

Community school outreach

Seniors go back to school

By LORAIN McCLISH

Monday is school day for residents in Farmington Nursing Home when students gather in the lounge with fine arts teacher Mary Randal for a session on art, music or literature.

Thursday is school day in Oak Hill Nursing home, where home economics teacher Arlene Schofield gives lessons on foods and nutrition.

The teachers, along with several others, now jockey their time between six local nursing and convalescent homes in the area, in Ten Mile Community School's first outreach program which brings classrooms to students.

"When I took this job," Mrs. Randal said, "I was told to give the seniors something to get up in the morning for. I think I've done that."

Mrs. Schofield describes her class as "reality orientation."

Both women strive to bring the outside world indoors with awareness stemming from their background of gerontology courses in Madonna College.

VICKI VANDERBILT, the senior citizen coordinator at Ten Mile Community School, recruited all of her teachers in the outreach program from the classes at Madonna.

While Mrs. Schofield is working toward her gerontology degree, Mrs. Randal said she took the course "only to understand my own parents and my in-laws a little better."

But she adds, "Even though I wasn't looking for a job I really am glad I was talked into it. My students open up and tell me stories from their past that are quite beautiful."

The teachers say their classes will vary from 12 to 24; they never know how many to expect on any given day. The vast majority of those who come to class are working for a high school diploma.

"A high school diploma was just not that common when these people were 17," Mrs. Schofield said.

The goal is not to get 100 per cent on a test but more to share knowledge with what is going on outside of the nursing home walls.

As the class size varies, so does the class material, depending on how the residents are feeling that particular day, or the class participants themselves.

"I want them to be aware of what is

new. They were surprised when we talked about food labelings, and shocked when they learned about today's prices. Many prepared foods are new to them. If they ever knew how to decorate a cake they've forgotten because they are so accustomed now to quantity cooking.

Or the material might take a sudden switch when the students want to stray to another subject.

WHEN WE visited Farmington Nursing Home, Mrs. Randal was explaining to her students how a tape recorder worked, and suggested that they think of a funny story to record and give as a gift to their grandchildren for Valentine's Day.

"They have a lot to give, a lot to share," she said. "And sometimes I have done my job when I can just make them realize this."

In Mrs. Schofield's classes, she said, "I want them to be aware of what is

Both women work on very tight budgets. Mrs. Randal supplied the tapes herself for those who followed through on her Valentine's Day gift suggestion. Mrs. Schofield supplies all materials for her classes from her own kitchen.

Each teacher will generally have an assistant coming from Madonna, which requires six volunteer hours in a nursing home each week for completion of the gerontology course.



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Home economics teacher Arlene Schofield lectures and demonstrates, then serves the food she's prepared in class for a morning snack for her students. (Staff photos by Harry Maute)

Children's Home seeking special parents

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Everyone who listens to the radio can tell you there are specials and "specialers."

The Detroit Baptist Children's Home doesn't care exactly how you label them, but they are looking for parents willing to serve as foster families in special situations.

The home's "special" foster care program is designed to serve adolescents who have been in residential care and are now ready to be part of a family and can benefit from a family atmosphere.

"This is a pilot project," said Karen Sadowski, a case worker for the home. "It is intended for young boys from about age 12 to 15. We want a special kind of home for them. There is a great need for this."

Ms. Sadowski said the home is involved with young people from all over the tri-county area.

"They are at a point where they need special foster care and not an institutionalized environment," she said. "Many of them have trouble trusting an adult and they need to be able to develop meaningful relationships."

"They need parents that will set controls and make a commitment."

MS. SADOWSKI said they may or may not have families of their own but they need foster parents who can give them emotional support.

"Some of the real families have so many problems they can't provide the right care for the child," she said.

Ms. Sadowski is from Detroit and studied at Michigan State University. She is now working on a master's degree in social work. "I worked for two years at the Catholic Social Services in Lapeer County as a pregnancy counselor," she said.

According to Ms. Sadowski, ten to 13 homes are needed at this time, plus three relief homes, when the foster parents may be away or need a break. "Special foster care is a fairly new concept," she said. "It's for long term care which will prepare the youngsters for independent living and possibly for adoption."

She said the older children are generally not adopted because potential adoptive parents usually have the stereotype of a sweet little blue eyed blond about three years old.

"Also some older youth don't want to be adopted, they simply want to be part of a family," she said.

Ms. Sadowski said the children usually have a poor self-image, have experienced rejection and failure and possibly may have medical problems as well.

"MANY have acting out problems," she said. "There are usually three steps when a youngster enters a foster home. First is the honeymoon stage, then a stage of testing, and finally, normalcy."

"First, they're fine and then they test by skipping school, running away



KAREN SADOWSKI

and things like that, before they reach a normal stage."

Each family chosen will have weekly meetings with a case worker.

"They won't be silent observers," Ms. Sadowski said. "The case workers will be active and maybe that way can minimize the testing the youngsters will put the families through."

She cautioned that even the normal stage will have its ups and downs.

"There are many problems with these youngsters," she said. "A 13 year-old boy can be at a nine year old level, developmentally. Parents may expect him to act his real age and it won't work. These kids will require structure."

A training program is planned for the prospective foster parents which will give them a clear idea of whether they are really cut out for the role they have chosen.

"We will have parent effectiveness classes, teach them what the kids expect and how to deal with schools and teachers," she said. "We plan ongoing meetings."

She said the most important goal is to get the needed emotional support for the youngsters.

"IN TURN we want to give the foster parents the support that will help them," she said. "They'll have to have commitment and work closely with the case worker."

She said the foster parents will get 21 days off a year with pay when the kids go to relief homes.

"There are no restrictions as to race or creed," Ms. Sadowski said. "We want youngsters whom we feel can benefit from special foster care. They will be youth who have progressed and we feel they'll retain those gains or make more progress in this program."

Parents will meet the youngster and get to know him before he is assigned to their home. The foster homes will be licensed by the Detroit Baptist Children's Home.

Ms. Sadowski can be reached for further information by calling her at 549-4339.

Washburn-Kohn

Mr. and Mrs. John M. Washburn, III, of Farmington announce the engagement of their daughter Christine to Thomas W. Kohn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen E. Kohn, of Edmore.

The bride-elect is a graduate of Farmington High School. Her fiancé is a graduate of Morehead State University. Both are graduates of Alma College. A June wedding is planned.



Mary Randal (at top left), conducts classes in Farmington Nursing Home's lounge in Farmington Public School's outreach program.

Handicrafters wanted

The Farmington Area Jaycettes are now renting table space to all area handicrafters who wish to display and sell their work at the Jaycettes Spring Arts & Crafts Show.

The show is set for March 18, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Farmington High School, 3200 Shawasssee.

Tables will be available for set-up on Friday, and rent for \$15 for a single table to \$25 for a double table arrangement.

All participants set their own prices; arrange their own displays; handle their own sales and keep all profits.

The Jaycettes will handle the publicity and operate a sandwich and refreshment booth during sale hours.

All tables must be reserved in advance by calling Claudia Heinrich, 478-8824, after 5 p.m.

Fashion show benefit set

The Franklin Knolls Women's Club has prepared "Aladdin's Fantasy" for its fundraiser on March 7 in Southfield's Raleigh House. The annual fashion show and luncheon has been a 20-year tradition of the group.

Fashions will come from the Jacqueline Shepe and entertained by Mrs. Robert Campbell is chairperson for the affair, assisted by Mrs. Harold Johnson, Mrs. William Wathen, Mrs. William Rakestraw, Mrs. Harry Manoochin, Mrs. Joseph Babiarz, Mrs. Henry Jones and Mrs. James Roush.

Things get underway with a cocktail reception at 11:30 a.m.

Tickets are \$8.50 each and can be purchased by calling Mrs. Johnson at 828-6942, or Mrs. Wathen at 851-1065.

FURNITURE SALE

Now thru February 25

Butcher block trestle table and high back chair designed especially for casual dining, whether in a country kitchen or informal dining area. The clean, natural finish of solid maple in the trestle table is perfectly matched with the natural-colored cane seats and maple ladder back chairs. Table is 30"x60"x29"H, \$210. Chairs, 15 1/2"x16"x42"H, \$59.

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