

Strides from page 13A

adults in this country. A defective gene causes the body to produce an abnormally thick, sticky mucus. This abnormal mucus leads to chronic lung infections and lung damage and also interferes with digestion.

Ironically, Erin was born in August 1989 around the time that this scientific discovery was made, Susan said.

There is no known cure. However, scientists supported by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation are now conducting gene therapy studies involving people with cystic fibrosis. Early reports indicate that gene therapy appears to correct the defective CF cells. Despite this progress, much work is still needed to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of the innovative, new technology.

Erin uses a breathing machine, called a pulmo-aide twice a day. Her registered nurse, Vida Kaczmarek, a clinical coordinator at Children's Hospital in Detroit, explained the techniques and technology.

A new drug called pulmozyme, available since January 1994, has aided patients by more effectively

■ 'That darn pediatrician didn't believe me. We must keep her lungs as free from infection as we can.'

Susan Keon

cutting through the mucus.

"It's a miracle drug," Susan said. "Thank God, we have health insurance."

Without insurance, treatments cost \$870 a month, which breaks down to \$29 a day, Susan said. Twice a day, for a half-hour, Susan or husband, David, also perform chest physical therapy or "clapping" motions to loosen the mucus, according to Kaczmarek.

Susan finds herself always explaining why Erin has a persistent cough.

She's hoping that a device called a flutter will eventually help Erin do her own treatments. This will allow both Erin and her parents to get away separately. "As much as we love her, we can't go anywhere without Erin," her mother said.

Susan, a service rep for Ameri-

tech in Livonia, and husband David, a material handler at the Ford Glass plant in Romulus, were told that they both have the defective gene which causes cystic fibrosis. "We were told that there's a 50-50 chance that another child would have cystic fibrosis," Susan said.

Although there still is no cure, Susan believes the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation has made great strides. "The money they bring in goes right for research," Susan said. "You see results."

This year's Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's 7th annual Walk-a-Thon, will be held Saturday, May 20, at Hines Park and Sunday, May 21, at Bloomer Park in Rochester. For more information about the walk, call Ann Peters, director of Special Events at the foundation office in Troy. (810) 524-2873.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LAMUEUX

Bunny buddy: Above, Erin Keon of Farmington Hills plays with her pet "Jack" rabbit. At left, cystic fibrosis sufferer Erin Keon does treatments twice, sometimes three times a day.



Fund-raising walk makes strides toward CF cure

By SUE BUCK

STAFF WRITER

Walkers are still needed for Great Strides — A Walk to Cure Cystic Fibrosis.

Two walk locations are planned.

On Saturday, May 20, check-in begins at 11 a.m. at Hines Park in Westland. The walk begins at noon. Enter Middle Rouge Parkway from Ann Arbor Trail where it intersects with Farmington Road in Westland.

On Sunday, May 21, check-in begins at 11 a.m. at Bloomer Park in Rochester. Follow John R North, where it will end at the park entrance, one-half mile north of Avon Road.

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is looking for sponsored walkers.

The goal is for each to raise \$100. Everyone raising at least \$50 will receive an official Cystic Fibrosis Foundation T-shirt. Many prizes are available.

The Great Strides walker turning in the most money (more than \$1,000) in this designated region — on or before walk day — will receive round-trip, coach class air transportation for two on American Airlines (AA) to any AA destination within the contiguous 48 United States and Canada. Restrictions apply.

Other prizes in other categories include a 13-inch remote control color TV with a video cassette recorder, a video cassette recorder with remote, a hand-held color TV, among others.

For more information, call Ann Peters, director of Special Events

at the foundation office (810) 524-2873.

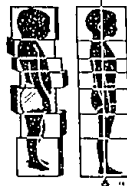
According to Cystic Fibrosis Foundation statistics, cystic fibrosis is the number one genetic killer of children and young adults in the United States. There is no cure.

Cystic fibrosis causes the body to produce thick, sticky mucus which clogs the lungs and interferes with digestion.

One in 20 Americans — more than 12 million people — carry the gene which causes CF. In 1955, when the foundation was established, few children lived to attend elementary school. Today, more than half are living beyond their early 20s.

"Invest in research; buy back life," urges the foundation.

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Your Home, At & North Branch

Romance from page 13A

them to know I'm here, even though they frequent the shopping center. I want people to realize I'm more than just another lingerie store.

Often people look through the window to see what's inside. I really wish they would come in and browse.

People say to me "You have some really beautiful things, I'll be back when I have a special occasion." I was hoping people wouldn't wait for that special occasion, every day should be special.

There is nothing more relaxing than a good massage or lying in the bubble bath with the lights

out and a candle lit.

I really feel I couldn't have chosen a better location and have met such nice people. The store has a comfortable setting, there is some privacy when you look for that special piece of intimate apparel unlike a mall where everyone can watch you just by passing by.

Most of my customers are women, but I'm open to suggestions on making men more comfortable in the store. I carry sizes small through size 3X, and special orders are always welcome.

There are robes and boxers for men and novelty items too. People can purchase quality bath

products, lotions and massage oils. There are books on massage for those who are serious about learning to give a good massage.

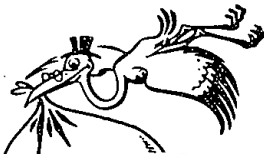
I carry other books about love, romance and relationships.

For those lucky enough to be living that fairy tale, you can choose from one of the many wedding candles, serving knives, toasting glasses, garters, attendants' jewelry and beautiful peignoir sets.

To celebrate my one-year anniversary, I'm having a monthlong sale.

Beverly Brown owns Touch of Romance, 33191 Grand River, Farmington. (810) 476-3535.

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So come celebrate at the Ameritech Cellular Centers designed around you. Our Westland store is across from the Westland Mall at 35160 Center City Parkway; our Troy store is just outside the Oakland Mall at 506 Fourteen Mile Road.

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May 13th only: First 20 customers to activate a new line at Westland and Troy stores will receive a FREE gift basket and FREE AMC movie tickets!