

COMMUNITY LIFE

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1995



THERESE MCFARLAND & A. J. STANKOVICH

Stamp welcome on my forehead

The word mom is not a synonym for doormat. No colleague, or boss for that matter, would ever get away with the treatment doled out to me from my kids.

Quite the contrary, in business I had built a reputation as a tough lady (OK, maybe it was actually an overbearing broad). Either way, I rather liked it.

Now my primary job is the simple task of caring for and raising two youngsters — ages 4 and 7. I question my qualifications daily. Have I lost that courageous can-do spirit? At times I am quite struck by my transformation.

Yes, yes (mom) I know that it's only a phase. Like when they bellow for me at the top of their lungs. I race to their side ready to call 911. And all they want is their shoelaces tied. Or they sit pompously at the lunch counter (at least that's what they act as if it is) and demand more interesting meal choices.

Yesterday, my little guy told me that he needed to get a new menu board. Perhaps this is my mistake for inventing a quaint game called "restaurant." I think they've taken it a little too seriously.

It's not so bad that they forget to pick up their toys (because they're having too much fun dashing off to their next activity), or that they grind five colors of Play-doh into my new cream carpet — by accident. It's those times when I catch that sly glance out of the corner of their eye just before they deliberately drop their broccoli on the floor. I know, I know — another phase, disguised

See WELCOME, 20A



SHARON LEMMON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Overseas stories: Clockwise from bottom left: Margaret Berkhausen of Ann Arbor, Peter Mannix of Farmington Hills, Frederick Wesolowski of Bloomfield Hills and Gregory Beattie of West Bloomfield recently talked about their experiences with Mercy International in Farmington Hills.

Missions of Mercy mark 10 years



From doing laundry in a bucket to killing birds with their teeth, Mercy International workers have had many experiences serving overseas to help the poor. The organization celebrates 10 years as a nonprofit group this year.

By BETTI SUNDRLA JACHIMIAN
STAFF WRITER

After traveling around the globe 684 times, volunteers are marking 10 years of service overseas with the Mercy International Health Ser-

vice. Mercy International is a subsidiary of Farmington Hills-based Mercy Health Services. Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, Mercy International takes the

resources of Mercy Health Services and provides them to other nations, according to Gregory P. Beattie, vice president of Mercy International Health Services.

One of the largest health-care organizations in the United States, Mercy was started by the Sisters of Mercy. The Sisters of Mercy order was founded by Catherine McAuley in 1831.

The primary purpose of the organization is to serve the poor, accord-

ing to Peter Mannix, vice president of strategic planning and analysis for Mercy International.

He has served overseas as has Margaret Berkhausen, clinical specialist for quality improvement for Amicare Home Healthcare, a member of Mercy Health Services.

"I felt it was providential," Berkhausen said of applying for a position in the education field at the

See MERCY, 20A

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