## Volunteers learn how to help

You walk into a children's detention center, and think you're going to aave every child.

Well, if you're lucky, you might do some good. But as a volunteer, according to Milton Luger, director of juvenile corrections for New york, you auccess or failure depends on your attitude and understanding of the juvenile justice system.

Luger spoke on "Juvenile Justice system.

Luger said youngsters sense that uneveness and become manipa joint Jan. Is meeting of the Birmingham Junior League and the greater Detroit Section of Jewish Women.

Understanding the system, he said, begins with knowing not only the youngsters but the staff that works with them.

Said Luger. "These kids are more annoying then they are dangerous." They have been abused and the staff because down deep in their guts they feel they aren't going to make it.

AND WHY WORRY about a

• GOWNS

THE PARTY OF

24-hour accomplishment. They think 'If I can get past today, it's a good day. If I'm lucky I'll make it.' But the kid doesn't believe he's going to make it

Luger added that bullishness, smart-aleck behavior is a veneer.

smari-aleck behavior is a veneer.

"If you cut through that thin layer, there's an enormous feeling of self-hatred; they think they're ugly and no one cares.

"They think we're there because for our paychecks, because we are paid to be concerned. That's why volunteers are such a beautiful thing. The kids know you're there because you want to be."

HOWEVER, DEALING with the youngsters is only part of the volunteer's job.

volunteer's job.

A volunteer walking in gangbusters is bound to cause bad feelings among the staff of an institution, he said. The staff is trying to do a job. In some cases it can't.

They are hard working, decent and frustrated that not too many cases turn out well."
Also, said Luger, there's a lot of buck passing because "we don't want to take the blame ounselves."
Consequently, those staffers working hard to turn kids around are apprehensive of do-gooding critical volunteers.
"We will take criticism from people who are knowledgable. Don't come in timidly but don't come in a condenseending way either. The youngsters will sense that friction and play on it." He added that while volunteers may complain of staff not doing it's job, he explained that "many have settled for a peaceful tour of duty. The staff has never had support either from parents or the public. They've settled for the catches that will keep kids conforming."
On a final note Luger stressed,

catches that will are paid to forming.

On a final note Luger stressed. People who volunteer are worried about time. Consistency is most important. If you are there and can show these kids you're interested, you're welcomed."

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## works with them. Said Luger, "These kids are more annoying then they are dangerous. They have been abused more than they will ever hurt anyone." AND WHY WORRY about a future when the present is a question? "Surviving in the ghetto is a chudiks STORE WIDE **CLEARANCE** ALL WINTER MERCHANDISE 1/3 to 1/2 OFF **FURS** • PANTSUITS • COATS • SUITS • HANDBAGS • DRESSES • ACCESSORIES

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