

# Teachers can open book on resources



Now in its second year, the Farmington Public Schools Community Partnership Advisory Council is dedicated to bringing the schools and local businesses closer together and inspiring them to share talents and resources. Direct queries to Betty Wolford, School/Community Relations, at 489-3349.

"Let your fingers do the walking." We associate this familiar advertising slogan with a resource guide we use to find products and

services we may need. Farmington Public Schools created a similar resource guide for teachers to "let their fingers do the walking." It allows teachers to locate people in the community with special skills and knowledge they need to enrich classroom experiences for students.

The Partners in Education Resource Book lists business and community people. They responded to the district's request to become involved in the schools by sharing their knowledge and expertise with students.

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce assisted the district in recruiting volunteers and gathering information. The district compiled the information into a reference book and distributed a copy to every teacher.

The book lists people by their areas of expertise and what they are willing to do. Possibilities for activities include:

- Hosting tours of the workplace;
- Displaying student projects;
- Talking with students interested in their field;
- Offering internships;
- Being a classroom speaker and presenter;
- Participating in Career Day presentations; and
- Allowing career shadowing for students.

Teachers are easily able to locate resource people whom they know will be willing to help.

Barbara Gaydes, academic adviser for adult education students at Farmington Community School, used the resource book to locate speakers from Amerisure Co., Farmington Hills Fire De-

partment, Boisford General Hospital, First of America and Kelly Agency Inc. to participate in their Career Day.

"The Partners in Education Resource Book is a valuable tool for us at Farmington Community School. I feel very comfortable dealing with the people listed in the book. They have been able to relate to our young adults," she said.

The resource book is possible because business and community people are interested in the education of today's students and are willing to back up that interest with actions.

Anyone interested in being listed in the Partners in Education Resource Book may get more information by calling the Farmington Public Schools office at School/Community Relations at 489-3349.



Helping hand: Michelle Kerns (right), architect with Greiner Inc. and a member of the Community Partnership Advisory Council, is listed in the Partners in Education Resource Book. She's shown here working with Forest Elementary School students. She helped them design and build their own community.

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