



By MARGARET MILLER
Women's Editor

Livonia high school seniors who receive some of those Dollars For Scholars that will be passed out next June will especially appreciate the organizing ability of a lady who's done a lot of youth volunteer work.

Mrs. Doris Wilkins would be the first to insist that credit for the scholarship funds should go to the kids who canvass the community in the program that is the only one of its kind in this area.

But her leadership over the last five years has played a big part in the drive that last year raised \$9,400—enough for 32 scholarships in amounts of \$200 to \$500.

EACH YEAR of participation in the drive sponsored by the Livonia affiliate of the Citizens Scholarship Foundation makes Doris Wilkins more convinced of its worth.

"It's a good program," she said. "We do good things for the kids who need it right here."

Mrs. Wilkins, mother of a Michigan State University graduate and a current student at MSU, said funds are often likely to go to the student who isn't headed for a four-year university program.

"We look a great deal to the student who needs that extra push and maybe is planning to attend vocational school, trade school or beauty college. An award of the amount we can give may be just what's

needed to enable a student to begin work at a local college but on the other hand would be only a small party of the money needed for attending college away from home."

THE STUDENT'S interest in helping himself also is considered, she added, so most winners are students who have part-time jobs.

Dollars for Scholars awards are open to all seniors of Livonia high schools, Mrs. Wilkins said. Applications, available from counselors, are being prepared right now and should be in by the first of the year.

The Citizens' Scholarship Foundation, parent organization, began in 1957 in Fall River, Mass., when a local optometrist, Dr. Irving Pradkin, became worried about the number of Fall River students going on to college and decided to try to find ways to get financial aid for those who needed it.

A citizens' committee formed and functioned successfully. Since then several thousand other communities have begun their own programs and Sam Levenson, educator and comedian who recently was a Livonia Town Hall speaker, now is honorary national president.

IN LIVONIA, said Doris Wilkins, funds are raised through three sources: business contributions, student fund-raisers and a

student canvass that aims to hit every house in Livonia.

Solicitations to businesses are made in March, she said. One student fund-raiser will be a battle of bands, planned for sometime in the spring, and the house-to-house canvass will take place on a special "Dollars For Scholars" day, scheduled May 5.

"The students do a tremendous job," Mrs. Wilkins said, "but I've always been amazed to find that adult participation in the canvass is almost nil. We need about 20 adults to help drive in the canvassing, and last year we had trouble finding even that many."

DORIS WILKINS came to her Dollars for Scholars job from a long line of "just about any kind of volunteer work that involves kids."

"It's so easy to get involved and so hard to quit," she laughs.

Joining the PTA when her son was in kindergarten, she found herself "on the board before I knew it" and eventually president of her school PTA and then in Livonia PTA Council.

"The council was sponsoring organization for a Boy Scout troop," she said, "so that automatically involved me in Boy Scouts, and that led to Girl Scout work. I've held almost every job from assistant leader on up."

For 10 years she conducted

courses to train adult Girl Scout leaders.

Now fully involved in the Dollars for Scholars program, she's preparing for a January meeting with the council that will direct its activities and a dedicated adult volunteer.

then a February session with student leaders.

"That's when the young people take over the program and run it," she said.

With considerable help from a dedicated adult volunteer,



DORIS WILKINS looks over a title of her Livonia Dollars For Scholars information. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

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