

Roads to support

Catholic Social Services keeps on growing, keeps on changing

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

Catholic Social Services staff members from throughout Oakland County were in Farmington Hills to introduce themselves, greet guests, and show them through the new offices that will give more space for individual, marital, family and group counseling.

"We want to let people know we're here and what we do here," said Bonnie Patrick, who heads the agency's services for substance abusers in the county. "We're still fighting old myths, and we're anxious to get rid of that stereotype."

"There was a time that Catholic Social Services provided clothes and shelter to Catholics. But that was 40 years ago, and we've been changing ever since. We still answer to the Archdiocese as to our purpose. And our purpose is to accommodate anybody who is hurting."

"The purpose changes with the needs, and the needs are always changing," added Gladys Becker, who is director of clinical services in

the county. "Not only changing to fill the needs, but expanding as well. We've been giving services to pregnant teens and teen-parents for 40 years."

"But as a result of funding from Michigan Department of Social Services, we're beginning a new program this fall called 'Support Services for Pregnant and Parenting Teens.' It's free for those who need it or want it, if you are 19 or under and live in the county, Catholic or not."

THE NEW CSS offices are in Suite 303, 26105 Orchard Lake Road. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Evening appointments can be arranged. The telephone number is 471-4140.

Counselors are available for substance abuse, family services, pregnancy counseling and older adult counseling.

The Adoption and Foster Care programs are also operated from the office, which is one in five in the county, and serves residents in the southern and western part of the county.

CSS is an approved provider for

Blue Cross-Blue Shield and most other insurance plans.

Becker said the various CSS services are established after evaluating what best meets the needs of the individual and this applies as well to Support Services for Pregnant and Parenting Teens.

TALK 'N' TREATS uses group discussions to provide information on physical and emotional aspects of pregnancy and parenting, parent-infant relationships and infant care.

The How-to Series of Life Skills builds self-confidence and a strong reality base.

Families Are Important is a monthly support group that assists the families of pregnant and parenting teens in dealing with the stresses of the situation.

When appropriate, individual guidance for the teens will be provided by a foster grandparent or young adult mentor.

Individual counseling and assistance with transportation and scheduling will be available when necessary.



Bonnie Patrick and Gladys Becker welcome guests into Catholic Social Services new suite, opened this fall in Farmington Hills to better

serve those who seek help through its many programs.

Artists paint new club format

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

MEMBERS OF FARMINGTON Artists Club will greet guests from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, for the opening of an exhibit in Farmington Hills Branch Library.

Part of the reason for the reception is the fact that the club skipped its pre-Christmas show of art works this year. This has been not only an annual event, but a traditional one for the area every November.

Another part of the reason is that the show will remain in the library for three months, rather than the usual 30-day period. And a third part of the reason is an entire change in format for the 27-year-old club.

"We want people to know we're here," said Carol Hansen, speaking for the club's 250 members. "We want to let residents know what we're doing and what we're all about."

"We have no foundation, no space

to call our own, no face, no base. We come out of nowhere for a couple of shows a year and then go back to nowhere. Now we've expanded our membership, and all members will be bringing in new ideas for the 1987-88 season to make us visible in the community," she said.

HANSEN ECHOES a longtime hue and cry stemming from the club's quest for a base of operations — a building bearing the club's name — to give the community what the members have to offer.

She cites the scratching of the November art show as an example.

"We are charged an outrageous fee to rent a hall for the show. That and the inordinate amount of physical labor that goes into setting up the show was altogether just too much," Hansen said. "All of the easels and equipment that are necessary (for the show) have to be pulled out of closets and basements and garages all over town."

"Everybody who has a station

wagon or a van is all but blackmailed into service. I think the members just got tired thinking of all the work that was ahead of them and voted thumbs down."

"We made some money on the art work. We made some money on the raffie tickets. But overall, we're going to have to find some other ways to benefit both the members as well as the community until we get some space to call our own."

In the new format for the season, there will be an art auction of the members' works in the 1987-88 season, something never tried before, Hansen said. There could be an exhibit made up exclusively of works that have taken prizes at the Michigan State Fair, she said.

There may be a contest next fall for a holiday greeting card design. She hopes to talk her fellow artists into walking in the Founders Festival Parade with palettes, brushes and berets, she said.

"That might be a good ballyhoo for the next event we're having —

whatever that might be. We do it well with the art in the libraries, Mental Galleries with no advertising at all. But a lot of residents don't know we're here."

WHATEVER CHANGES in format are made by Farmington Artists Club, the format for Farmington Art Foundation, the service arm of the club, will remain the same.

The foundation supplies "The Future Lady," a program of art instruction to elementary school children in Farmington. It also supplies two out-painting lessons to senior citizens every Wednesday in Farmington Hills Senior Adult Center in cooperation with Farmington Hills Department of Special Services.

Some of the oils that have been made in these classes are now on display in Farmington Community Center.

The club's juried art show that will open with an all-day reception, Nov. 21 will remain on display in the library, on 12 Mile Road east of Farmington Road, until March.

Festival of trees opens Nov. 25-30

Country Flowers & Gifts has decorated a tree for this year's Festival of Trees fantasyland. The Farmington Hills florist is one of more than 100 designers and florists whose entry will be up for 10 Festival Design Awards.

The winners will be announced during the preview party, Tuesday, Nov. 24. The doors open for guests

daily Nov. 25-30 in Cobo Hall's Riverview Ballroom for the annual event that benefits Children's Hospital of Michigan.

In addition to fantasyland, there is continuous entertainment, mime, clowns and costumed characters, an elaborate model train display, dolls and miniatures, a gingerbread village, an "Isle of Wreaths," a gift

shop and Santa in Santaland. Complimentary photos with Santa are given by Arbor Drugs.

Underwriters are Arbor Drugs, Adco Appliance, Borden's, Detroit Free Press, Ford Motor Co., Franks Nursery & Crafts, General Motors, McNamara Associates, Palmer Moving & Storage, Tri-State Furni-

ture and WOMC FM. Admission is \$3, \$2.50 for seniors, \$1 for children.

Show hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Thanksgiving Day from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday.

Concert will boost scholarship fund

A capital funds campaign to raise money to perpetuate the Sadie M. Davis Afro American Scholarship, gets under way with a benefit concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, in Pontiac Central High School Auditorium.

The campaign is initiated by

Womencenter, Orchard Ridge Campus, Oakland Community College in memory of the late educator, community leader, feminist and civil rights activist, Davis taught sociology at OCC until her death in 1986.

The concert will be performed by

pianist Shelton Kilby III whose work is a fusion of the gospel and classical idioms. It has been praised by audiences, musicians and critics for its vitality and meaningful interpretation.

Tickets for the concert are \$10, or \$8 for students and seniors in ad-

vance, by calling 471-7602. Admission is \$12 at the door.

Goal of the capital funds campaign is \$12,000. The first recipient of the award, Tesha Walker, a 1987 graduate of Pontiac Central, is now attending OCC.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

The Children's Tree

The 12-foot-high tree just inside K mart's entrance is called "The Children's Tree," decorated with about 350 tags, each carrying the name of a child, his or her age and clothing sizes. Visitors to the store on Grand River and Halsted are asked to take a tag, register it, and then return it with a gift so they can be Santa Claus to that little boy or girl. K mart employees, sponsors of the tree, are in hopes all of the tags will be gone by Nov. 23.

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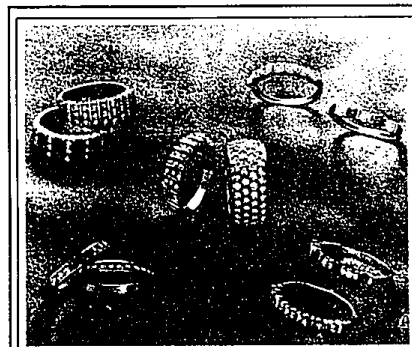
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