

Agency focus is on the family

Thursday, May 3, 1990 O&E

(F7B)

While Michigan community organizations and agencies observe the Month of the Young Child, it is fitting to focus on a serious problem that can affect families in any community — child abuse and neglect — which is the primary mission of Family Focus, a private, non-profit volunteer agency serving Oakland County.

Family Focus believes that "at the root of many cases of child abuse and neglect is stress, the lack of basic parenting skills, poor family communications, along with the need for better knowledge of money management and problem solving skills."

Therefore, the organization sponsors parenting classes, taught by highly skilled professional teachers. These eight-week sessions are offered throughout the year at various Oakland County locations. While some attending these classes are referred by the courts, churches or other community organizations, others come on their own when they recognize that they are experiencing difficulties.

"Some parents may get along well with a two-year-old," explains Family Focus director Dee Dise, "but may not understand their teenager. These classes can help guide parents."

Diabetes is a major contributor to heart disease, kidney disease and blindness. So when you support the American Diabetes Association, you fight some of the worst diseases of our time.



A modest fee is charged for the classes, but scholarships are available.

Family Focus also maintains a parent advisory phone for the community. Callers will be given referrals to agencies available to assist them in their particular situation. "A mother at the end of her rope may call," said Dise. "Or, a parent who suspects that his child may be on drugs might call for guidance."

MONITORED visitations ordered by Probate or Circuit Court are a primary function of Family Focus. This program provides a visit between non-custodial parents and their children in a neutral location, monitored by a trained volunteer.

"The need for these visitations arises when one parent has been accused of abuse or neglect," said Dise. "These visitations will continue until the case is adjudicated. We



child care
Marcie Walker

don't make a judgment. The allegations could be wrong.

"With a monitored visitation we protect the child at risk and see that the child and parent have the opportunity to know each other," said Dise.

This program is unique to Oakland County and relies on volunteer monitors, donated monitoring sites, such as the YMCA or Salvation Army, and donated materials.

A volunteer undergoes five training sessions and usually works two hours a week.

"Most volunteers work with one family at a time, although some have two," said Dise. "We have retired teachers, grandmothers, college interns. There is a constant need for volunteers."

For more information on volunteering, parenting classes or the parent advisory phone, call Family Focus at 642-3083.

Marcie Walker is a free-lance writer who has researched the subject of child care in the Detroit area.

Oratorical contest winners announced

David Perry, an O. E. Dunkel Middle School student, and Melissa Robbins of Mercy High School, took first place in an oratorical contest sponsored by Farmington-Farmington Hills Optimist Club of Michigan. The contest was for youth under 16 years of age. First place winners will advance to the Michigan District Region competition.

YOUR GOOD SERVICE SPEAKS FOR ITSELF...



But who is speaking to potential new customers in your area about your service? Getting To Know You helps new homeowners find appliance or auto repair, exterminator or locksmith with a housewarming package filled with needed information about selected community service companies. Join the finest merchants and professionals by subscribing to your local Getting To Know You program, and help your new neighbors get acquainted with you.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

WELCOMING NEWCOMERS NATIONWIDE
To become a sponsor, call (800) 645-6376
In New York State (800) 632-9400

COUPON

6015 EAST 10 MILE ROAD
207 EAST OF WOOD ROAD
SUITE 100
WARREN
Mon.-Sat.
9-5 p.m.

FREE HALL RENTAL
SAVINGS UP TO \$350*
(except the month of December)

FRIDAYS ONLY
"New Bookings Only"
Wedding or Any Occasion
759-6500

COUPON

Win the Race For Space!

GET ORGANIZED
With the Space planning Specialists

Win a \$1000 prize by ordering a Space Organization package before 5/31/90.

- Manufacture of laminate closet
- Organizers for closet levels, drawers, hanging storage space
- 20 pieces of 2" x 4" adjustable
- Each system custom designed for your specific needs and built into the floor up, the simplest way, for additional strength
- Professional on day installation
- Free 100% guarantee
- Call for a free no obligation estimate with absolutely no obligation

7-11 Do It Yourself Closet
Starting At Only \$175

CALL: 680-9554 • 1-800-342-5604

CLOSER TO YOUR LOVED ONES

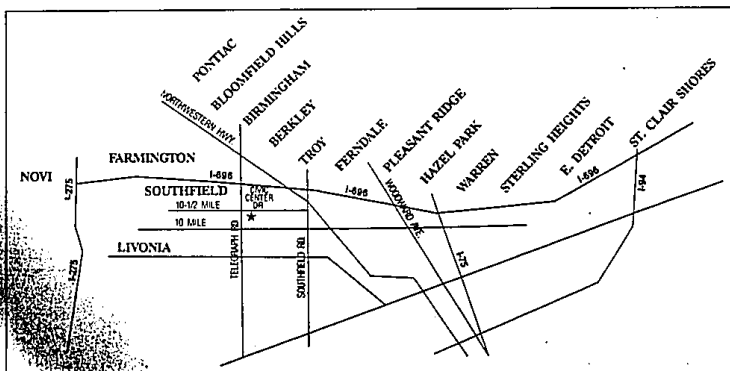
Seniors care very much about being close to their loved ones — so do their friends and families!

THE TROWBRIDGE, one of the country's finest communities for senior living, is centrally located within only 10-15 minutes of almost all Detroit communities...and to an excited Grandparent eagerly awaiting that big hug from their favorite grandchild or friend — that's important.

It's also comforting to know that in the unlikely event of an emergency, loved ones are close by.

Join us at **THE TROWBRIDGE** and be closer to your loved ones

THE TROWBRIDGE - For the Ultimate in Senior Living



*Open House every Sunday afternoon from 2-4.
Call for details. Delicious refreshments.*

THE TROWBRIDGE
Senior Living

On 10 1/2 Mile Road (between 10 Mile and Berg Road)
(One block west of the intersection)

Just ask for **CHARLEAU**