

Classes help stepfamilies cope with change

By Pat Murphy
staff writer

When a second marriage involves children on both sides, it's often regarded as "the triumph of hope over experience."

That assessment comes from someone who has gone through it, and is preparing to help those about to attempt it.

Her name is Carol Levin, a social worker with Oakland Family Services, who will be the group facilitator in a class on stepfamilies.

The 8-week class, scheduled to begin Dec. 7 at the Baldwin Library in Birmingham, is one of the newest programs initiated by family services to meet an old goal — strengthen the family.

Family services has existed since 1921 when it was known as the Children's Aid Society of Oakland, explained Sylvia Ashton, director of development. And it's goal has never changed.

There will be a noticeable change, however, tomorrow when family services formally opens its \$1.3 million facility at 114 Orchard Lake in Pontiac. The 42,000-square-foot facility is the old Elk's club, refurbished within a year to accommodate an ever increasing demand for services.

THE REFURBISHED facility replaces two separate buildings in

Pontiac and supports four other family services offices in Rochester, Berkeley, Drayton Plains and Walled Lake.

Family services will help more than 5,500 people in 1989, according to president William G. Frey. Among those it will help are abused children, addicted teenagers, single parents and disabled adults.

Its programs combat illiteracy, alcoholism, despair and, sometimes, blind optimism — as with the classes on stepfamilies.

An estimated 70 million people are involved with stepfamilies in one form or another, said Levin, who had two children of her own before getting a master's degree in social work from the University of Michigan and subsequently marrying a man with three youngsters.

"Many make the mistake of entering into the second marriage thinking it will be much the same as the first, only better," she said. "That's a mistake."

"The second marriage is different, particularly when there are youngsters involved."

Her class is designed to encourage those contemplating remarriage to think about some very practical considerations they might be overlooking, Levin said.

"Finances, for one," she said. "It's a crucial matter that should be resolved before hand. Are the newlyweds going to pool their mon-

ey? Is each parent going to keep some money and pool the rest? Will each child be treated equally?"

WHAT ABOUT DISCIPLINE? Some new parents agree that each individually will be responsible for disciplining their own children, Levin said. "New couples need to think

about that ahead of time and agree how they will handle it."

People going into second marriages have to realize deep-seated practical problems that may surface — and threaten — the new union.

"What happens if a parent doesn't like a stepchild?" Levin said. "He or she is supposed to provide love, but

what happens when the stepchild and stepparent don't even like each other?"

Many children hope their parents will somehow get back together, Levin said. They may do things — unconsciously or otherwise — to sabotage the new union under the false belief the natural parents will get

back together if the second marriage fails.

IN ONE EXTREME case, a stepfather was falsely accused of molesting his stepdaughter, Levin said. The case almost went to trial in circuit court before the youngster admitted she lied, much to the relief of the falsely accused stepdad.

TWO GIFT IDEAS THAT WILL DO YOUR HEART GOOD. AND THEIR HEARTS GOOD, TOO.

Give the gifts that make everyone feel good. The **FOOD FOR FITNESS**® Grocery Shopping Guide and the **High-Fat Low-Fat Cookbook**, published by MedSport, the U.S. Medical Center's sports medicine and preventive cardiology programs. The 200-page Grocery Shopping Guide evaluates more than 3,000 items in an easy-to-read chart format. A quick glance shows you foods high in fiber and foods you should avoid due to high levels of saturated fat, sodium and sugar. The Guide includes tips for deciphering label information.

MedSport's **High-Fat Low-Fat Cookbook** features over 150 pages of delicious recipes and educational information for healthier dining. Each recipe gives you a complete nutritional analysis — highlighting the cholesterol, saturated fats, carbohydrates, sodium, fiber and calories. Initially, the Guide and some recipes in the Cookbook were developed for MedSport patients with high cholesterol, high blood pressure, weight control problems, and heart disease. We soon realized that everyone could benefit from this information, and now offer these resources to the public. All proceeds from our book sales will benefit MedSport cardiac programs. *Happy Holidays!*

ORDER FORM

☐ Please send me _____ copies of the Grocery Shopping Guide
\$14.95 each

☐ Please send me _____ copies of the High-Fat Low-Fat Cookbook
\$13.95 each

☐ + \$2.50 shipping & handling (for 1st book only)

☐ \$5.00 shipping & handling for each additional book

TOTAL _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone (_____) _____

My payment is by: ☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Credit Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Clip Order Form and make check payable to MedSport, P.O. Box 363, Ann Arbor, MI 48106

MedSport

U.S. MEDICAL CENTER
SPORTS MEDICINE AND CARDIAC PROGRAMS

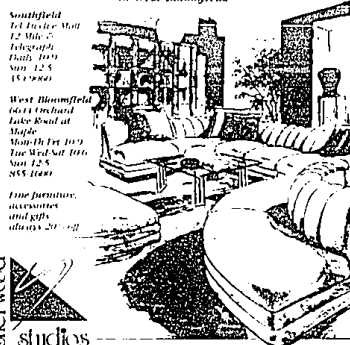


Carol Levin sees the second marriage as "the triumph of hope over experience."

Sherwood can make the difference...

with fine furniture and beautiful accessories from the finest makers.

Let our professional staff of interior designers plan your rooms around you — with all the latest looks, lines and colors. Free in-store design service is available. Stop in and see why Sherwood can make the difference. Visit our new state-of-the-art design studio in West Bloomfield.



Southfield
14111 E. River Road
12 Mile
Bloomfield
Daily 10-9
Sun 12-5
1-800-888-8888

West Bloomfield
6001 Orchard
Lake Road at
Mayfield
Mon-Fri 10-9
Sat 10-6
Sun 12-5
1-800-888-8888

Fine furniture,
accessories
and gifts
starts at \$29.99

**Sherwood
studios**

SOMERSET PRESENTS

THE WORLD FAMOUS NATE WILLIAMS INK SPOTS



SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 19TH

TWO BIG SHOWS

1:00 & 3:00 PM

Open to the Public at No Charge

Holiday Hours Begin Friday - November 24th:

Mon-Fri 10-9/Sat 10-6/Sun 12-5

Saks Fifth Avenue Open Mon-Sat 10-9/Sun 11-6

SOMERSET MALL

W. Big Beaver Road at Coolidge, Troy

GORDON AND SUSAN FROM SESAME STREET ARE COMING TO TWELVE OAKS WITH A BIG FRIEND WHO CAN FLY.



ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AT 12:30PM SANTA WILL ARRIVE WITH GORDON AND SUSAN (ROSCOE ORMAN AND LORETTA LONG) FROM SESAME STREET.

He isn't yellow, he doesn't have feathers, and he only comes once a year. But he's just as lovable as Big Bird. And you can see him at Twelve Oaks. Because Santa's arriving at 12:30pm for the first of three Gordon and Susan shows. Then at 2:30 and 4:30, Gordon and Susan will

perform again. Meet Gordon and Susan after each show.

So if you want to know the way to Sesame Street, come to the Lord & Taylor Court at Twelve Oaks on Sunday, November 19. And have an afternoon of holiday fun with Gordon, Susan and Santa.

t w e l v e o a k s .

Hudson's, Lord & Taylor, Sears, J.C. Penney and over 150 great stores and services. Monday-Saturday, 10am-6pm, Sunday, Noon-5pm (313) 348-9622. 1-800-1-12-Oaks. 1-800-1-12-Oaks.