

Among the county's 10,000 homeless

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"He is a very proud man and a very involved father who changes poopy diapers (for his new daughter Desiree). I've seen him do it. He has a job and so does she (his wife), though she's on maternity leave now. This is a side of the homeless that people generally just don't see," she said. "All of the homeless have their own story to tell. They are all different. And they are homeless for many different reasons."

There is a happy ending to the Filhart story.

"We don't have what you could call success stories, but we do have our share of small victories," Melville said.

HANK AND MONICA Filhart were high school sweethearts in El Paso, Texas. They've known one another for 14 years and have been married five years. He was working as a security officer for minimum wage. "In a dead-end job in a town where the cost of living was outrageous," he said.

In August 1980, the couple sold everything they had and headed for Detroit. Filhart chose Detroit after he read want ads in dozens of big city newspapers.

"I had a job in three days. It was always easy getting jobs. I was employed at \$5.50 an hour, more than I was getting in Texas. Monica got a job in the same place. I worked as a cook, she as a waitress," he said, adding that the baby-sitting chores were taken care of by each of them working a different shift.

When the family got evicted and moved into a motel Filhart said, "I was working at a restaurant but still didn't have enough money to eat three meals a day after I paid the motel bill, made sure my wife and child were eating and got myself and from work. That was it. That was all I could afford."

"When we got down to our last \$20 we turned that into dimes and spent every dime trying to get some help."

"People were very nice, said they couldn't help, there was no room, no beds open, or at best they could take Monica and Michael in one place and put me 30 miles away. They gave me another number to try."

"In a couple of instances I was told I would be better off being unemployed. But I couldn't do that. I won't do that," he said. "We were very literally down to our last dime when we connected up with SOS."



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Hank Filhart talks about being homeless and how that happened to him and his family.

IN TURN, SOS connected the Filharts with the Jim Baxter family, parishioners of St. Michael Catholic Church in Southfield.

The two families met while the Filharts were being sheltered in that church.

"The first thing that happened was when (Baxter) sold me a car — a beautiful car — for nothing down and \$10 a week."

"And now he is my landlord. He's

giving me the first month's rent free and charging the lowest rent I've ever heard of in Detroit," he said.

"I can't say enough good about the people in that church. I know when I am able I will be repaying this by being a volunteer for this program at St. Michael's, probably around the first of next year."

"We've already made plans to be remarried there and have the children baptized there," he said. "The people at St. Michael's have become our family."

Named vice president

Charles J. Balestrino, executive vice president and general manager of J. Walter Thompson USA-Detroit announced the appointment of Farmington Hills resident, Margaret Moylan, as senior vice president.

Moylan joined the agency in 1986 and has the responsibilities of research director in charge of research programs for all Detroit clients.

She began her research career in Detroit and has served on both the agency and client side on a variety of accounts.

In commenting on the appointment, Balestrino said the "Margaret Moylan has made important contributions to the continued growth of the agency in Detroit."

"The professionalism and quality of work provided by the officer have been of direct and important benefit to our clients and to J. Walter Thompson's mission to provide the most effective and distinctive advertising in the marketplace."



Margaret Moylan

"This new appointment to senior officer status reflects the importance of her respective responsibilities."

The appointment is effective immediately.

club circuit

LAMAZE CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION ASSOCIATION offers a six-week class for new parents, the choice of a two- or four-week class for refresher, and a monthly breastfeeding class. The classes are given in Livonia, Garden City, Redford and Novi to service all surrounding communities.

Inquiries are taken by calling the registrar, 937-0865.

WESTSIDE SINGLES meet at 8 p.m. Friday in Roma's of Livonia, Schoolcraft Service Drive west of Inkster. Open to all singles over the age of 21. The hotline is 562-3160.

OAKLAND COUNTY SINGLES with singles clubs from Bloomfield Hills, Rochester and Troy host a "Special Dance Party" to benefit American Diabetes Association beginning at 8 p.m. Friday in Kingsley Inn, 1475 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. Dressy attire requested. Donation is \$5 at the door. Hotline numbers are 645-4184 and 645-6464.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS, Farmington-Farmington Hills Chapter, meet at 1 p.m. Friday in Farmington Hills Branch Library, 32737 12 Mile Road. Carol House leads the program called "Miracles With Rubber Stamps and Calligraphy." The meeting is open to all senior adults, whether retired or not.

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN meets at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17, in Explorers' Room, Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward Ave. The meeting is open to all interested persons without charge.

Members are asked to bring a family heirloom to share with others interested in Polish research or history.

HADASSAH, Greater Detroit Chapter, sponsors a theater party at 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16, in Birmingham Theatre. The performance of "Beau Jest," will be followed by an afterglow with the cast. The play is a comedy about Jewish family life today.

Profits from the event will benefit Children's Pavilion at Hadassah Hospital.

pitil, a new three-story unit containing all the hospital's pediatric services.

Inquiries are taken by Hadassah House, 357-2920 or 683-5630.

NATIONAL SCOLIOSIS FOUNDATION, Michigan Chapter, hosts monthly support group meetings for scoliosis patients and their families. The group meets at 7:30 p.m. the third Monday of every month in Classroom A, 10th floor, South Tower, Beaumont Hospital, 13 Mile and Woodward. The next meeting is set for Nov. 19.

Inquiries are taken by the Michigan office, in Madison Heights, 398-6346.

MOM AND TOTS PLAY ACTIVITY CLUB meets at 9:45 a.m. Monday, Nov. 19 in the parking lot of Antioch Lutheran Church, 33360 13 Mile Road. The group will car pool from there for a visit to a turkey farm. Rain date is Nov. 26.

Membership is open to all interested parents and their preschoolers. The informal group plans loosely structured, low cost activities. Inquiries taken by the church office, 826-7995.

EDUCATION SERIES FOR FAMILY MEMBERS AND SIGNIFICANT OTHERS OF CHEMICAL ABUSERS meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday nights. The series is sponsored by Farmington Area Advisory Council for participants to learn about the disease and recovery process. Inquiries are taken by the council office, 477-6767.

ADOLESCENT RECOVERY GROUP meets at 4 p.m. every Tuesday and is sponsored by Farmington Area Advisory Council. The meetings are open to adolescents working toward recovery from chemical dependency.

Inquiries are taken by the council office, 477-6767.

All club news and announcements for this column are to be addressed to Club Circuit, Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48338. The information must arrive before noon on the Monday before Thursday publication.

Doctor is selected for award unanimously

GARY OTSUJI, a family practitioner and director of Providence Hospital's family practice residency program, has been unanimously selected as the 1990 Family Practice Educator of the Year by the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians Board of Directors.

Dr. Otsuji, a resident of Farmington Hills, earned his medical degree in 1973 from the University of Michigan Medical School and served his residency in family practice at C.S. Wilson Memorial Hospital in Johnson City, N.Y. He has been on the Providence medical staff since 1976 and has served as program director of the Family Practice residency

program since 1982. He was also acting department chairman from 1986 to 1987.

He is a member of numerous professional organizations, including the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians and the American College of Sports Medicine. He is also a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians, chairman of the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians Residency Directors Committee, chairman of the Oakland Health Education Program Family Practice Committee.

bettina

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