

Suburbanites unite to shelter the homeless

By Janice Brunson
staff writer

A few miles west of architect John Dzurman's home in upscale Rochester Hills is a battered apartment building in Pontiac.

"You always have to give something back to the community," said Dzurman, who co-owns Wade-Trim, an architectural firm in Rochester. "This is of obvious importance to everyone. It's something I've always done. It's just my lifestyle."

SEARCH FOR Shelter is an attempt to provide transitional housing, which is seen by many as a vital step between emergency shelters and permanent housing.

Lighthouse, noted as a forerunner in confronting problems facing the homeless, dispenses emergency help while addressing longrange solutions to problems. People like Harold Davis of Bloomfield Hills, a manager for Xerox Corp., and John Avery of Birmingham, a manager for Roney & Co., serve on the agency board.

"None of us are islands unto ourselves. I firmly believe we'll get nowhere unless we help those who need it," Davis said in explaining why he devotes time to Lighthouse.

Lighthouse has been instrumental in the Search for Shelter project, coordinating support and putting Dzurman in touch with potential money sources.

DZURMAN AND others hope to buy the battered Cottage Street apartment building in Pontiac and transform it into a 35-unit complex for families, the handicapped and single people.

Beche is a professor of architecture and urban planning at Lawrence Institute.

"I WANTED to get involved," said Beche of her volunteer work on housing. "It's a way of helping my brother."

The expertise she brings to the group by way of her background training is both important and necessary, she added.

"Action is the word I'd emphasize," said Ann Harden of Farmington Hills in describing efforts by the housing group to purchase the house.

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The battered Cottage Street apartment building in Pontiac will be transformed into a 35-unit complex for families, the handicapped and single people — as a place where people will live for up to 18 months.

of making the transition from homelessness to permanent housing, she added.

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rence Institute of Technology in Southfield drew architectural renderings of the concept. Marty Meach, Steve Gerrard and Suzanne Roach, institute students who live in Southfield, were some of those who spent a semester on the project.

Their efforts and those of other architectural students in 30 communities throughout the country have been bound into book form by the American Institute of Architects for use by city officials and others who are interested in or already launching transitional housing projects.

"This is not just a design exercise. We mean to get it done. Cottage Street represents going from absolutely no home to getting your feet on the ground, getting a job and moving into more permanent housing," Dzurman said.

Dzurman tried to sum up why suburbanites are involved in the homeless issue.

"It's the responsibility of all of us to house our own people," he said. "A lot of these people are families who are very similar to you and me. Oftentimes, through no fault of their own, they find themselves homeless."

For more information or to donate money, call 335-2462 for Lighthouse or 652-8777 for Search for Shelter.



John Dzurman, Rochester architect, stands in front of a Pontiac apartment home being eyed as a transition residence for the homeless.

Churches shop for starter home

Wanted to buy: A handyman special, low cost, starter home; can spend up to \$25,000.

This may not be your typical suburban Oakland County real estate ad, but it fits the bill for members of about 15 area churches who are trying to fill a void in what one calls the "homeless continuum."

The group, which calls itself the Pontiac Ecumenical Housing Group, has reviewed dozens of Oakland County homes listed for sale.

They are looking for something they can rehabilitate with volunteer labor and are considering a three-bedroom place in Pontiac for \$15,000.

"Promoting self sufficiency by enabling low-income people access to safe, decent and affordable housing" is the group's purpose, according to Sonnanburg, who represents Orchard Lake Presbyterian Church where his wife, Janet, is associate pastor.

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OU tuition up 9.67 percent

Students will pay an average of 9.67 percent more in tuition and fees at Oakland University beginning with the spring session.

OU officials called the increase "unavoidable," blaming the state aid budget. Gov. James J. Blanchard recommended only a 1 percent increase for Michigan's 15 public four-year colleges and universities for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

OU's board of trustees approved the increase last week.

HERE IS the schedule for Michigan residents:

- Freshmen and sophomores taking 31 credits a year — \$1,937, up \$170.50 or 9.65 percent.
- Juniors and seniors — \$2,192.75, up \$185.50 or 9.69 percent.
- Graduate students taking 24

credits a year — \$2,631, up \$165 or 10.04 percent.

Cost per credit hour for freshmen and sophomores is \$56.50, up \$5.50; juniors and seniors, \$47.75, up \$6.25; and graduate students, \$102.75, up \$10.

The general service fees were kept at \$27.75 per semester for undergraduates taking 10 or more credits and \$82.50 for graduate students taking eight or more credits.

RESIDENCE HALL rents were kept level.

OU officials credited higher-than-budgeted occupancy rates and prepayment of debt service.

Rate for a two-occupancy room, with 19 meals a week, will stay at \$2,873 per student for the combined fall and winter semesters.

Tuition plan gets tax OK

By Tim Richard
staff writer

An elated state Rep. James Kosteva announced the U.S. Internal Revenue Service has ruled that the state of Michigan can start issuing contracts in its guaranteed tuition program.

IRS approval was necessary so that money invested by parents into the fund would not be subject to the federal income tax.

"This is the starting gun," said Kosteva, D-Canton, who sponsored the bill, which was passed in 1986. "This now allows Michigan residents to pursue this in earnest. It will help keep education affordable to the middle class and working Michiganders."

THE LAW WAS written with a provision that it couldn't get off the ground unless the IRS states in writing whether money earned by the special tuition fund would be taxable.

Lawmakers considered that important because they didn't want parents to face huge tax bills because they gave the state a determined amount of money to invest with the promise it will grow to cov-

er the cost of a college education years in the future.

Michigan was the first state to enact a government-sponsored tuition guarantee plan. But because of that tax-exempt safeguard, other states have moved ahead with plans of their own, while Michigan's is still waiting.

UNDER THE PLAN, people could give the state an agreed upon amount of money — for example, \$5,000 for a newborn — and in exchange get a contract promising that child four years of education at a university or college in Michigan.

During the next 18 years, the state would invest the money with a goal of making it grow large enough to offset inflation and tuition increases.

Gov. James J. Blanchard proposed the program in his 1986 state of the state address and signed the guaranteed tuition law in December 1986.

Kosteva said people can get applications for the plan by calling the Michigan Education Trust office in the state Treasury Department at 1-817-373-8435.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

FLORAL
arrangements

A fresh, feminine attitude is being cultivated for spring.

Flower accessories from A. Brad. Top to bottom:
Rose lapel pin, \$8. Corsage head pin, \$12.
Corsage head pin, \$12. Elastic pony holder with
Lily flower, \$10. Asymmetric barrette with silk
flower cluster, \$14. 3" cotton stretch belt with
American Beauty Rose, \$22. Fashion Accessories.

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ASPIRIN

WARNING: Children and teenagers should not use this medicine for fevers, pain or flu symptoms before a doctor is consulted about Reye Syndrome, a rare but serious illness.