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they are working on. "they get to know those patients who they are taking care of a little bit better," Grazal said.

Public Relations coordinator Chris Ward said volunteers like Ed Barter, hospital vice president, come from other parts of the hospital including payroll, accounting, data management or maintenance.

"They come and make the commitment once a week to feed patients," he said.

Volunteers tend to be people who enjoy being around others, Grazal said.

"They like the fact that they're helping someone, that they're making a difference," she said. "It provides them with that whole different view of what the hospital is. What we're really all about."

The other 30 percent of the volunteers are from outside the hospital. They arrive at 11:30 a.m. when the first trays are delivered and go from floor to floor until everyone has been fed at around 1 p.m.

There are many benefits of having one person assisting a patient: for 45 to 60 minutes uninterrupted. That time is a luxury the busy nursing staff can't afford.

But when more time is spent patients tend to eat more and possibly avoid tube feedings. Perhaps even more important than the feeding itself, Grazal said, was the socialization.

Mary Jane Larson, R.N., who volunteers at least once weekly,

found this to be true with one woman who told her she wasn't really hungry. Larson started chatting while offering bites of food.

"She told me about her hubby, her life and in between she's eating away," Larson said, adding that the program was beneficial for her as a manager, because her work doesn't involve much patient contact.

Patrick Reinhard, R.N., said it's a good orientation for patients and volunteers.

"Sometimes it's the only time I look out the window," he said. "It also keeps the patients oriented as to what day it is."

Proper nutrition is an important part of the health and healing of the patient, Grazal said. "It can shorten the patients' length of stay."

Health care reforms tend to focus on decreasing payments by decreasing the length of the patient's stay.

"Before these reforms come down, we're putting things into place that are going to help us and help the patients in the long run," Reinhard said.

Training for new volunteers involves going over basics and having an experienced volunteer go with them for their first feeding. There are 66 volunteers who, for the month of May alone, fed 93 patients 223 meals. That involved 167 volunteer hours.

Plans to expand the program to incorporate service during the



**Finding time:** John Morningstar of Data Management takes time during his busy day to volunteer in the Helping Hands program.

dinner hour and possibly breakfast would add to the current need for more volunteers.

Smith would like to see more hospitals and other institutions, like nursing homes, start similar programs.

"What's happening here could happen anywhere," she said.

For more information about Helping Hands or about becoming a volunteer, call 471-8735.

## 'Exotic Evenings' explore ethnic enrichment, diversity

In celebration of its 25th anniversary, the Community Center of Farmington-Farmington Hills is presenting a series of five "Exotic Evenings" featuring performers from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

The family-oriented series will explore the rich heritages of other cultures through music, dance and storytelling.

Beginning Wednesday, July 20, the performances will be held in the outdoor amphitheater at The Center, 24705 Farmington Road, north of 10 Mile.

In case of rain, the shows will be staged in the large living room of the Longacre House — a Michigan Historic Site.

The Community Center grounds will be open at 6:15 p.m. with performances beginning at 7 p.m.

The public is encouraged to bring blankets for lawn seating and a picnic supper, if they so desire.

Light refreshments will be available before the shows.

Admission to the "Exotic Evenings" is free, courtesy of Target Stores.

"This is the initial phase of the new Cultural Harmony program we are launching this year," according to executive director Ben Marks.

"Eventually, we want to schedule additional performances, art exhibits and classes focusing on different ethnic groups," he said.

"We believe there is a need for programs that bring people of different races together in a fun, relaxed atmosphere, where they can learn something about each other's culture and become better acquainted," said Laura Collins, center development coordinator.

"We also want to provide quality enrichment programs that are affordable, convenient and enjoyable for all ages," she said.

Outside funding is a crucial factor.

"Target's sponsorship made it possible for us to offer the Exotic Evenings at no charge," Marks said. "We hope to find additional sponsors for the other phases of the Cultural Harmony program."

The schedule of performances are:

- July 20, Tomoyo Koehler, Japanese Koto Harp music; Renee Chou, traditional Chinese dance.
- July 27, Corinne Stavish, Jewish stories and folklore.
- Aug. 3, Giselle Fobbs, Middle eastern dance.
- Aug. 10, LaRon Williams, African stories.
- Aug. 17, Malini's Dances of India, Carol Hansen, tales of East India.

For more information call the center at 477-8404.

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## Local man will be moderator

D. Keith Deacon of Farmington Hills was elected moderator recently at the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches during its 40th meeting.

This meeting, in Des Moines, Iowa, was attended by about 1,000 people representing the 403 member churches.

The Rev. Steven H. Ware Bailey, minister at Bushnell Congregational Church of Detroit and chairman of the National Association's Division for Ministry, delivered the congregational lecture.

Deacon will preside as moderator at the 1995 annual meeting of the NAACC in Minneapolis. Deacon is a member of the North Congregational Church of Southfield. The North Congregational Church is moving to Farmington Hills in August.

The 40th anniversary meeting of the NAACC will be June 24-27, 1995, at the Dearborn Hyatt Regency.

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