 A.M. HI/Low Impact Sept. 21 J. Steiner

• Indicates Babysitting available

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