

# All It Takes Is A Little Love

By KATHY MORAN

All you have to do is care. That's all it takes to provide a home for a retarded child -- and it's so much more than most of them have.

There are at least 75 children at Plymouth State Home and Training School in Northville Township who are ready to leave the institution as soon as a family will prove they care and offer these children a foster home.

"I can't understand why anyone wouldn't want one of these children," Ann Marie Zajechowski said. "If more people could just see them they'd understand. They're just great!"

And Mrs. Zajechowski should know.

SHE AND her husband,

John, and their four children found room for two more and took Dawn, now seven, and Kim, now 10, into their Garden City home four years ago.

It took a little rearranging -- like moving the master bedroom to the basement and letting the six children divide up the three bedrooms -- but the family is happier now than ever.

Having two more sisters is "great" according to the Zajechowski children which include Toni, 21, a medical technologist at Pontiac State Hospital; John, 17; Janene, 11; and Michael, nine.

In fact, it was at Michael and Janene's urging that the family first took Dawn into their home.

"We had seen Dawn several times," Mrs. Zajechowski said. "She came to visit us

several times in the evening with a friend of mine."

At that time Dawn was in a foster home and about to be returned to the institution.

That's when Michael and Janene began begging their mother not to let Dawn go back to Plymouth State Home.

"So I decided to become a foster mother -- just if I could have Dawn," she says.

So Dawn joined the family in June. That November they were asked to take a blind retarded child in for Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Zajechowski hesitated since she had never had experience caring for a blind person. But Kim came and has been there ever since.

"She has learned to adjust us and we have adjusted to her," Mrs. Zajechowski said. "She has taught us to keep our drawers closed and things like that."

wouldn't believe," she added. "It never ceases to amaze me the way they can put you around their finger."

PLYMOUTH STATE Home and other Michigan institutions for the retarded have countless Kims and Dawns that need homes now.

"These people have a right to live in the community," Dr. William Womak, superintendent of PSH, said. "In the institution we just cannot provide the homelike atmosphere they need, as much as we try."

Joyce Kaplan, coordinator for foster care at the Wayne Region Service and Training Center for the Retarded, agrees saying, "A homelike environment can mean a lot."

Living in a home gives them a feeling of being wanted as well as the simpler things that most people don't think of -- like having their own clothes, their own family, their own drawers for personal belongings.

All this enforces a feeling of self-respect and pride (not to mention happiness).

It's much simpler to become a foster parent than most people think. The prospective foster parents have a few meetings to learn a little about retardation. And their homes are briefly inspected for heating, ventilation and sanitary conditions.

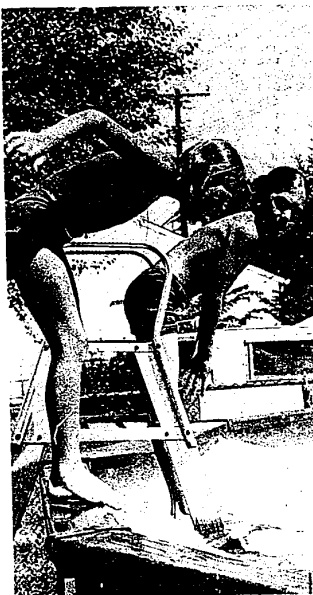
Children are matched with parents who would be their own parent's approximate age. And there's nothing to prevent single adults from taking a retarded child, Miss Kaplan added.

The child attends school in the community -- like Dawn and Kim. Dawn attended Cooper School in Livonia for trainable retarded classes but this year will go to Florence Primary School in Garden City and take classes for the educable retarded.

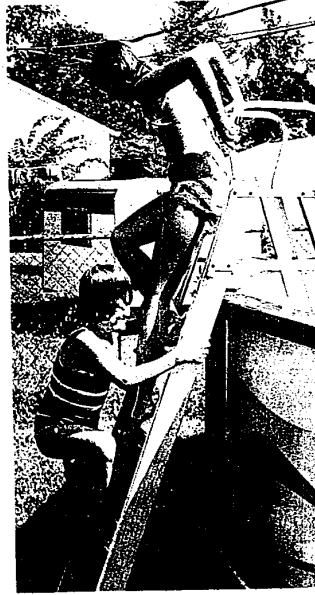
Isn't there always room for one more?

If you should find room for another child, contact Miss Kaplan at the Wayne Region Service and Training Center, 200 Cadillac Square Building, 17 Cadillac Square, Detroit, 48226.

After all, how would you feel if no one cared?



SEVEN-YEAR-OLD Dawn prepares to jump into the backyard pool. Her foster brother Michael Zajechowski watches. (Observer photos by Kathy Moran)



EVEN THOUGH she is blind, 10-year-old Kim finds her way around without difficulty. She is followed out of the pool by her foster sister Janene.

## m. m. memos

Vacations are a bit like the way some men describe women -- you can't live without them, but sometimes you wonder how you live with them.

Ours was glorious -- one of the best in memory. In a beautiful section of Upper Michigan, we canoed, viewed scenic wonders, swam, fished and climbed up, over and under so many waterfalls that I breathed a sigh of relief that we came through will all arms and legs intact.

We came home a day early because there were a few little things to do to get our first college student ready for campus life.

Arriving at the house late in the evening, I fired a bunch of dirty clothes into the basement. Going down the following morning, I found I'd fired them into a pool of water -- our hot water heater had sprung a leak during our absence.

(It was after getting back to work that I learned it was too bad we couldn't bottle that extra water -- a fellow worker had returned from his vacation to find a broken pump and a waterless home.)

Anyway, we worked through the after-vacation and flood cleanup with the aid of a few mops, a plumber, a laundromat, swimming club showers and stove-top water heating for dishes, and we're still waiting hopefully for the new water heater that should return life to a semblance of normal.

Somehow, too, we helped Daughter No. 1 organize and pack and deposited her in a dormitory room.

And then I got back to my Women's Department desk and -- well, I'm ready for another vacation.

Margaret Miller

## For Fall Festival

## Plymouth Cooks Up A Storm

By ELINOR GRAHAM

Feel noble when you whip up a batch of cookies, a cake or a pie for dinner? Does a pan of

chocolate fudge make it a special occasion around your house?

A lot of people in Plymouth are cooking up a storm these

days and the reason for it all is the Fall Festival which begins today (Thursday) for its annual four-day run.

Consider these statistics:

300 dozen cookies; 200 pies; 200 to 250 German chocolate cakes; and 225 pounds of chocolate fudge.

THE 250 German chocolate cakes are baked by members of the Business and Professional Women's club. With a membership of 50 they are asked to contribute two cakes each but many make four. This is just a small part of the cooking that goes into the preparation of their German dinner served Thursday in Kellogg Park. The menu includes knock-wurst, sauerkraut, hotdogs, German potato salad, potato chips, ice cream and beverages.

The 200 pies, apple and pumpkin, are made by Helen and Claude Eckles. The batter for this 200 dozen cookies is prepared by Louise and Jesse Tritten. They are baked by Olga and Eric Nilson. All are members of the Plymouth Grange doing their part to help the Grange snackshop live up to its reputation of homemade goodies like grandma used to make. In this case, grandma and grandpa are making them.

THE 225 POUNDS of chocolate fudge are made by the 15 members of the Beta Sigma Phi sorority. Each member makes four batches or 15 pounds of fudge. These are cut, wrapped in quarter pound packages and are available at the sorority's booth at the festival.

According to the fudge chairmen, Julie Koch and Donna Hopkins, profits from the sale will help them entertain residents of an old people's home and youngsters at the Plymouth State Home.

especially on  
**Sunday!**

We welcome browsers any day of the week, but our Sunday afternoon Open House is a special time for relaxed, informal visiting! You'll be greeted at the door by our young hostess in colonial costume . . . and you'll find a stroll through the Hearthside not unlike a tour of the great historic homes of colonial America, for our complete room settings of famous Ethan Allen furniture are authentically decorated and appointed to achieve an atmosphere of warm hospitality and gracious living. You can see hundreds of exciting, brand new decorating ideas, too, as you browse from room to room! And don't miss our Home Fashion Center, featuring a complete selection of quality carpeting, custom drapery, upholstery fabrics, and wall coverings -- all specially chosen to help you create beautifully coordinated "total looks" for your own home!



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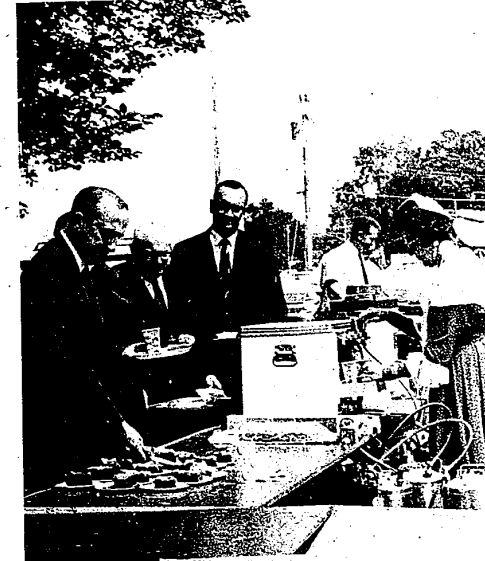
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THE 250 GERMAN chocolate cakes are good to the last crumb. Going through the serving line of the BPW German dinner were Plymouth Fall Festival habitués Don Golem, Tommy Thompson, executive editor of the Observer Newspapers, and John Hoben, superintendent of the Plymouth Community School District. (Observer photo)