

## Fund drive on

# YMCA calls residents to invest in youth

By LORAIN MCCLISH

The Farmington Branch of the YMCA is asking area residents to "invest in Youth" by participating in a \$19,000 fund drive now under way. The time has come for us to insure the success of the coming year's operation. Your help will enable us to develop a vital and meaningful program for the youth of our area," said Reta Mosshammer, general chairman of the drive.

"Through its various programs, the YMCA places emphasis on developing

spirit, mind and body in youth. This belief involves cost," she said. All of the money received for the fund will be spent in the Farmington area; it is earmarked for special programs that are planned beyond the \$16,500 which the Y receives annually from United Community Services. The "Invest in Youth" drive is undertaken every year by the local branch's board of directors so that no Farmington youngster will be denied the opportunities offered by the branch.

THE GUYS AND DOLLS Club is supported solely through the "Invest in Youth" drive. The membership is made up of 90 mentally handicapped young adults who bowl in winter, play baseball in summer, participate in camps and some social activity at least once a month. The cost for this program is budgeted at \$3,600 this year. Approximately 30 needy children are sent to summer camp with "Invest in Youth" funds, all recommended by their school principals and

screened by the Farmington Youth Assistance Committee. Program fees and expenses, including gym clothing, are paid out of the fund for children who could otherwise not afford it. Mrs. Mosshammer estimates that at least 50 percent of the grade school children who participate in the Y's sports leagues have memberships paid from the fund. All programs at the Y are offered to residents in Sarah Fisher Home and paid for from the fund. "AN ADULT" sustaining member

buys nothing for himself, but rewards and satisfactions," Mrs. Mosshammer said, "because he enables the expansion of programs to meet the challenge of a growing youth population. The \$19,000 must be secured from the campaign if we are going to be relevant to youth."

Checks are to be made payable to "Invest in Youth" and mailed to the Farmington Area YMCA, P. O. Box 332, Farmington, 48024.



RETA MOSHAMMER

## Meeting set March 3

# Mother power organizes scoliosis group

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Shari Michel is an active Southfield teenager. She ice skates and plays basketball and volleyball. What's unusual is that the 10-year-old does it all while wearing a brace that extends from her neck to her waist.

Shari is one of a large number of young people who suffers from a condition called scoliosis, better known as curvature of the spine.

Her mother, Iris Michel, first detected there was something wrong several months ago. "I noticed her shoulder blade and ribs on the right side were more prominent," she said. "She's a normal child, always has been, and suddenly it was there."



IRIS MICHEL

Mrs. Michel took Shari to her pediatrician, Dr. George Blum, of Southfield and he made the diagnosis. Shari then saw an orthopedist who took a standing X-ray.

"Her curvature was more than 20 degrees, so they decided to brace her," Mrs. Michel said. "They use a brace which the curvature is from 20 to 50 degrees. More than 50 degrees usually indicates surgery is necessary."

MRS. MICHEL explained that such surgery is not usually performed until the child's skeleton is fully mature.

Shari wears her brace for 23 hours each day and will probably require it until about age 16. Like most youngsters, she has adjusted well to her condition. Mrs. Michel said the adjustment is usually tougher for parents.

When Mrs. Michel discovered her child had scoliosis she took care of the immediate problem of consulting the necessary physicians and getting treatment underway. But she decided she had to go further.

"I looked for a parent's group so I'd have someone to talk to," she said. "But there was none around."

"So I called my pediatrician, Dr. Blum, an orthopedist, Dr. Eugene Thompson of Royal Oak and an orthopedist from Detroit, Carl Brenner. Orthopedists are those individuals who make the braces. I asked them to speak before parents of children with scoliosis, and they all responded overwhelmingly."

"I put notices in the Southfield Eccentric and arranged for a meeting

room in a school and more than 40 people came to the first meeting."

THE INFORMAL group has had several meetings now and Mrs. Michel thinks the interaction between parents and people who themselves have had the condition has been positive.

"We've all learned a great deal," she said. "It does help to talk."

Scoliosis is usually a hereditary condition, but it can be caused by trauma in birth or delivering a child late in life, she said.

"It can occur in children as young as three years of age, but that's rare," she explained. "Many doctors don't check thoroughly enough for scoliosis in routine exams."

The most common form of scoliosis is idiopathic, which means there is no known cause. Although there are no definitive statistics, Mrs. Michel said, the condition occurs in about seven to 10 out of every 100 children, more often in females.

"It usually begins from age seven to 14 and coincides with a sudden growth spurt," she said. "Scoliosis means the lateral side to side rotation of the spine."

Because early detection and treatment can often prevent the need for

surgery, Mrs. Michel and the others in her parents group are now campaigning for a statewide education program.

"WE ARE NOW trying to get screening in all the public schools as a mandatory thing," she said. "There is a simple test, called the 30-second forward-bend test that can easily be done with the cooperation of the school nurse or the physical education department."

Mrs. Michel has already had her two younger daughters Jodi, 7, and

Amy, 5, checked for the condition and hopes that other parents will become aware of scoliosis and see that their children are checked.

Dr. Blum, Dr. Thompson, Brenner and Bill Rath, a physical therapist, have lent their support to the fledgling group which doesn't even have a proper name as yet. Rath would like to see physical education teachers involved in this effort.

"Up to now there have been no dues or anything," Mrs. Michel said. "We have asked for donations only to pay for the mailings. Eventually we'd like

to be a non-profit organization."

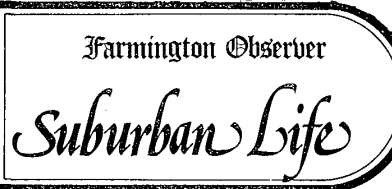
Thursday, March 3, is the date for the group's next scheduled meeting. It will begin at 8 p.m. at the Kennedy School. Dr. Brenner will speak on "The Mechanics of the Boston and Milwaukee Braces." Bill Rath will demonstrate exercises.

"We'd like to see physical education teachers, school administrators, and public health nurses attend along with the patients and their families," Mrs. Michel said.

For more information call Mrs. Michel at 557-9226.



Monday, February 28, 1977



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## Teen musicians ready for competition concert

North Farmington High School's music students vie in the school music department's annual competition concert at 8 p.m., March 2 in the auditorium.

The symphony band will compete with the music it has prepared for the upcoming Music Festival leading off with "National Emblem March."

## 2 local girls declared 'Good Citizens' by DAR

Elizabeth Gibb and Julie Schoettley were among those chosen by the Three Flags Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to be given "Good Citizen Awards" in ceremonies this week.

Elizabeth is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Gibb, 22750 Fredrick, in Farmington. She is the president of her senior class at Farmington High School, has served on the student council for the past two years and is on the school's track team.

The 17-year-old was chosen for a summer honors program at Michigan State University where she worked in the field of genetics, which she hopes to make her career.

Julie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. Jay Schoettley, 2803 Oak Point, Farmington Hill. She is a senior at North Farmington High School where she has served on the sophomore, junior and senior class boards. Her most time-consuming extra-curricular activity is cheerleading, and last fall she was chosen as her school's homecoming queen.

Coming almost simultaneously with

the Good Citizen Award was the news that she had been accepted in University of Michigan's School of Nursing.

THE FARMINGTON area teens were among eight who were picked for the honor, chosen for "their display of service, patriotism, leadership and dependability."

The women and their parents were received at a reception hosted by Mrs. Charles Shaw, of 28262 Farmington Road. All are automatic contenders in the Michigan competition for the "DAR State Good Citizens Award."

The program for the evening was presented by Mrs. John Hilton. It was called, "Forgotten Women of the American Revolution: Their Fathers' Daughters."

Another honoree at the meeting was the "American History Month Essay" winner, a competition held every February in conjunction with National History Month.

Deborah Stone, a fifth grader at Southfield's Schoenhals Elementary School, won the award for her essay called "Yorktown."



ELIZABETH GIBB



JULIE SCHOETTLEY



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## MACLD seeks artists

The Michigan Association for Children With Learning Disabilities (MACLD) is looking for original designs to be used on its 1977 Christmas cards.

Helene Gruber, chairwoman of the MACLD Christmas Card Committee, said, "Since we are a non-profit organization we are unable to pay for the designs but hope to have the artist's name on the card."

She asks that the submitted designs be no larger than 8 by 11 inches and be in no more than two colors. If black is used, it is to be considered one color. If the artist has suggestions

as to the color of paper that would best accentuate the design, these are to be submitted on a separate sheet of paper, accompanying the art work.

The cards must be prepared by June, so the deadline for work to be submitted to the selection committee is March 31.

"Although we cannot be responsible for art work, we will attempt to return work that is accompanied by suitable envelope for return mailing," Mrs. Gruber said.

She will accept designs or inquiries mailed to her at 29799 Foxgrove, Farmington Hills, 48018.

tion and the National Endowment for the Arts. Her presenters are the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Michigan Council for the Arts, the Detroit Public Schools, and St. Matthew and St. Joseph Episcopal Churches.

Miss Lane is a graduate of Juilliard School and Spelman College. She has

studied at Academie Chigiana in Italy and Revel Academie in France.

She has appeared with major symphonies in the United States as well as abroad, but achieved international acclaim as first prize winner in Concours International de Chant de la Ville de Toulouse in France.

## St. Colman hosts soprano for mass

Betty Lane of Affiliate Artist will be soloist for the 10:30 mass March 13 in St. Colman Catholic Church. The church is located at 32500 Middle Belt, Farmington Hills.

The soprano is the recipient of the Marion Anderson and Sullivan Foundation Awards. Her appearance is sponsored by the Sears-Roebuck Foundation.