

Priorities from page 1H

to let things go," she said. "For me it's the house. Despite how busy we (she and her husband Herb) are, the kids (Martha, 6; Alex, 4 and the twins, Meredith and Olivia) get their due as well. "They won't be kids for long," she added.

While she continues to place the children first, including finding time to make their Halloween costumes, she also has tremendous excitement and energy for her job as senior clinical coordinator at University of Detroit Mercy in the Physician Assistant Program.

"Classes are getting bigger," she said. "There's a phenomenal demand. We don't actively recruit, because we don't need to. We do have a need for minorities in the program."

Her vitality is only outweighed by her straightforward comments and obvious sincerity, especially as she explains her passion to teach. That role, however, also took her away from patients and she missed that interaction.

Dobbs meets that need by working with the Taylor Teen Health Center.

"I never thought I'd like to work with teens, but it's just great," she said adding that she also likes working in geriatrics.

"Despite all that, I've always loved oncology," Dobbs said. "It's a very honest disease and you have to be honest with the patient and the patient has to be honest with you. In most cases, but certainly not all, you know what the result will be and you support people and that's what I love to do."

It's obvious that Dobbs loves to be with people and in some way be a part of making their lives better.



SHARON LE MURDO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Many duties: Physician assistant Kathleen Dobbs works full time and attends graduate school. She was named Physician Assistant of the Year in 1992.

Holding her daughter, Martha, on one knee and calmly acknowledging the top-dancing routine of her son, Alex, her actions illustrate her hectic life as much as her words.

Dobbs explains that she worked as a registered nurse before becoming a physician assistant, a move that she's obviously happy about. Working as a physician assistant is "a wonderful profession with a lot of mobility," Dobbs said.

Bright benefit

Crowd 'lights up' to hospice

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

It may well have been the grand opening celebration. More than 1,000 people packed Jacobson's Laurel Park store Nov. 9 to sample food, sip wine and share in the euphoria of the opening of the Angela Hospice Care Center.

It was the largest crowd ever for the sixth annual "Light Up a Life" benefit for Angela Hospice. Sponsored by the Italian American Club of Livonia, the event raised more than \$25,000 for the hospice organization.

"We're just so thankful for them (the Italian American Club) and their work," said Sister Mary Giovanni, president of Angela Hospice, sampling the coconut chicken served by the Country Epicure, one of 17 restaurants and food merchants providing food and beverages for the evening.

Interest in the evening at Jacobson's has been slowly increasing but the leap from 680 patrons in 1992 to a sellout this year was because "people find it's a good cause," said Carolyn DiComo, benefit chairperson.

"I guess we're just organized," a hearing DiComo said. "Every year we get better and better, we get more and more organized." The fund-raiser came less than two weeks before the by-invitation-only formal dedication of the Angela Hospice Care Center, set for Sunday, Nov. 21. A public open house is set for 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5.

The care center is the first free-standing facility of its kind in the state and is situated along New-



JIM JACOBSON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Funny face: Patrons like Ann Marie Artymouich had an opportunity to get a caricature done by artist Chuck Borshanian of Redford.

burgh Road north of Scholearft on the Felician Sisters' property.

Ground was broken for the two-story facility in November 1991. The first floor will be occupied by patients. The second floor is for administrative offices which Angela Hospice staffers moved into Nov. 8.

"This is a vision come true," Sister Giovanni said. "In a month, we'll begin taking in patients and already we have a waiting list."

Seriousness aside, the evening was a time for party goes to watch as children sometimes shyly, sometimes boldly marched down the runway in fashions they selected for their fashion show.

Vancouver, British Columbia, designer Ron Leal of Jax showed off his holiday, spring and cruise wear collections, offering the audience pointers on the changing trends in fabrics and how to make their clothes work for them.

Pajama-style pantsuits in bold red and black checks and a black cashmere sweater paired up with a full-length skirt made of 30 yards of tulle offered go-anywhere party styling, while tricotette rayon, "the fabric of the '90s" started by Giorgio Armani, gave soft shapes to pants, jackets and

skirts in muted shades of celery and tan.

Cruise wear also was the focus of the women's celebrity fashion show, featuring Suptas resort cruise wear by designer Ingrid Olsen. Radio personality Colleen Bucar and TV newscaster Sarah Barr and Cheryl Chodin helped showcase the fashions.

But stealing the evening was the men's celebrity fashion show, where Wayne County Commissioner Bryan Amann did an encore of his "Night Stalker" pajama modeling of last year, involving fellow celebs Rick Rizza of the Detroit Tiger organization, meteorologist Paul Gross and "the next selected" of the United States, County Commissioner Thaddeus McCotter.

With the theme from "Rocky" as a backdrop, Amann padded down the runway in a white robe, multi-colored boxer shorts and his dress socks, snagging a \$1 bill in his waistband from one "fan."

All in good humor, the other "models" walked out in boxers, flannel sleep pants, even a night shirt worn by hospice doctor Sean Coyle.

The evening at an end, DiComo happily admitted that the event is "a lot of work, a lot of fun work."

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