Peerless volunteers

(Continued from Page 4C)
and then one-to-one interviews are set up."
And after the interviews she confers with WRC Director Christensen to se-lect the eight or 10 "best suited for the

lect the eight or 10 "best suited for the program at that given time."

The classes they take are under Georgems (and Milly Jaffe or Betty Wagner. Most are given 9 a.m. to noon Mondays and Wednesdays. We have tiried some evening courses but aren't doing that now, "said Mrs. Hurley- We have for the time being ended evening bours at the resource center because very few were coming in."

COURSE WORK includes a variety of subjects and situations. When the class work is completed, the trainee begins on the job training at the resource

center.
"Everyone takes this training, re-gardless of background," said the coor-dinator. "We have social workers, gui-dance counselors, teachers and other dinator. "We have social workers, gui-dance counselors, teachers and other trained people among our peer counselors, but it is important for them to learn about our center, what is our philosophy and what we have and where we keep it. It is training time is completed, the volunteer receives a certificate signed by Ms. Christensen and Dean Ron Griffith. "And then I put her on the schedule," said Mrs. Hurley.

That schedule includes a lot of workers who have been doing peer counseling for several year. Probably the longest termer is Jane Cate of Northville, who received her training in 1957. How do the counselors allocate their scheduled hours."

"Our first concern is just to be there, to greet a woman wo walks in, be ready to listen, be ready to give what help we can. People who come here are mostly not in crists situations — usually they

are interested in personal growth.
"Peer counselors often can help them see their own needs and directions just through talking and listening."

THE VOLUNTEERS do have some other functions, though. Some work on publicity and public relations for the center, others on special reports. They work on handout material the center distributes.

"And of course we take time to socialize," Mrs. Hurley said. "That's important, but I find that the busier our volunteers are, the happier they are. And the most important thing we do is taking with the people who come in.

And the most important thing we do is talking with the people who come in. Joanne Hurley works two days a week at the center, scheduled her hours so she gets home when her two young children are out of school. "I work different days each week," she said, "so I get to see everyone."

BESIDES THE inner satisfaction that must be present to keep these volunteers coming back, there are some definite benefits available, she pointed

out.
"Anyone who has worked 30 hours at
the center is eligible for a tuition grant
of up to \$50 on classes at Schoolcraft,"
she said. "And that is renewable.
"Also day care in our child care center is provided or all volunteers' children. That was vital to me when I first
extend."

dren. That was vitat to me when a market arted."

At the latest count there were 30 per counselors on the job, and that's good, said Mrs. Hurley, because the number of people coming into the center is up 30 percent from last year.

She hopes as time goes on to have even more empathetic ears to hear about the increasing stresses people are feeling.

"It's like an over-the-fence psycholo-rv." she noted.

Subscription



Joaune Hurley checks plans for training peer counselors for Schoolcraft College Wom-en's Resource Center. (Staff photo by Art Emanuele)







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