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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Dorothy Brown, who started her career teaching in 1932, has always preferred to

teach first-graders. She thinks of her career as both an opportunity and a blessing in

being able to receive and share God's word every day.

## SCORE:

### Retirees see to it would-be bosses know the score

By Jeanne Whittaker  
staff writer

Warm sunshine bathes the state. Winter-weary families are moving outdoors to savor the delights of spring. Looking at the heightened activity one might think of few more pleasant ways to augment a retirement income than to invest in an ice cream stand on a busy corner.

One older couple who believed that almost lost their carefully accumulated savings of \$15,000.

The story is one of many that Leslie H. Gertz of Birmingham has accumulated during his association with SCORE, an acronym for Service Corps of Retired Executives. Gertz was called in to help rescue the couple, who were sent to SCORE by their parent agency, the Small Business Administration.

They bought the ice cream stand from a real estate man who took \$5,000 down which left them with an \$5,000 balance," said Gertz, a SCORE volunteer. "When they came to us they brought their statement and it clearly showed that they weren't cutting it. The first thing I did was ask them if they had done a survey, which they assured me they had. They told me there was always a line waiting to buy ice cream."

What they didn't observe, he said, was what the long line was waiting to purchase. Once the couple bought the stand they discovered, to their horror, that the majority of their customers were there to purchase marijuana.

"We got hold of the man who held the mortgage and he agreed to cancel the mortgage, but he gave only half of the \$8,000 back. But at least we saved most of the couple's money."

The story, said Gertz, is typical of what many excited, would-be single businessmen and women discover once they go into business for themselves.

SCORE, said the retired salesman, is a volunteer agency of about 100 retired executives, all of whom have achieved success during their careers and who wish to put something back into the

communities which have fostered their success.

Besides himself, Gertz said, SCORE volunteers are former executives whose only criteria for being selected is that they have achieved their goals either as single businessmen or corporate heads. Looking through his membership roster Gertz pointed out men like Louis Baum of Bloomfield Hills, who is former president of the B. Siegel Company, Farmington resident Leland Clifford, the former supervisor of internal audits at Michigan Bell, attorney Maxwell Elgot of Southfield, West Bloomfield resident James Hudgens, who once served as director of dealer relations at General Motors, Rochester resident William Lewis, formerly associated with the Detroit Boat Basin, and Ang Tang Liu of Orchard Lake, formerly of the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Command.

SCORE volunteers, Gertz added, form a vast pool of talents and experiences. Among them, Samuel Schiff of Farmington is a newspaper publisher. Others include former Ford Motor Company executives Arthur L. Selke of Livonia, J. Lee Smith of Farmington, and Eugene L. Sparrow of Birmingham. Still more include Samuel Malbin of Troy, Gerald Bartlam of Bloomfield Hills, and Henry J. Pacini of Birmingham.

SCORE is staffed by experts in almost any field one can imagine, Gertz said, pointing out Bob Stremich of Westland, who is the retired owner of the Hillside Inn in Plymouth. Adding to the available help is a group titled ACE, he said, who are executives who have not reached retirement but who devote time to help SCORE.

"This is not a social organization, it's a business organization," said Gertz, who has been a volunteer for the past year-and-a-half. In addition to the day he works each week as a consultant, he said, he is also working on a June 18 celebration program at which the SCORE CE Chapter No. 18 will be officially

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## Lutheran Teacher of the Year fills her classroom with love

By Lorraine McClish  
staff writer

Dorothy Brown, who holds the Lutheran Teacher of the Year award for southeast Michigan, holds forth in a colorful room filled with plants, fish tanks and drawing easels. A hornet nest dangles from above as a mobile. You expect a show to begin at any minute from the puppet stage.

Work and play games fill shelves and tables so that desks are dwarfed by comparison in the room for first-graders in St. Paul Lutheran School, located on the corner of Eight Mile and Middlebelt roads in Farmington.

When empty of children, the room has an aura of invitation bidding a constant round of activity.

"When class is in session, 'I work to fill the room with forgiveness and love. That's my educational philosophy, and I think that's probably why I was chosen for the award,'" Mrs. Brown said.

THE LIVONIA resident began her teaching career in a one-room schoolhouse in Leelanau County in 1932 with but one year of preparation.

"And I've been attending school ever since," she said. "There's hardly a year that's gone by that I haven't been enrolled in one class or another."

"But my preference has remained the same. I've always preferred to teach the little ones."

She does this with a host of materials that appear to be games, many of which she has devised herself, some that her students' parents have helped her put together, some that she and her students have made together.

"Many have built-in learning-motivation factors," she said. "Much the same as we build in motivation for the children to live their religion with love and concern for one another."

"We expect the older children to look out for the little ones when they are out on the playground," she said, giving an example. "This is not a rule. We take it for granted. We live our religion in the classroom. We live what we teach. It is part of my job to create this Christian atmosphere."

MRS. BROWN'S husband Ralph is retired after teaching at Lutheran West High School for 40 years.

As to retirement for herself, she said, "I've thought about it, but that's as far as I've gotten. I receive so many benefits here. I receive as much as I give because every day I am learning from the children."

She thinks of her teaching as both an opportunity and a blessing.

A personal statement from Mrs. Brown, read during the awards presentation given by the South East Lutheran Teachers Conference, reads in part: "What an opportunity and blessing to be invited by God to participate in the nurturing and developing of children and youth."

"I have the opportunity and blessing of daily leading children in prayer and worship and in turn being inspired by their trust and faith in God as they learn that life can be a constant ongoing act of worship. This is whether it be in church or at a picnic, singing a hymn or learning a new math concept."

The candles a Christian teacher lights in the hearts of his students are the kind that all the darkness in the world cannot put out. They will continue to shine throughout eternity, for

children are the precious jewels in His crown."

MANY OF the teacher's out-of-school activities are related to teaching.

She has never had any formal training for students in special education classes but nevertheless is an active member of Michigan Association for Children with Learning Disabilities, Livonia-Redford Chapter, "to better spot a problem early," she said.

She is a member of Early Childhood Educators of the Lutheran Church, which aims to aid teachers of lower-elementary classes.

Her membership in Detroit Puppets Guild is an aid to the shy child in the class who becomes motivated to perform when acting out the part of a puppet.

Educational workshops take up much of her time. In the most recent workshop, she studied how to teach mathematical concepts which she teaches without using a textbook.

"If there is any time left over I garden," she said.

## Barbara Spivack

### Helping women get involved in their own lives

**'Some need their hands held every baby step of the way, and they need support from those who have been there.'**

— Barbara Spivack  
psychotherapist

By Lorraine McClish  
staff writer

Barbara Spivack, who once worked as a family counselor with Farmington Area Advisory Council (FAAC), is now using her master's degree in social work to help women get involved in their own lives.

"There's a lot of women out there who just never read the books that told them they were emancipated," she said from her new office in North Point Mental Health Associates complex. "She's between 35-55 years old," Ms. Spivack said, drawing a verbal portrait of the woman whose home holds her in bondage.

"She falls into periodic states of depression. She has a sense of not being fulfilled because she wants more but doesn't know what that 'more' is."

"She is sure that all those other women know what they want and are pursuing it; she is the only one in the world who is floundering."

"Her most important decision of the day may be where to have lunch that afternoon."

"Her youngest child has either left home or is giving signs of leaving."

IN HER WORK with FAAC, it was the only child, or the youngest child, brought into the agency for counseling, that turned Ms. Spivack's attention to the woman faced with a mid-life crisis.

"The teen may have been caught with a joint, or something very minor, but when he or she was questioned, I got pretty much the same answer: 'I can't stand going home.'"

"Then when I asked to see the family, more often than not the mother was the only family there was. If the father wasn't absent physically, he was absent emotionally," she said.

"The mother's frustration at being unable to solve her own unmet needs were being manifested in the child with the unspoken message that told the child not to grow up and leave her more alone than she was already feeling."

The upshot of this was forming a group for women with similar circumstances.

The therapeutic sessions worked so well that, after a time-out from work to pursue her masters degree, Ms. Spivack is devoting most of her private practice to the woman who worries about what to do with the rest of her life after the children are gone.

MS. SPIVACK, who said she had always been interested in the study of alcoholism, earned her masters degree with research on the relationship between sex abuse and substance abuse.

"What I found was an incredibly high rate of early child sex abuse in the histories of women who later became alcoholics," she said. "And I found another

er alarmingly high rate among the perpetrators of the act who had been under the influence of alcohol at the time."

She has a group in session now for recovering alcoholic women that acts as supplemental therapy to membership in Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), and she also deals with the disease in helping women who are married to alcoholics.

"That woman has an untenable choice of whether to stay on a drunk or go on welfare. All she knows is that she wants out but doesn't know how to get out," Ms. Spivack said.

But she says she knows better when she hears a woman say she's staying in a bad marriage because of the children.

"She's staying in a bad marriage because she's afraid of her own lack of ability to get out on her own," she said.

REACHING OUT for that "something more" can be at once a terrifying, thrilling and satisfying experience.

Ms. Spivack told of a woman who was unable to get out of her car to go to an appointment. Another was scared silly at the thought of taking an aptitude test. Another subconsciously put all manner of stumbling blocks in her path to make sure she didn't get the job.

"One of the saddest I can recall was one who could not bring herself to write a resume. She was terrified to put her past experiences down on paper because it certified that 'this is me. This is all I am and I am nothing or at least not much.'"

"Some need their hands held every baby step of the way and they need support from those who have been there," she said. "But these are not self-help groups. The group gives built-in support."

Some of the women in Ms. Spivack's

groups are college graduates who went to school to get what was once laughingly known as the "MRS." degree.

"The thought of going to work for the satisfaction of working never entered their minds," she said. "And because

we were all taught to be wives and mothers, not too many of them gave any real serious thought to doing something just for themselves."

"They never got involved in their own lives."

But once that home-bound woman does reach out to her something-more, Ms. Spivack said, "I don't think that to say it is thrilling is an exaggeration."

For more information, call her at 851-2265.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Barbara Spivack speaks from her office in North Point Mental Health Associates about the woman who has been so involved in being a wife and

mother that she has never given any serious thought to doing something just for herself.