COMMUNITY LIFE



Forum offers ideas to help all students

s a Farmington Hills resident and a teacher with the Detroit Public School system, I was delighted to be asked to participate in the National Policy Forum on Improving Schools and Education. My congressman, Joe Knollenberg, sponsored my membership.

What is the National Policy Forum? Who participated in its meetings? It is a grass-roots organization for the exchange of ideas which also looks for solutions to problems facing all Americans. The forum's goal is for citizens outside the believay to seek solutions without further government encreachment.

It is an avenue for conservative Americans to come together to solve problems and offer new ideas for many of the concerns facing American today.

The National Policy Forum believes that ideas make a difference in politics and that Washington is not the first or best place to look these days for such ideas. The forum is led by a board of directors of nationally recognized Republicans and other policy leaders.

See TEACHER, 18A

Wet noses bring joy, smiles to patients



to have a magical way of touching emotions and pulling heart strings in ways that humans can't.

That seems to be the case with four legged creatures in the area Pet-a-Pet Club.

By DIANE GALE STAFF WRITER

Exary Warras
Leavo it to a cuddly dog or a purring kitten to
bring smiles and excitement to people in nursing
homes, hospitals, schools, hospices and day care
facilities.
Volunteers in the local Pet-A-Pet Club who
take their dogs, cats and sometimes rabbits to
places like Botsford Community Conter in
Farmington Hills, Redford Geriatric Village and
33 other facilities in metropolitan Detroit get results.

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"We have a great response," according to Pet-Apet Club president Ruth Curry of Redford.

"One activities director said that before we visit, at least five days, all the people are excited and talking about the visit."

Curry praised the many benefits that come from pet therapy.
"One woman who had cancer told me: 'You know, I forget for one hour today.' And boy, does that make you feel good."

Curry said despite the many contacts people have had with the animals there haven't been any bad experiences with an animal acting poorly.

She recalled, bowever, a situation once where does didn't seem suited for the visits and the owner immediately knew it wasn't a good idea to put the works.

owner immediately knew it wasn't a good idea to pursue the work.

More volunteers and their pets are needed, especially at Farmington-area facilities, like Sarah Fisher, Botsford Continuing Hoslth Center and The Greenery Extended Care Center.

Estello Blesiadecki, program coordinator, said the volunteer work is rewarding, especially because "we get a beautiful response from the patients." The Pet-A-Pet animal visitation program, which has been active in the metro area for eight



Smiles all around: Lori Clinton and her golden retriever, Chelsey, visit with Greenery resi-

years, recently became the Pet-A-Pet Club Inc., an independent, nonprofit organization which is no long or affiliated with the Animal Welfare Society of Southeastern Michigan.

More than 260 volunteers take their family pets on visits. Three veterinarians work as advisers for the pet owners.

"Being independent means we can grow feater and bring our program to even more adults and children," said Curry, who has been volunteering work, 842-9920, Ext. 332.



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