

They CARE

Longacre pupils, Madonna student teachers learn from each other



Answer man: Madonna University student teacher Steven Yancura assists Ellen Fehi, a student at Longacre Elementary School.



Teaming up: Jeff Breuhan and Kathy Trupiano are students at Longacre and Madonna, respectively.

By TIM SMITH
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A real "win-win" program is gaining momentum at Longacre Elementary School.

The first-year program, Collaborative and Remedial Education, CARE, enables Longacre pupils and student teachers from Madonna University in Livonia an opportunity to team up in a unique partnership.

Created by Longacre teacher Chris Brueck, the program has drawn more than 70 students (in grades 1-5) who have received in excess of 2,000 hours of help from 19 undergraduate students in Madonna's teacher education program.

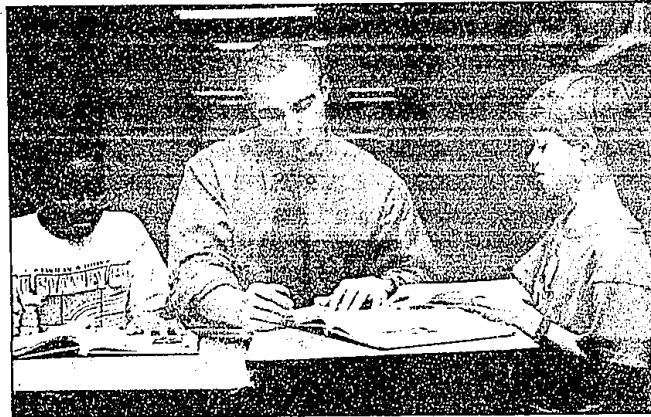
Others involved in creating CARE include Longacre Principal Bill Smith, school psychologist Steve Schwartz and Dr. Bernie Travnikar of Madonna.

"From everyone I've heard, I've heard positive comments about it," said Brueck, a Livonia resident. "Our students enjoy the extra attention. And the Madonna student teachers thoroughly enjoy this, too."

CARE's goal is "to help at risk and learning disabled children at Longacre to increase their skills in math, reading, listening comprehension, problem solving and writing, according to a program description."

Brueck created the project as part of her master's degree program.

One benefit of the program is students receive individualized



On the same page: Collaborating on an assignment are Madonna University student Rich Viger and Longacre students Jordan Turner (left) and Spencer Moore.

instruction, with a student-teacher ratio of 3-to-1 or 4-to-1.

Longacre students, as a result, get a "little extra help, over and above what their regular teachers can provide," Brueck explained.

Teachers or other staff members nominate students who show certain characteristics such as: difficulty with summa-

rizing or understanding main ideas; difficulty with memory; low self confidence and academic performance anxiety.

Several of the Madonna participants said the experience was rewarding, particularly as they prepare for teaching careers.

"As a future teacher, I am getting a chance to work with a variety of students, with regard

to their learning capabilities," said Madonna junior Steven Yancura.

Kathy Trupiano, who is earning a post-bachelor's degree to enter secondary education, noted that Longacre teachers and pupils "were very receptive to me. I felt a great reward from the students by the smiles on their faces when I would arrive."

Detroit man sentenced in locker room thefts in suburbs

By MATT JACEDMAN
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Booker T. Walker was giving area gyms quite a workout.

Walker, 42, was sentenced to six months in jail Wednesday after pleading guilty to five counts of misdemeanor larceny in locker break-ins at three Livonia gyms.

But the Detroiters' confessions have also helped police in several surrounding communities solve dozens of similar incidents, police said.

Walker has admitted to at least 50 locker rip-offs in other communities, including Farmington, Plymouth Township, Northville and Wayne, said Livonia Sgt. Ron Dehne, who investigated the Livonia larcenies.

"That's on top of the Livonia cases, and we probably had 20 cases in our city alone," Dehne

■ Walker has admitted to at least 50 locker rip-offs in other communities, including Farmington, Plymouth Township, Northville and Wayne.

said. Walker, arrested in West Bloomfield March 6, cooperated with detectives from other communities when they interviewed him, Dehne said.

In Livonia, Walker was charged with three counts of larceny under \$200, two of which stemmed from thefts Feb. 4 and Feb. 9 at the Livonia Family YMCA on Stark Road. The third charge came from a Feb. 6 theft at the Park Place Athletic Club, inside Laurel Park Place.

He was also charged with two counts of larceny between \$200 and \$1,000, one for a Feb. 13 theft at the Schoolcraft College

athletic facility on Haggerty and the other for a Feb. 14 theft at Park Place.

He pleaded guilty as charged, and 16th District Court Judge Kathleen McCann sentenced him to 180 days in the William Dickerson Facility in Hamtramck.

Walker was arrested after a Livonia police surveillance crew followed him to West Bloomfield, where he went into a Farmington Road fitness club, Dehne said.

When he left, uniformed West Bloomfield officers arrested him, and he was later found to have a

credit card belonging to a member of the club, Dehne said. But the Oakland County Prosecutor's office denied West Bloomfield's request for a warrant recommendation.

However, Livonia police, who had previously executed a search warrant at Walker's house, had enough evidence to arrest him, Dehne added.

Walker, described by Dehne as

bright and articulate, told the detective he stole to pay for a drug habit but wants to rehabilitate himself and work as a security consultant for fitness centers.

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