

Registration open

Learning-disabled have own camp program

Planning a vacation for a learning disabled child is often a difficult task for parents. Like his friends down the street, a youngster with learning problems would like to go away to camp.

But for these children, especially those who also have emotional problems, the chances of attending a summer residential camp are limited.

A year ago the Fresh Air Society and the Orchard's Children's Service began a pilot program at Silverman Village, Ontario, for selected children with learning disabilities.

This summer the program will be in full swing at Silverman Village. It's the only summer residential camping program of its kind in Michigan, according to Sam Marcus, executive vice-president of the Fresh Air Society.

SILVERMAN VILLAGE is a unit of the Fresh Air Society facilities which originated eight years ago as an experimental basis and now offers recreation and diagnostic services for 90 emotionally-disturbed children aged six to 14, during three 18-day sessions each summer.

The program was expanded last year to help the learning disabled child also. Marcus said, "Our experiences over the years showed us that many of the emotionally-disturbed children attending the camp also had learning problems. Campers' aptitudes are now being accepted from referral agencies and schools for the summer program."

According to Gerald L. Levin, director of Silverman Village and executive director of Orchard's Children's Service, a residential home for emotionally-disturbed boys, the camp has 31 trained staff members and teaching aides for special learn-

ing problems. A specialist on the camp staff works with referring schools and agencies to design an individual summer session program for each child.

THE STAFF also includes a group of high school juniors and seniors recruited from Southfield and Oak Park public schools and trained at special pre-camp study sessions to learn to work with the specialized professional staffs. Last year six high school students participated in the program.

"These high school students want to do something for their community," Levin said. "Here they learn to work with difficult children. Some of them carry this training and experience back to the community and their own school in the fall."

Barbara Vedder, learning disabilities specialist for the program, said the camp gives the children a chance to continue their studies during the summer.

"Often the child with learning disabilities does not experience success in the community outside school. The camp gives us the opportunity to look at each child's strengths and failures outside the classroom as well," Mrs. Vedder said.

Mrs. Vedder said that two of last summer's campers were able to attend regular classes for a portion of their school day this year. School officials say these youngsters are now functioning capably in regular classrooms because of the assistance they received at Silverman Village.

BESIDES THE SPECIAL learning opportunities, Marcus said the children have nature hikes, cookouts, swimming, boating, canoeing, fishing, arts and crafts,

camp living, and overnight trips. An effort is also made to provide an enriching Jewish experience. Shabbat morning observances are conducted in camp with programs geared to the specific group needs and desires, as well as a Hal-

dalah service each Saturday evening which includes spices, songs, candles, and the good atmosphere to begin a new week.

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Volunteers

This column describing volunteer needs in Oakland County is cosponsored by the Junior League of Birmingham and the Oakland County Volunteer Bureau.

Inquiries regarding volunteer needs listed here should be made to the Oakland County Volunteer Bureau at 642-7272. Benefits for volunteer listings also should be made through the Volunteer Bureau.

COMMON GROUND, Birmingham, is a crisis intervention center serving the tri-county area by providing help with legal, personal and medical problems. It involves people in education and service projects in order to help themselves and others while building a sense of community. A youth resource file researcher is needed to identify youth leisure time needs, find resources and compile a reference file for use by other volunteers. This person must be at least 18 years of age and work a three-hour shift each week with a minimum commitment of six months. The alternatives program needs an editor for their newsletter. The volunteer must be 18 years of age and work two hours each week with on the job training under supervision. A volunteer also is needed to do four hours of public relations work for the agency each week. The counseling program needs volunteers to do clerical work for four-hour shifts each week. On the job training is provided. The program also needs volunteers to work on the crisis telephone for four hours each week. Twenty hours of training will be given in April. The Medical Clinic Hot Line needs registered nurses to answer a medical hot-line during the day.

MEADOW BROOK HALL needs volunteers to give guided tours through the building. Monthly training sessions are held for new volunteers after which volunteers sign up for tours during the week. Volunteers also are needed to do floral arrangements, polish silver and do mending at the mansion. The hall also needs Sunday afternoon hostesses for which a two-hour training session is given.

PLYMOUTH CENTER FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT is a state institution for the care and training of the mentally retarded. There are 450 residents from four to 60 at the center. Volunteers are needed

to work with residents from 2 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays and all day weekends, assisting with routine procedures and extra-curricular activities. Adult volunteers especially are needed. An orientation program is given once a month. Four hours of volunteer time each week is requested with a one-year commitment. Clerical work and laboratory work also are needed.

SOUTHFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS needs volunteer office and telephone assistants immediately for a short-term assignment at the Southfield Community School Center, South Lathrup High School. Help is needed to direct calls within the office, provide information and assist in registration. The office is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Friday, and from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

TROY HISTORICAL MUSEUM needs volunteers to act as tour guides through the Country Store, Michigan Room, Agriculture Room and Pioneer Room. One training session is provided. Volunteers work on a rotating basis once a month. The museum is open from 2-4 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Volunteers interested in restoration work are needed on Wednesday afternoons. Clerical help is needed from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Hours are flexible.

CYO to offer creative arts camp for girls

The Detroit Catholic Youth Organization plans a special summer program to offer a camping experience and enriching development in the creative arts for a limited number of girls from eight to 10.

According to present plans, the program will be offered at the CYO girls camp on Lake Huron for two weeks beginning June 26. Cost for the program will be \$125 (plus transportation). The instruction in the creative arts will be integrated with camp activities.

Sr. Jannita Marie Compi, IHM, elementary education coordinator and associate professor at Marygrove College, has designed the mini course in the creative arts.

This will be two weeks of aesthetic experiences in the creative arts for children who are artistically inclined. The course will include children's theater, the modern dance and body movement.

A maximum of 18 girls will be accepted for this program. Applications will be taken on a first come, first served basis. For further information, contact the camping department, Detroit CYO, 305 Michigan Ave., Detroit 48226.

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