

Both Madonnas are now on the Web

O&E ONLINE
 The real Madonna now has a site on the World Wide Web.
 Internet users outside this area probably will continue to arrive at the Material Girl's site when instructed to visit Madonna. But southeast Michigan netters have an alternative destination - the new Web site of Madonna University in Livonia.

The address for Madonna University is <http://www.munet.edu/>. A quick look at the address will tell you that this site was designed by and put together by the university staff and students. The hint is that the URL (Universal Resource Locator) has the .edu extension rather than .com. This indicates the Web site is on a server at an educational institution rather than on a commercial server.

The home page of Madonna University's site includes a welcome and a color photo of the university grounds at Schoolcraft and Levan.

From the message below you learn that Madonna is the second largest Catholic university in Michigan, is the largest Franciscan independent university in the U.S., and has a student/faculty ratio of 18:1.

Surf through the Web site and you will find links to the university's 50th anniversary events - Homecoming Weekend which was Sept. 27-30 and the Madonna University Golden Golf Classic which was Sept. 30 at The Golden Fox in Plymouth.

Other links include "About Madonna University," "Events at Madonna University," "Schools and Colleges," "Admissions," "Student Life," "Faculty," "Library Services," "Academic Computer Services," "Special Programs," and "Alumni Information."

The site also has a link to an Information Center which allows you to fill out a request for information about whatever program you are interested in and a search engine to search the Web site by using keywords or words describing a concept.

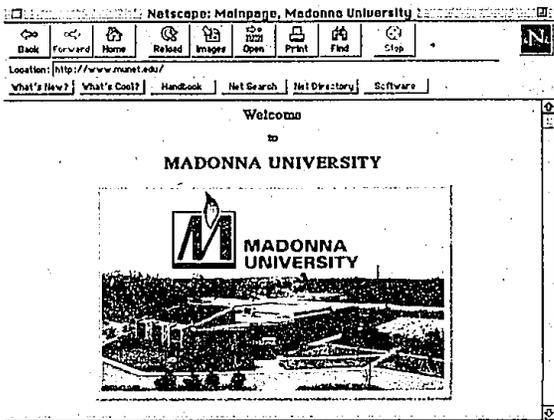
Andrea Nodge, community relations director at Madonna, helped oversee the Web site which was developed by technology staff and computer students at Madonna.

St. Mary Hospital
 St. Mary Hospital in Livonia also has its site on the World Wide Web.

Because the hospital doesn't have a pool of computer students to develop a Web site for them, the hospital asked O&E On-line to handle that task for them and Sue Dorris and Greg Day gladly agreed.

To visit St. Mary's site point your Web browser to <http://www.stmaryhospital.org/>. Upon arrival you will find a very colorful home page that includes an aerial view of the hospital at Five Mile and Levan.

Visitors reading the text on the home page learn St. Mary is a 304-bed acute care com-



On-line: Madonna University recently opened up its World Wide Web site at <http://www.munet.edu/>.

munity hospital sponsored by the Felician Sisters and affiliated with Beaumont Hospital.

Links on the home page include "Our Mission," "Medical Services," "For a Physician Referral," "Community Health Services," "Location and parking guide," "Frequently Called telephone numbers," "Building the Future," and "News and Information."
 "Community Health Services" is loaded with information on such classes and activities as The Buck School, CPR, weight management, CareLink, screenings for cholesterol, depression, or blood pressure, Eating Disorders Clinic, Home Health Care, Medicare assistance, Health-O-Rama, speakers bureau, volunteers, the Wonder Walkers Club, women's and family health programs, support groups, and much more.

The "news and information" page contains announcements such as the "Hollywood Nights IV" fund raiser set for Oct. 17 featuring The Diamonds and Johnny Trudell. Trivia experts will know that The Diamonds had such hit tunes as "Silhouettes" and "Little Darlin'." The site also has a listing of fall activities at the hospital.

Speaking of hospitals, the Internet now has its own Hospital Locator which can be accessed at <http://www.medaccess.com/hospitals/hosp.htm>. Stop by and search for U.S. hospitals by type, city, state or by zip code.

Canton Township
 Canton Township has a local government page on the Web on a trial basis.

The test program consists of non-interactive web pages with detailed information

about the Canton community and the Canton Police Department. The page can be accessed at <http://www.cantontwp.org>.

The site has links to "Fire Station Report," "Officer Profile," "Community Policing," and "Our Mission." The page was created and designed by Ken Voyles, a former journalist now working as communications coordinator for Canton Township.

The main focus of the township government pilot program is to find out how many people visit the site and whether there is interest by the general population. If the trial is successful, a permanent municipal-wide home page will be developed.

"Unlike most communities I have checked on," says Voyles, "we did it all in house. I learned the software, our computer guys took care of the technical questions and we worked closely with the Canton Library and folks at Metronet" (the net consortium of libraries in Michigan). Voyles learned how to build a Web site in about nine weeks. Take a look at <http://www.cantontwp.org> and see for yourself how well he did.

The Canton Public Library uses the MetroNet service to provide a link to the Web. The library Web site has established a center with general information on Canton Township. Point to <http://www.metro.net/lib.mi.us/CANT/TWP/home.html> and you will find links to public safety, municipal government and community information, a community calendar and to the Canton Public Library.

(Emily Daniels may be reached via E-mail at emoryd@online.com. Past columns are archived online at <http://ionline.com/~emoryd/archive.html>.)

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grounds. "We want to make sure we represent the entire Metro area on the board," said Goldberg.

Orchard's employs a staff of 150 professionals including case workers, social workers and psychologists.

The employees are on a 24-hour rotation system where they carry a beeper in case they have to assist in getting a child into a foster home immediately, said Goldberg.

The agency's client referrals come directly from the state. Many cases have the Orchard's staff arranging a foster care situation for an abandoned or abused child.

"Orchards probably handles more than any other adoption or foster care center in the state," said Schwartz.

"We represent children in Wayne, Oakland and we recently signed a contract in Macomb County to provide our Families First Program there too," added Goldberg.

That program is designed to offer social work and counseling help to families in an attempt to head off the potential of children being sent into foster homes.

Orchards also provides in-home services, clinical services, residential treatment and community outreach programs.

Schwartz became active in Orchard's Children's Services three years ago.

A partner in his law firm was going into semi-retirement after serving on the board since it's established in the early 1980's. He asked Schwartz to step in for him.

"I was interviewed and then appointed to the board and awhile after that I was approached about being the president," he said.

Schwartz feels his experience with management and health care integrations plus the fact that he's a tax and corporate attorney are ideal for meeting Orchard's needs. "I obviously have a feel for reading financial statements," smiled Schwartz.

General Lewis, CEO of Orchard's Children's Services, was pleased to see Schwartz bring his strong background in the law as it relates to organizations to Orchard's.

"Under his leadership we have begun to review our bylaws, corporate structure and strategic position in the community," said Levin.

Another major aspect of Schwartz' new title is his responsibility for chairing board meetings which occur about six times a month.

"There are many more professionals now than there used to be. It seemed it was always housewives whose children had gotten older,"

Barbara Goldberg
 Orchard's Past President

meets frequently in the meantime and Schwartz is also on hand for these gatherings.

Beyond finding solutions to the harsh day to day issues that Orchard's must address on behalf of the children, board members find equal satisfaction in hosting annual outings.

"We have an annual dinner that welcomes all the foster parents in the program and a Christmas party where we provide gifts to the children and their families," said Schwartz.

"There's also an annual baseball outing to a Tiger game."

Orchards also sponsors the Detroit franchise of RBI (Renewal of Baseball in the Inner city) baseball leagues for 8- to 10-year-olds.

The group also organizes art projects and after school programs for area youths.

"Right now we are working to start a respite program that would help parents who need a break from difficult children," said Schwartz.

In addition to outings and meetings, as President Schwartz also fields a number of calls on a weekly basis and attends benefits and fund raisers where he represents Orchard's.

Volunteers such as Schwartz are a relatively new animal to charitable organizations.

Spending the past 20 years volunteering her services through the National Council of Jewish Women and Orchard's has given Goldberg a close look at the evolving face of the volunteer.

"There are many more professionals now than there used to be. It seemed it was always housewives whose children had gotten older," she said.

"Today the men on our board hold very responsible, professional positions yet they are willing to take the time to do these things which is great."

Goldberg feels Steve Schwartz is a wonderful example of that growing trend.

"Not only is he very devoted to the cause of helping children but with his professional background and interest there really couldn't have been a better choice," she said.



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