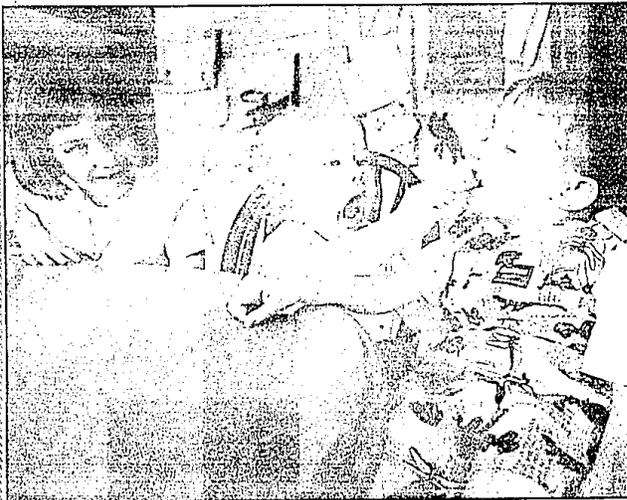


Therapy from page B1



Let's eat! Bethany, 20 months old, feeds her brother, Nicholas, as big sister, Hannah, 6, looks on.

"People thought we were nuts," she said. "He is the only multiply impaired child there. A program administrator in Oakland Schools said 'run with one of his strengths.' With school, he started signing. Before that, he'd hit his head on the floor or table. He'd be so frustrated. He is so much happier now. It has opened up a whole world for him. He has done wonderful things. The other children are great. We will keep him in the deaf program."

In preparation for the grueling therapy ahead, for the past six weeks, Nicholas has been attending physical therapy sessions three times a week in Farmington Hills.

The Pelleritos have realistic expectations.

"We don't expect him to come home walking," his mother said. "We hope Nicholas will be able to have more balance and stand more erect. He can't stand independently now. We hope this helps with straightening his knees and spine."

Nicholas weighed 5 pounds at birth but appeared healthy.

"His scores were fine," Pellerito said. "But he gained weight slowly."

By the time he was a few months old, she noticed he wasn't hitting the milestones. It was then that a pediatrician diagnosed CMV.

"For the first two years, he

didn't sit up or roll. He didn't crawl until he was over 2 years old. We didn't think he'd be able to do anything. We're extremely pleased in what he can do."

The family includes older sisters Cassandra Myers, 16, a sophomore at Harrison High, and Hannah, 6, a Lanigan elementary kindergarten, and baby sister, Bethany, 20 months old. When Nicholas isn't at school or therapy, he enjoys playing with his baby sister, looking at picture books, playing outside, or crawling in his big playhouse in the family room.

He has been hospitalized a couple of times for dehydration from bouts of flu. At 20 pounds, his body can't afford to lose weight which often comes with bugs most kids fight off successfully. His only other health problem is chronic ear infections which are improving as he gets older.

A Farmington mom's group of disabled children is where Beth met a mother whose daughter had been through the therapy in Poland.

"They're very pleased with the improvements their daughter has had," Pellerito said.

But the therapy program is not a one time proposition. The Pelleritos are scheduled to go four times. Besides the June session, they will go in October and then February and June next year.

At least for the first trip, the whole family is going, except Cassandra, who is headed to Russia with the Harrison High band next month.

The Pelleritos feel it would be difficult to leave the younger children behind for such a long period. Cost for the therapy is \$6,200. Add about another \$5,000 for traveling expenses. The family will stay in a two-bedroom dorm at the center.

Both figures she'll be the primary parent at therapy sessions "because I'm more proficient in sign language. But it will be good to have someone else. It gets grueling. Nicholas doesn't like doctors to stretch him or touch him. He is getting better with the therapy three days a week now. But it's going to be a tough schedule."

The Pellerito's church, Nardin Park United Methodist, has been a rock both emotionally and financially. It is spearheading a fundraiser to help defray the family's costs.

"Pastor Bon Bohnsack has been wonderful," Beth said. "He introduced us to the congregation at both services on two Sundays, so everyone could meet Nicholas and our family. Everyone has been extremely generous."

"We are overwhelmed by people's generosity, caring friends and neighbors, our congregation. In a world of negativism, we are overwhelmed by such warm hearts."

Pastor Bohnsack says "the Pelleritos are an active part of our congregation. We're all very excited for this opportunity for Nicholas as well as the family. Our blessings and prayers go with them."

Support UCP: Get casual for a cause on June 22

On Monday, June 22, United Cerebral Palsy is asking metro Detroit area workers to Get Casual for a Cause.

UCP will help your company host a casual day when it's more suitable for your employees if the suggested date won't work.

Employees at participating businesses are asked to make a voluntary contribution of \$5 to UCP. In addition to benefiting thousands of people with disabilities, employees will be able to dress in casual attire for one day, receive an official casual day button, a \$2 coupon from Harmony House, and a raffle ticket for a drawing to be held on July 17 at UCP offices in Southfield.

Raffle prizes include a trip to Las Vegas for two, an overnight

Contribute \$5 to United Cerebral Palsy and dress casual for a day at work plus a chance to win big raffle prizes.

stay at the Dearborn Ritz Carlton with tickets to the Detroit Repertory Theater for Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle, dinner for two at Mongolian BBQ and an overnight stay at the Northfield Hilton. A \$100 and a \$60 gift certificate to Harmony House are also being raffled.

Call the Detroit Casual Day hotline at 557-5070 for more information.

Decisions, decisions



Luau: Dolores Sturtevant, resident of the Greenery Extended Care Center in Farmington, decides what to eat next. A good time was had by residents of the senior home during the recent luau where the Serious Fun Band performed.

3 teens need homes for '98 school year

Three families are needed to host foreign exchange students for the coming academic year. The teens will arrive in mid-August and stay until mid-June.

The host family is asked to provide the students with meals, a place to sleep and to study. The teens have their own spending money and health insurance. Students will attend the host family's local public high school.

There is no typical host family. Some host families have teenaged children; some do not. Families with small children usually find the exchange students to be good role models for the children and good company for parents.

Empty nesters make great host families because they are experienced parents with time to enjoy having a child in their home again. Couples who never had children can enjoy the experience of being parents by becoming host parents.

Those needing homes include: David, 17, from Madrid, Spain. He plays tennis and soccer and is active in his Catholic Church. He went to Paris with his youth group to see the Pope. He is an excellent student and hopes to become a great friend with his host family.

Jana, 16-year-old girl who lives in Estonia. She enjoys sports and likes to play with small children. She values neatness and promises her room will always be tidy.

Nara, 16, from Recife, Brazil. She is on her school's soccer team and also participates in drama and folk dancing clubs. She plans on becoming a doctor like both her parents and her two older brothers.

For more information on David, Jana or Nara, call Lynne or Gideon Levenbach of Plymouth at (734) 453-8562 or (734) 453-8551.

Heslop's Renaissance SALE

Thursday, May 28-Sunday, June 7

Take an **ADDITIONAL 20% OFF** our everyday low prices on select merchandise.

Now is the time to rethink ya olde home decor, and treat yourself to something new. Or discover the perfect gift for brides-to-be and other worthy recipients. There's a veritable feast of fine giftware—at prices that hark back to olden days!

Hurry to Heslop's Renaissance Sale and revive your spirits with souvenirs on the gifts you want most!

Sale does not include previously marked down merchandise. Normal exclusions apply. Please ask a sales associate for details.

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Livonia, Mem-Five Plaza • (734) 222-1650
(On corner of Five Mile and Hartman)
Novi, Novi Town Center • (248) 349-8000
Rochester, Meadowbrook Village Mall
(248) 375-0823

Staring Heights, Eastlake Commons • (810) 247-8111
(On corner of Hall Road and Hayes Road)
Troy, Oakland Mall • (248) 589-1433
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(Orchard Lake and 15 Mile)

ALLEGHENY:
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(On Eastover Pkwy, west of Briarwood Mall)
Grand Rapids, Breton Village Mall • (616) 957-2145
(Breton Rd. and Burton Rd.) • Open Sundays
Okemos, Meridian Mall • (517) 349-0008

Zonta has officers

Donna Johnson has been elected president of the Zonta Club of Farmington/Novi.

Other new officers for 1998-99 are Carla Boyes, vice president; Heather Branke, treasurer; Mary Ann Reilly, secretary; and directors Judy Lombardo, Joann Haddad and Donna Trombley.

The club project is First Step, a domestic violence shelter in Wayne County, for which the club has raised over \$116,000 in the last four years. The First

Step/Western Wayne County Project on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is the only agency offering crisis intervention, counseling and assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assaults in the 35 communities in western Wayne County.

Farmington Zonta meetings are 6 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month at Embassy Suites in Livonia. Call Mary Glahu at (734) 254-7830.

Chat room from page B1

Ask them to fax, mail or e-mail available pictures of the inside and/or outside of the house. This helped relieve us of the unknown.

Find out if you're dealing with an owner or management company. We've had good experiences with both. For a first-

time renter, I recommend going through a management company. Since they're local, they can take care of things promptly, even if it's just burned-out light bulbs.

Sue Curtis is a human resources consultant and resident of Farmington Hills.

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