



Is there a doctor in the house?

You bet and nurses, too — all thanks to Jean Page

By Noreen Flack
Special writer

For active concertgoers, there's nothing like a summer outdoor music festival in Michigan.

The air is filled with beautiful music coupled with cool evening breezes. The night just seems complete once you're settled down, whether in a seat in the pavilion or sprawled comfortably on a blanket on the hillside.

And then it happens. That heavy-duty migraine starts thrabbing away on the sides of your head — pounding, pounding, pounding. The headache began at the office, working its way up the back of your neck and now it has reached its target, your temples.

Or maybe your allergies kicking up — triggered perhaps by the freshly mowed hillside. The trouble started in the middle of the concerto. As your eyes water and your head begins to clog up, once-friendly faces around you begin to stare after your repeated sneezes interrupt the sounds of a violin solo.

WHAT TO DO?

Relax. There is a remedy and it is close by in the form of a visit to the pavilion first aid room where a volunteer nurse is standing by to give relief. And in the event the problem is more serious, a doctor is summoned.

For the past 12 years, these behind-the-scenes "angels of mercy" have come together through the efforts of Jean Page, volunteer coordinator for the first aid room.

Most visits to the first aid station are for upset stomachs and headaches, Page said. Other problems have included lost children or car keys.

Although most troubles are minor, some are more serious and have included heart or asthma attacks.

The first aid room was particularly busy during a rock concert last year, Page recalled, when the music was so loud some people stuck cigarettes, filters and paper in their ears to soften the noise level. But after the concert, they couldn't get the paper out, so the doctor had to come in and remove it.

Gregg Bloomfield, Meadowbrook managing director, said he counts on Page and the volunteers to maintain the festival's policy of one doctor, one nurse on duty during all concerts.

AND IN RETURN FOR their services, a doctor receives four tickets to the show of the day and is seated in the audience during a performance. A beeper alerts him to the need to report to the first aid room.

The nurses stay in the first aid room during all concerts but they are given four tickets to an upcoming concert of their choice.

But receiving concert tickets isn't the

only reason the medical volunteers make their time with Meadowbrook.

"You get a feeling for Meadow Brook and the people there," Page said. "As the volunteers are very friendly. It's just nice for me to know I'm a part of something so special."

Page, a retired nurse who lives in Troy, spends her winters in Florida and when she returns near the beginning of the concert season, she said she has numerous messages from doctors and nurses assuring her they want to volunteer.

Dr. Robert Cutler of Bloomfield Hills said he rarely misses a Thursday night symphony, and he credits Page with

keeping the volunteers together every year. "She's a wonderful lady," Cutler said. "She really deserves a lot of credit for the work she has done."

The first aid volunteer program began 20 years ago, initiated by the Oakland University health center in Rochester. Originally, the program maintained a few nurses from the medical center and one or two doctors.

Today, Page makes sure the concert season has a list of 25 nurses and 15 doctors, mainly from private practices.

The first aid room is not an emergency room, however, Page stressed. If someone needs serious attention, they are immediately rushed to nearby Crittendon Hospital.



DOUGLAS SUSALLA

For the past 12 years, as a volunteer, it's been Jean Page's job to see that a nurse and doctor are on duty at every Meadow Brook Summer Festival concert. The nurses man the first aid room in the pavilion; the doctors sit in the audience and are alerted to trouble by a beeper. For their volunteer efforts, they receive concert tickets.

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