.it's a place to begin healing

When it opens next Monday, CARE House will try to provide the abused victim with a friendly, fa-miliar atmosphere.

millar atmosphere.

"It will put the youngsters on their own turf," explained assistant prosecutor Joyce Todd, who has been with the Oakland County Prosecutor's office for 10 years and is the office specialist on child sexual assault. She will also head the new unit If it is approved, supervising some cases while prosecuting others.

ers.

6. She is also a staunch supporter of CARE House as a first step toward minimizing the trauma sexually abused youngsters experience.

amster youngsters experience.
"It's patterned after other successful child advocacy centers in
Madison County, Ala., and DuPage
County, Ill.," she said. "It's the first
place a young victim is taken" and
is' designed to be more Irlendly
than the principal's office or the
pollee station.

To reduce the number of times the victim must tell what happened — and thus vicariously relive the incident — he or she will relate the assault as few times as possible, with the social worker, police offi-

"YOUNG VICTIMS will often tell the full story in stages," Todd said. So there's a need for the vic-tim to tell the story more than once or twice.

or twice.
But, Todd said she has seen victims get tired of reliving the assault "and simply refuse to tell their story one more time."
"The important thing is to build up rapport with the victim," Todd explained, "to build confidence and trust."

explained, "to build confidence and trust."

Assistant prosecutors will build trust too, Todd said, by spending time with the child and his or ker family.

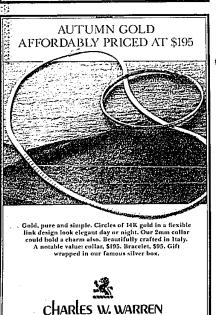
As some who will accompany and the company and the company and the cycles are training and the cycles are training and the cycles are training trust the rest of the cycles and the cycles are the cycles are the cycles and the cycles are the

ple involved, Todd said. The youngster should get to know the players involved, she said, the judge, the prosecutor, the defense attorney and, if necessary, the jury—and the role each plays. "Hopefully the victim won't be a frightened and the trial won't involve more trauma," Todd said.

Atlanta mayor speaks here

Andrew Young, mayer of Atlanta, will speak at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1, at Oakland University on the Future of the Cities: Economically, Politically and Socially.

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CARE House opens next week

Continued from Page 7

Prosecutor Richard Thompson, who is lining up support for the second part of the program against sexual child abuse.

Thompson is asking Oakland County commissioners to provide almost 4400,000 for a Child Sexual Assault Unit within his office.

Thompson has already splained to the proposal is likely to come up for discussion at leady's Board of Commissioners meeting.

The unit calls for six people—four assistant prosecutors and two social workers, known as child wictim advocates — to specialize on sexual assault cases.

Instead of the usual workload of nearly 500 cases, those assigned to the unit would have a maximum of 50 cases, Thompson said. The reduced workload will enable them to spend more time on the case and take the extend had an expected the case of prosecution.

COMMISSIONERS ARE Initially

chances of prosecution.

COMMISSIONERS ARE initially receptive to the proposed child sexual assault unit. But the request founding is one of many they must balance for next year's budget.

"The unit is clearly meritorious," said commissioner John G. Pappagorge, R-Tro-, "But providing people (and money) Involves setting priorities."

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parts of the country, there are no clear figures to show how extensive the problem is partly because prior to 1985 there were no mandatory re-

the problem is; partly occause prior
to 1885 there were no mandatory reporting requirements.
Thompson says the number of
adults charged with erriminal sexual
conduct involving children under 16
has been steadly in recreating; 156
has been steadly in recreating to the first
some social workers, however,
any the higher numbers may be
more a reflection of better reporting
methods, rather than increased numbers of sexual cissaul crases.
Whatever the dimensions, however, social workers, police and the
prosecutor agree the problem of sexually abused children is a serious
problem here and elsewhere.
Thus the need for CARE House
as dramatically illustrated in the
"Muffin man" television movie.

"Muffin man" television movie.

IN ONE SCENE, for example, the sexually abused youngster, about 4, ran from the courtroom as the imposing looking, judge started to bang the gavel.

The scene accurately depleted the fear sexually abused youngsters have, said Cosenlino, who has a masters degree in social work from the University of Michigan.

"He (the young victim) might have thought the judge was going to punish him," she said. "Children often hink they are somehow to blame."

Some of that fear is implanted by

362 S. TELEGRAPH 681-6290

the person — relative, acquaintance or stranger — to help intimidate the young victim so they won't tell, or be poor prosecution witnesses if they

In "Muffin Man," one of the people who raped the main figure, the pres-chool son of a police officer and his wife, told his victim that his parents would die if he ever told what hap-

The U.S. Department of Justice reports that 90 percent of all child abuse cases are not prosecuted, ac-cording to Thompson. The major

cause is the child's refusal to testify in court said.

When young victims do testify, the prosecutor said, the defense attorney's primary trial tests to the destruction of the said to the said of t





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