

Cancer information line needs volunteers

The Michigan Cancer Foundation's Public Response Program needs volunteers to staff its cancer information line. The volunteer information specialist offers cancer information and referrals to a wide variety of callers. The program is now recruiting potential volunteer information specialists for a six-session, four-hour training course beginning Sept. 29.

The program operates a toll-free line in the 313 telephone zone. It is part of a national network of cancer information centers at 21 locations. The network is directed by the Cancer Information Service of the National Cancer Institute. The program at the Michigan Cancer Foundation began in 1976 and has answered some 40,000 inquiries.

"We receive many different types of calls," said Jane Hoy, manager of the program. "Many callers request educational materials, others are concerned about a certain symptom, and still others just need a sympathetic ear."

So far this year, volunteer respondents have handled 6,000 calls or 500 each month, about 20-25 daily.

Volunteers in the program staff the phones from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays, but their duties do not end there. "Not only do our volunteers provide useful, accurate and compassionate help over the phone, but they assist in maintaining informational resource files, compiling current news clippings on cancer, filling requests for educational literature from the Foundation

and other agencies, and collecting data for use in assessing public needs," said Ms. Hoy.

"We do not always have the answers ready at hand. Some questions, particularly those on current research issues such as interferon, must be researched. Other problems and queries are solved by referring the caller to other health service agencies for particular problems."

"The program also sharpens the general communication skills and gain that certain amount of satisfaction that comes with helping others."

Potential trainees do not need prior knowledge of cancer, although it is helpful; but more importantly, they must be empathetic listeners, able to tune in to an individual's needs. Ongoing supervision by professional staff further trains the volunteers.

Volunteer information specialists are asked to commit four hours per week. Interested persons should call the Michigan Cancer Foundation at 833-0710 and ask for Volunteer Services.

The Michigan Cancer Foundation is a Torch Drive-United Way Agency.

Library lists line up for young adults

A series of programs aimed at helping young adults will be presented by the Farmington Community Library this fall.

The library has planned programs at both branches, some requiring registration. The line-up looks like this:

"How to Survive." Author Markus Rothbart will make a guest presentation at the Farmington Hills Branch. He will speak on his experiences about the will to live, determination and human understanding he acquired in the face of devastation, despair and destruction so prevalent during the Holocaust.

This program is free and open to everyone. For more information on the presentation, call Lauren Bowman at 553-0500.

"Legal Rights of Youth" will be presented by Joseph Erlich of the Oakland County Bar Association. He will talk about the legal rights of youth and answer questions at the Farmington Branch at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1.

"Astronomy" will be held at the Farmington Hills Branch and will include a guest presentation and slide show by a speaker from the Detroit Astronomical Society. A star show will

follow with telescopes outside the library.

Registration is not required for this program. It will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 5.

"Young Adult Book Discussion" is a lively discussion of current books on the third Tuesday of each month, beginning Oct. 15 from 4-5 p.m. at the Farmington Branch. There is a \$9 fee for the paperbacks to be used.

Interested persons should register for this program by calling Denise Moll at 474-7770.

"Windpower Dynamics" will feature Mark Hasselt, a wind and energy spe-

cialist from the Center for Utilization of Scientific Knowledge. He will speak on the practical application of wind power and show slides.

No registration is needed for this program. Questions can be answered at 553-0300. This will be at Farmington Hills at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20. "Model Railroad" will be at the Farmington Hills Branch at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17.

This program will be at the Farmington Branch on at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1. Interested persons should register by calling 474-7770, beginning Monday, Nov. 23.

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