

WOMEN

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Schools referred single moms. A professor referred students who couldn't get to class because they didn't have baby-sitters or they lost their homes, Simmons said. Churches are also a source of referrals. "We have all faiths," she said.

An intake process helps discern barriers. Program leaders want to ensure that a woman's baby-sitting, transportation and housing resources are in place. "We need to address those issues first," Snodgrass said.

"It's set up to tap into all of their needs—economic, financial, social and spiritual," Walker said.

"We're very resourceful," Snodgrass said. The budget is comprised of donations and grants.

Length of educational programs differ. A medical assistant program, for example, lasts 24 weeks. The group has a memorandum of agreement with Detroit Business Institute. Because that institution doesn't have a support services program for women's basic needs, they collaborate with WINGS to provide that, Simmons said.

Women who complete the program and gain employment are asked to stay with WINGS.

"They no longer are participants, they now are volunteers," Simmons said. "They are usually the best volunteers we have. These graduates are the best public relations."

STEPS FORWARD AND BACK

Some take a few steps forward and then some steps back. And in some cases, success comes a little too late.

WINGS members recently attended the funeral of a woman who just turned 30, who they said wasn't sick at all. She had children ages nine months, seven and nine years old. Telling her mother she was a little tired, the woman went upstairs to watch television with the baby. She was later found dead.

"When she came to us, she was pregnant," Simmons said. "She and her husband were getting a divorce and she was really having a hard time. She was truly remarkable about the things she was able to accomplish. She had the attitude that she was going to make it without him. She said, 'I'm going to make it despite him, no more beatings.'"

There are also the happy stories of those who beat the odds, like a social work student at University of Detroit/Mercy. Her mom had also been with WINGS. Her dad had diabetes and died; her mom had cancer and died six months later. "There was a whole host of things we had to support her with," Simmons said. They adopted her, throwing chicken dinners and other fundraisers so the girl wouldn't have to drop out of school.

WINGS has a literacy program. "So many of our moms can't read so they are unable to help their children," Simmons said. "Some children are having problems in school and their moms can't read the notices which are coming home. A lot of the children can operate computers much better than their moms."

It's not unusual to put the children and mothers together so one is helping the other.

This is the first year the group trained its own tutors. Previously, Wayne State University took care of it.

Because computer skills are important for women in the workforce, the group is always looking for donations of good computers. Volunteer Robin Bundy, a Detroit, assesses the computers. Classes are held wherever space is donated: a building at Nine Mile and Lahser in Southfield, for example. WINGS volunteers do training at the Brightmoor Community Center and Northwest Activities Center at Seven Mile and Meyers and the YWCA in Highland Park.

The organization's data base includes about 240 participants and volunteers.

The group is also involved with planning "Tradition, Challenge and Change," their Second Annual Women's Conference, which will be held Sept. 27-29 at Hotel St. Regis in Detroit. For more information about the conference, call (313) 835-3046.

For general information, write P.O. Box 231325, Detroit, MI 48223.

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POLICE CALLS

Airbags stolen

Diamond Forest Apartments on Halsted, during Thursday night, a Honda Accord had one of its door frames pried open to gain entry.

Stolen inside were the car's two airbags. Damage was \$500 and loss was \$2,000.

Shoplifting

A 64-year-old Farmington Hills woman was apprehended at the Kmart on Orchard Lake around 4:30 p.m. Friday for concealing items in her purse and walking out of the store.

without paying.

At the Kroger store on 12 Mile, security officers spotted and detained a 58-year-old Taylor man for putting boxes of razor blades in his pant pockets and leaving without paying.

Home Invasion

At the Polo Club Apartments, a man said some someone stole two sets of golf clubs from his trunk while he was away from Aug. 21-24.

There was no sign of forced entry. Loss was \$450.

In the 31200 block of

Folsom, a lawnmower was stolen from a porch between Aug. 17-25. Loss was \$140.

In the 34800 block of Valley Forge, \$600 in golf clubs were taken from the garage during Sunday night.

In the 36700 block of Nine Mile, \$9,413 in tools were discovered stolen from a garage on Aug. 19.

Drunken driving

Police pulled over a vehicle along 12 Mile and Whitehall around 10:45 p.m. Friday for weaving. The driver, a 56-year-

old Detroit man, had a .15 blood/alcohol level.

Police pulled over a vehicle along 12 Mile and Rollercrest around 9:50 a.m. Saturday, after the officer observed it weaving across the road.

The driver, a 37-year-old Ferndale woman, had a .18 blood/alcohol level.

Employees at the CVS at 39350 Nine Mile heard a collision outside the building around 6 p.m. Sunday and found a car parked by one of the building's pillars.

The driver of the vehicle, a 61-year-old Novi woman, had a

.15 blood/alcohol level.

Drug possession

A car parked in the back area of businesses along 14 Mile and Orchard Lake was monitored by police, who detected a strong odor of marijuana when they inspected the vehicle. The car's driver, a 19-year-old West Bloomfield man, had a sandwich bag of marijuana and a scale.

Compiled by staff writer Paul R. Pace from reports on file with the Farmington Hills Police Department.

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