

# Shelters provide job training, child care

As a result of the recent plant closings and the states' weak business climate, thousands of new people will join unemployment lines. And when their benefits expire, many will be unable to pay their rent and may wind up homeless. Fortunately, help awaits them at three Oakland County shelters. The staff and volunteers provide job training programs, child care and other services to area homeless people. The coordinated efforts of the staff and volunteers at the three homeless shelters in Oakland County are outstanding. They are providing

homeless people with programs and services which can help to put them back on track," said Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy. The shelters are:

- Pontiac Rescue Mission: 35 E. Huron Street, P.O. Box 420420, Pontiac, MI 48342, 335-7450.
- South Oakland Shelter: 431 N. Main Street, P.O. Box 1699, Royal Oak, MI 48067, 546-6566.
- Baldwin Center: 212 Baldwin Avenue, P.O. Box 420700, Pontiac, MI 48342, 335-7450.

"HOMELESS PEOPLE are vic-

tims of child abuse, domestic violence, automobile plant closings, substance abuse and mental illness, and the Pontiac Rescue Mission helps to get them back into society," said Steve White, manager of the Pontiac Rescue Mission, a two-week emergency shelter. At the Pontiac Rescue Mission, volunteers from the Pontiac Urban League offer job-training sessions on writing resumes and interviewing skills. There is also a case worker on hand to help mentally ill clients. Volunteers and staff at the South Oakland Shelter help boarders find jobs and permanent housing.

"We provide them with newspapers and a bag lunch so that they can look for employment during the day," said Lillian Melville of the South Oakland Shelter, a 30-day shelter. The Baldwin Center in Pontiac, which is a 28-day shelter, provides sessions on budgeting money and food stamps, cooking sessions and child care programs. Medical check-ups are also available to those needing minor medical care. Local church organizations keep the children entertained by taking them to movies and other places, while their parents are job hunting.

"We provide life changing activities which are aimed at getting the homeless people back on their feet," said Pat Myers of the Baldwin Center. Counselors and case workers help victims of child abuse and domestic violence to cope with their situations. TOGETHER, THE THREE shelters serve more than 1,000 people per year, including more than 200 children. But, the shelters have requirements, and some people are not accepted.

Both Pontiac Rescue Mission and the South Oakland Shelter take men, women and children. The Baldwin Center only accepts women with children, or whole families. Single men are not admitted. "People with severe cases of substance abuse and mental illness also are turned away and referred to other shelters. When the shelters fill up, people are referred to area church shelters. The shelters' goals are to help homeless people become self-sufficient, employed and living in permanent homes so they may deal with family situations positively.

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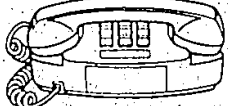
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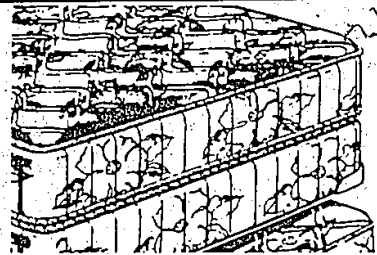
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