

# Wellnesswear embraces more than a T-shirt

BY JUDITH DONER BERNE  
STAFF WRITER

Maybe you've seen his designs on Gerber baby bottles. Or on the annual reports he creates for The Taubman Co. and Detroit Edison.

And you may also have seen his foray into men's ties, such as the ones Birmingham resident Huel Perkins often sports when he's anchoring the TV news.

But graphic designer Dominic Pangborn, with offices in Detroit, New York,

Chicago and Tokyo, is equally proud of the line of fine apparel and merchandise he has created whose sale benefits the men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS.

It's called Wellnesswear. It was introduced at metro Detroit's two Saks Fifth Avenue stores, at the Somerset Collection, Troy and Fairlane Town Center, Dearborn last November.

Now, it is also available at Sheets in Royal Oak, Little Foxes at the Fox Theatre and by direct mail (1-513-667-5035).

And 100 percent of the proceeds go to benefit Wellness House, a metro-Detroit non-profit agency serving without charge people with HIV/AIDS in Oakland and Wayne counties.

"Everything has come out of his (Pangborn's) pocket," reports Ken Malecke, development director for Wellness House and an Oakland County resident.

"Usually (in these kinds of deals) the percentage going back to the non-profit group is minimal. We get 100 percent. He even does the shipping."

"I have a lot of friends and associates that have contracted HIV," explains Pangborn, married and the father of Oliver, a student at Northwestern University.

"It's scary to see their bodies just wither away. It's not that much differ-

ent than cancer."

Three years ago, when they started the Red Ribbon Ball, we just donated some of our ties as door prizes, Pangborn recalls. "It was Ken's idea to develop a product - initially a T-shirt."

But then came the thought, "Why couldn't we create something more

fashion-oriented?"

Pangborn created a playful, colorful design surrounding a white dancing figure, inspired by artist Henri Matisse's style and particularly, his signature painting, 'Dance.'

See WELLNESSWEAR, 8

## Agency takes on pet project

"Pets in AIDS families have had a wonderful life," says veterinarian Dr. Kenneth Genova of The Pet Practice in Southfield.

"They are a great asset to their lives. Our goal is to make sure those pets get into good homes."

The Pet Practice, with Oakland County branches in Southfield, Farmington Hills, Royal Oak and Waterford, is one of the first veterinary hospitals to sign up to work with Wellness House of Michigan to assist people with HIV/AIDS who have pets.

Linda Snow, hospital manager for Westcott Veterinary Care Centers, helped develop the pet care program.

"As the HIV disease progresses, the individual becomes unable to care for themselves. The virus ultimately does not allow the client to hold a job," Snow says.

"It has been our experience that in most homes with a pet, that the animal can be neglected," she says. "Eventually, as the disease worsens, food and care for these animals can not be provided. Finally, another home for these pets must be found when their owner dies."

The program includes:

- Free animal food donated by IAMS, Purina and Hills manufacturers.
- Free inoculations and health care by participating veterinarians on a case-by-case basis.
- Providing volunteers who can pick up or deliver contributions of pet food, transport pets to the veterinarian and walk, feed and brush the pet.
- Placement of homeless pets.

For more information, contact Linda Snow at (313)255-2400 or Wellness House of Michigan, (313)993-1336.



Hard to resist: All proceeds from sales of this Wellnesswear and related Wellnesswear products go to Wellness House of Michigan.

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