

Their gift brightens AIDS wing Quilters and kids team up

Science teacher Jane Dwyer knew it would be a challenge to teach a unit on reproductive health to her students at the Boys & Girls Republic in Farmington Hills.

"This is a facility for adjudicated youth," she said. "These kids have kids. We couldn't use an abstinence approach only with kids who'd already been sexually active."

Boys and Girls Republic, a medium security facility, houses 79 students ages 12 to 18. There are two residential cottages for boys and one for girls on the grounds, as well as Miller School, where all attend classes. A typical stay at Boys & Girls Republic is nine months to a year, she said. Students come primarily from Wayne and Macomb counties.

According to Dwyer, kids live in "positive peer culture" social groups and attend classes that way, not by age, segregated by sex.

Dwyer and team teacher Rachelle Pepple designed a reproductive health curriculum based in part on a seminar Dwyer attended last January in

Wayne County called "Be Proud, Be Responsible."

The Farmington Board of Education reviewed and approved the program and the team teachers went to work.

"As a biology teacher, I handled the structure and function part of the curriculum," Dwyer said. "Rachelle taught family aspects, which included caring for computerized baby dolls for three days that acted like real babies. If the doll was thrown or abandoned while crying, the computer recorded that abuse. It was a good experience."

But the clincher was an assembly last March which featured speaker Dr. Kathryn Wright, D.O., medical director of Horizons, the Children's Hospital of Michigan project for HIV positive youth. Wright brought along a young woman who is HIV positive to speak to the students.

"There were many tears shed by our students," said Dwyer, who was moved by her students' genuine response.

"I saw a change in our students' attitudes after the assembly," she added. "I could've

talked to them until I was blue in the face and it wouldn't make as much of an impression as this woman did."

She was also impressed by one of her students, who wiped tears from the HIV positive woman's face.

"She had learned that you don't transmit the virus through tears," Dwyer said.

Going with her students high level of enthusiasm, Dwyer decided to have them make squares for an AIDS quilt.

"They had learned about the significance of the AIDS quilt in Washington D.C.," she said.

"All our patches are inspirational: Keep your head up; Stay strong."

They planned to present it to Dr. Wright upon completion to be hung in the pediatric AIDS wing at Children's Hospital downtown Detroit. While Dwyer felt competent to oversee the students' individual patchwork, created with fabric paint, she was at a loss when it came to assembling the quilt.

Thumbing through a phone book, Dwyer contacted Guild Crafters, a Berkeley quilting



Quilters: Julie Goetz, Norra Scafone, craft shop owner Jo Merechi and Cheryl Mehte stand before their handiwork with Dr. Kathryn Wright and Linda, who was diagnosed HIV positive seven years ago and remains symptom free.

store which also teaches classes in quilting.

"I told the owner, Jo Merechi, what we were doing and why," Dwyer explained. "She became enthused with that. She called me back and told me her friends were interested in helping."

Merechi and three quilting friends, Cheryl Mehte, Norra

Scafone and Julie Goetz, sewed the students' linen squares into the final product, bordered with checkered cloth Guild Crafters donated to the project.

"These four women spent forty hours putting together this quilt," Dwyer said. "They wanted no money. It was totally free giving on their part."

Last Friday, Dr. Wright was at Miller school to receive the quilt during a special presentation assembly with students, quilters and staff.

"Our project turned into a real community effort," said Ben Chin, Miller principal. "It was wonderful for our students and staff."

WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS



BRUCKSIEKER-BARTH
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bruck-sieker of Farmington Hills

INGRAM-VELTNER
Lynn and Sue Ingram of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter Alina to Craig Veltner, son of Charles and Barbara Veltner of Milford.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Farmington High School and Bank Street College with a degree in child development. She is a preschool teacher.

The groom is a graduate of Milford High School and is currently employed as a maintenance supervisor for Bestech Corp.

A February 1999 wedding is planned at Treasure Island Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev.

The couple will honeymoon in

announce the engagement of their daughter Jennifer Lyn to Brian Michael Barth, son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Barth of Farmington Hills.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Central Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in communications.

The groom is a graduate of Central Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in community recreation and facilities management. He is employed as an accounting supervisor at the Summit at Snoqualmie in Washington state.

The couple will be married in June 1999 in Michigan.



Mexico and make their home in Novi.



In the past two weeks, I have been receiving questions on how to tell if baby animals are abandoned, particularly baby birds and rabbits (Cottontails).

Rabbits: Mother rabbits return to the nest 3 to 4 times during a 24-hour period. Mother rabbits will return to a mildly disturbed nest. So if you come upon a rabbit nest and if the young are warm and healthy, the mother has been returning. If the young feel cold and appear thin or dehydrated, the mother probably has not returned and it's time for you to help the bunnies. Another way to tell if bunnies are okay is to touch them and if they jump, they're healthy. When baby bunnies leave the nest they are about 10 days old. Even though they are very tiny they are on their own. Mother rabbits can have three or four litters from spring through summer.

Birds: If you should find a featherless baby bird on the ground, if you know where the

bird's nest is, you can put the bird back. If you don't know where the nest is or it's too high up, you can make a foster nest. Use a margarine or other plastic container. Put five pencil size holes in the bottom. This is so water does not collect and drown the baby bird. Then make two holes at the top of the container to put a tie through. You can use a pipe cleaner or string to tie the nest in the same area as the original nest. Take grass clipping and place in container. Make a baby bird size dent in the center of the nest and place the baby in it.

If you should ever find a baby bird that has no mother flying around, it might need your help. Until you can contact me or another wildlife rehabilitator,

you need to keep the baby warm and feed it dog chow soaked in boiling water or canned dog food. Use the end of a spoon handle or a McDonald's coffee stirrer.

If you find a baby bird fully feathered but it cannot fly, this is a fledgling. That means the parents have bootied the baby from its nest to learn how to fly. The parents will feed and protect the bird until it learns how to fly. That may take three to five days. Do not pick the baby up.

Keep your distance

How can we tell if we are too close to a wild animal? If an animal shows signs of irritation, sit quietly or slowly back away. Binoculars can bridge the distance between the two of you without scaring the animal.

Birds: head raised, looking at you; skittishness; excessive preening; alarm calls; repeated chirping; distraction like dragging a wing to appear it's broken.

Mammals: moving away or lowering its head, with ears back in preparation for a charge; hairs on neck and shoulders stand up; playing dead; showing teeth, charging, or snorting.

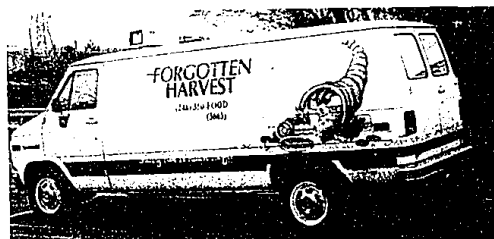
Reptiles: hissing or rattling; playing dead; snakes raise their upper body, open their mouth.

When uncovering reptiles and amphibians, be sure to replace the debris you turn over. You may be lifting the roof off their home!

Wildlife rehabilitator Bev Cornell can now receive your animal questions on-line at: bristol_dog@man.com

Help us keep the wheels in motion!

Move Meals



with Forgotten Harvest

Forgotten Harvest, Metro Detroit's mobile food rescue program, can feed a hungry person for a day with each \$1 donated.

Forgotten Harvest is a non-profit organization which has provided hunger relief to the Detroit area since August 1990 through a prepared and perishable surplus food program. Donated food is collected from airlines, bakeries, caterers, dairies, hospitals, meat and produce distributors, and other health department-approved establishments, and transported directly to soup kitchens and shelters in our community.

Forgotten Harvest operates under the direction of a volunteer Board and a minimal staff. It is funded by individual, business, and corporate contributions, grants, trusts and fund-raising events. All donations to Forgotten Harvest are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Forgotten Harvest currently transports over 70,000 pounds of food each month to soup kitchens and shelters. According to food industry standards (1 pound = 1 meal), this is equivalent to nearly 1 million meals per year. To make a credit card donation (all major credit cards accepted) or to find out more information about Forgotten Harvest call (248) 350-FOOD (3683).

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with Forgotten Harvest

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