

Day Care Scholarships Are Goal For Sister Annina To Aid Needy

By LORRAINE McCLISH

Have you ever known a grandmother faced with the care of pre-school grandchildren 24 hours a day, seven days a week?

A young couple faced with a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis?

A single parent worrying about what is happening to little ones at home while working away from home for less than \$4,000 a year?

The questions come from Sister Annina, director of the Seton Nursery School and Day Care Center, whose job brings her into contact with people who have like problems every day.

To help alleviate the plight, she has started a scholarship fund that is presently helping to subsidize the day care for 11 children. "But the need is so great, so much greater than that," she says.

"Divorce is the big thing. There are more divorcees than ever now, and at an earlier age. And young mothers are getting younger and younger. Seventy-two per cent of those at Marillac Hall (in the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Home complex) are under 17 and more than 50 per cent of those are keeping their babies. Many are still going to school."

She tells stories about fathers on drugs and ADC mothers struggling to work themselves out of the poverty cycle stymied by the day care costs she quotes to them.

"And where are the children put? Back to grandmother, who is more often than not physically unable to cope," she says. "We have a couple of children here who come one day a week just to give grandmother a rest."

Seton Nursery became independent of the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Home on the Farmington - Southfield boundary at 12 Mile and Inkster Rds. about a year ago.

"We are a non-profit organization, but full care (for a five day work week) still runs \$33.50 a week. And that's out of the question for so many," she says. "If they make \$4,000 a year it disqualifies them for state payments. And no, if you're thinking about it, we do not get revenue sharing."

Her philosophy is not to give full scholarships. "We try to figure out what is reasonable for them and then supplement the rest. We were going to make that a rule, but even that changed with one unusual case. I couldn't refuse one mother who wanted to work as much as she did," she said.

Seton Nursery takes its name from Elizabeth Ann Seton, founder of the Sisters of Charity. "We hope she'll be



declared a saint one day, and if she is, she'll be the first American to be canonized," Sister Annina said.

The nursery is operated by Catholic Sisters, "but the beliefs of parents are respected and all children are welcome," she said. The nursery is licensed to accommodate children from 2½ to seven years of age.

The facilities are spacious, with large gym, a winter play room, activity rooms, extensive playgrounds and numerous class rooms to accommodate small groups. The personnel is made of state-certified teachers and experienced assistants.

There are 90 area children who visit the day center now for full or half days, or for only one or two days a week.

Sister Annina can accept 50 children full time, and hopes to fill out her roster "with those who need it."

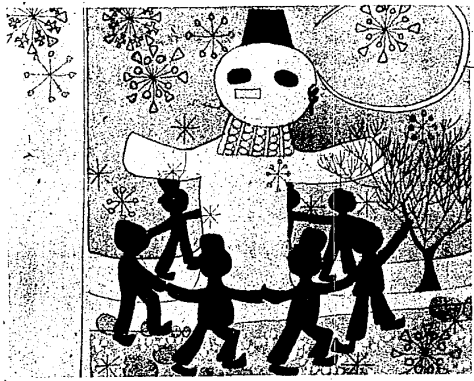
She invites visitors on any weekday while the center is in session, from 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., and will receive donations addressed to her in care of Seton Nursery School, 29475 Inkster Rd., Farmington, 48024.



SISTER ANNINA joins teacher Jean Raznick and a group of nursery schoolers in song time, a daily activity at Seton Nursery School and Day Care Center. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

Greet Friends, Aid Charity

Make Holiday Cards Count Twice



UNICEF greeting cards were contributed to the United Nation's Children's Fund by a French artist to enable the organization to improve health, nutrition, education and social welfare in 111 developing countries. Cardboard stand-ups of the Nativity done in contemporary Peruvian folk art, and 1974 engagement calendars also are on sale. Order blanks may be obtained by contacting Mrs. Pierce Van Camp, 29700 Belfast, Farmington, 48024.



THE KIDNEY FOUNDATION of Michigan offers a choice of Christmas cards and note paper for holiday greetings which run \$2-7 per box of 25. A folder showing the sample cards is available by writing to the foundation at 3378 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor 48104. Proceeds from the card sale benefit patient services.



PEOPLE TAKING ACTION AGAINST ABORTION, INC. is taking orders now for Christmas greeting cards which sell for \$3.50 per box of 25. Checks are to be made payable to Life Span, and addressed to: Circle of Life, Box F-177, Detroit, 48223.

Besides sending good tidings to your friends, your Christmas cards could help the handicapped, retarded or a charitable organization.

Several groups are taking orders now for the holiday greeting cards, including:

THE EASTER SEAL SOCIETY for Crippled Children and Adults of Oakland County is accepting donations now in return for Christmas cards with illustrations of the drummer boy. Checks are to be made payable to the Easter Seal Society, and mailed to 1105 N. Telegraph Rd., Pontiac 48063.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF MICHIGAN has been pledged \$75,000 for the establishment of an abused child clinic by its Women's Auxiliary. The sale of season cards will help fulfill that pledge.

A box of 25 sells for \$3.75 plus the cost for imprinting if desired. The sales representative for the Observerland area is Mrs. J.H. Jackson, 8829 Nebraska, Livonia 48150.

THE LEAGUE OF CHILDREN'S FRIENDS, the auxiliary of the Methodist Children's Home Society, offers Christmas cards at its office, 26645 W. Six Mile Rd., Redford Township. The cards sell for \$3.75 per box of 25.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY of Michigan offers greeting cards to support the Living Memorial Fund which provides orthopedic appliances for patients. Orders will be taken at the society office, 6131 W. Outer Drive, Detroit 48235.

THE MICHIGAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION offers a line of nine cards including one with the message "What the world needs now is love."

Styles include a "Santa" card, an elegant "Madonna and Child" and a general-use winter scene. Prices range from \$2 to \$5.50 per

box of 25 and may be ordered from the Michigan Diabetes Assn., 6131 W. Outer Drive, Detroit 48235.

All proceeds go to diabetes research, education projects and a camp for diabetic children.

CARIH (Children's Asthma Research Institute and Hospital) offers season greeting cards through members of the group's northwest chapter. The free program for patients of severe asthma is partially financed through the sale of these cards. Orders are being taken by Mrs. [Name obscured].

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LAPEER PARENTS ASSN. for Retarded Children, Inc. helps support patients of the Oakdale Center for Developmental Deficiencies through the sale of Christmas cards. They sell for \$3 per box of 20, and may be ordered by writing LPARC, 30620 Pierce, Southfield, 48076.

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PLYMOUTH ASSN. FOR RETARDED CHILDREN offers four different greeting cards for sale at varying prices. Mail order forms will be sent upon request by contacting the association's card chairman, Mrs. Richard Jagger, 5730 Lafayette, Dearborn Heights, 48127.