

Car accident sparked interest in Easter Seals

The terrifying experience of being hit by a car at the age of 6 is something that stays with you for a lifetime. For Cary Storch, attorney and chairman of the board of the Easter Seal Society of Southeastern Michigan, that experience was the catalyst that brought him to Easter Seals more than 10 years ago.

"I was hit by a car when I was 6 years old. After spending three months in a body cast, I wasn't able to walk, so I started school at the Oakland School for Crippled Children in Detroit," Storch said. "That experience has stayed with me all of my life because I was one of the lucky ones. I walked out of the Oakland School on my own, but some of those kids never left."

Because of his childhood experience, Storch has always been interested in helping the handicapped. "I just called Easter Seals one day, told them I was interested in doing something to

help," Storch said. "I joined the board of directors in the mid-1970s and just started working to raise money to provide services for Easter Seals' clients. Ever since then I've been hooked."

Involvement with Easter Seals became a family affair in the Storch household. "I used to bring my kids to Easter Seal events when they were little. It was the best thing in the world for them because they got to meet people with disabilities and see them as just regular people," Storch said.

"You know how uninhibited kids can be. When my son saw a person riding in an electric wheelchair, he thought it looked like great fun, so he asked for a ride. My son saw a person in a wheelchair. He did not see a disabled person. I learned a lot from my son that day," Storch said.

Storch also has been a VIP on the annual Easter Seal Telethon on WDIV-TV, raising

many thousands of dollars over the years, and served as the president of the board of directors of the Easter Seal Society of Oakland County from 1982 to 1989. After a brief absence from the board, as required in the by-laws, he was re-elected in 1991.

With the completion of the merger of the Easter Seal societies in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, Storch was elected chairman of the board.

"I am really excited about Easter Seals, especially the opportunities open to us since the merger for growth and expansion," Storch said. "I hope I can be a catalyst for the board and for all of the good people who work for this society."

Storch points out that everyone is vulnerable to becoming disabled. In fact, statistics show that one in every 11 people will become disabled at sometime during their lives.

"I get a lot of personal satisfac-

tion out of volunteering for Easter Seals because I know that Easter Seals helps people with all types of disabilities," he said, "so I know that my work is doing some good for somebody in need. I don't need to be given credit for my efforts. The people that are helped by Easter Seals are the real heroes, because they never give up. If they don't quit, how could I?"

Easter Seals is not the only organization to benefit from Storch's volunteerism and service to the community. He has served on the board of the Jewish Association for Retarded Citizens and is a member of Temple Beth El in Birmingham. He also has served on the annual Law Day Committee as a district director. In this capacity, he assists in arranging for other attorneys to provide free legal service to people in the community on Law Day.

Storch is an attorney in private practice in Troy. He and his wife live in Southfield.

The mission of Easter Seals is to promote the maximum independence of people with disabilities by developing and providing quality services.

All persons are served according to need without regard to race, creed, sex, national origin or disability. No client is denied services because of the inability to pay.

Supreme court judge comes to OU

Michigan Supreme Court Justice Conrad Mallett Jr. will be the guest speaker 6:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28, at the second annual "Keeper of the Dream" banquet at Oakland University.

Tickets are \$25 each. Corporate tables are \$325 each. Call 370-4404 or 370-4405.

Mallett's speech is called "The Tragedy of Youth Violence: The

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[Image of Saturn SL]
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[Image of Saturn SW1]
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