

Center's mission: Safe children

BY JONI HURRED
STAFF WRITER
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He is 13 years old, the unfeared one of twin boys adopted as infants into a family where nurturing and love are as unfaltering as snow in August.

Until he found help at Care House Children's Center, he began every day having to clean up after the household's 80 dogs and cats. He told caseworkers he and his brother smelled so bad they were asked to leave the Boy Scouts.

"This boy still had the courage to reach out for help," Care House Executive Director Dr.

Judith Hoeffler told a packed house at the Center's "Circle of Friends" Luncheon Thursday. "He rode his bicycle miles and miles through rural Oakland County to find a friend."

Now in foster care, Hoeffler said, "The proudest moment for him is that he's learning to read."

Those kinds of success stories exemplify the mission of the Child Abuse and Neglect Council of Oakland County, which is to be an advocate for the safety of all children and be a leading resource in the prevention of child abuse and the protection of children.

For more information call the Child Abuse and Neglect Council of Oakland County, (248) 332-7173.

Consistent growth over the past four years resulted in a fund-raising drive to build a new facility. Through financial support from the business community and the "Circle of Friends" members, the organization is nearly three-quarters of the way toward completing a million-dollar capital campaign.

"That's quite a goal for an organization that four years ago couldn't raise a budget of \$250,000, to have a million-dollar budget almost paid off," Hoeffler commented.

When she first considered taking her current post, Hoeffler did a literature search for the Child Abuse and Neglect Council of Oakland County and found no information at all about the

organization.

"I knew I had found my challenge," she said.

Helping her meet it were four "extraordinary" women, Hoeffler said, who formed the initial core of the Circle of Friends: Lois Schaeve, Dr. Linda Sircus, Vicki Colani and Janet Grant were all honored at Thursday's luncheon, along with development director Doris August.

With more than 350 people in attendance at Glen Oaks Country Club in Farmington Hills, the gathering was the largest of the Circle of Friends has hosted.

"The event grows every year because of your commitment to the idea that it shouldn't hurt to be a child," said chairperson Michelle Saro.

RECREATION NEWS

DADDY/DAUGHTER DANCE

Dads can treat their daughters to an evening of fun on Feb. 4 or 5 at the Costick Activity Center in Farmington Hills. The cost is \$16 per couple and \$8 for each additional daughter. The fee includes flowers, refreshments, picture and dancing. Pre-registration is required. Limited 500 per evening.

DOWNTOWN SKIING

The Farmington Hills Recre-

ation Division is offering a complete downhill ski program for all participants, 5th grade through high school, every Friday night at Mt. Brighton. A bus will leave the designated pick-up location at 4:30 p.m. and return at approximately 10 p.m. Fee includes lift ticket, ski lessons, and bus transportation. Ski rental is not included and will be collected on the bus. Pre-registration is required.

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Circle from page A1

"This is what makes Everest," Kasischke said. "And you still have to climb ... The biggest challenge of the mountain is within you."

The cold, howling wind, coughing, headache and knee-buckling fatigue deepened the desire to quit. But climbers had been moving forward for six weeks. Stopping so close to the goal seemed unthinkable.

As they approached summit day, their team leader made the climbers sit in a circle, look one another in the eyes and promise that if they didn't think they could make the peak by 1 p.m., they'd turn back.

Getting to the top of Everest was only half the battle that day, Kasischke explained. The other half was getting down.

At 26,000 feet, what's known as "the death zone," the team hadn't slept or eaten for two days. The air didn't contain enough oxygen for their bodies to metabolize food.

"Minute by minute, the cell structure in your body is dying from the cold," he said. "At this point, team cohesion is critical."

Unfortunately for his ill-fated expedition, this was exactly where team cohesion broke down. Two climbers charged with securing safety ropes didn't do it. And Kasischke knew he wouldn't make it to the top in time without them.

Climbing down in the dark would mean almost certain death. More importantly, it would mean bringing a column with his wife, Sandy, had asked him to make before he left, in the simple words: "Come back home."

As he stood just a few hundred feet from that gold medal, the highest goal he'd ever set for himself, Kasischke struggled with his ego-driven desire to succeed. He'd come so far. There was a chance, albeit minute, that he could still reach the top.

"I didn't want to let go of my goal," he said in hushed tones. "I had the will power to climb to the top. The question was, do I

have the power of will to do what I did not want to do? Go down."

Others continued, some reaching the peak as late as 4 p.m. Those who did, died. And even though Kasischke turned back, his adventure was far from over.

He found himself descending into a storm that had blown up from below, which trapped him and several others in high camp for two days. As winds whipped the tent and he contemplated the prospect of being blown with it to China, Kasischke thought about the people he loved.

He thought about not wanting to die alone. Frostbitten, blinded by snow, debilitated by hypoxia, Kasischke and the few who survived decided to make a break for it on May 12.

"It was a risky move, but we didn't think we could survive another 24 hours in the death zone," he said of that crucial decision.

The journey that had begun in hope and ambition would soon end in crushing defeat, but Kasischke had one final obstacle to overcome: the failure of his very fit, but very human body. He simply collapsed as he tried to stand and move outside the tent.

That he stood before a packed

and near-silent audience at Glen Oaks Country Club was a testament to what finally propelled him back down the mountain: the sheer will to live. Now, Kasischke said, his journey is a struggle to understand what happened on the mountain, how it changed his life and what he has learned.

"What mattered the most were the strengths within me," he said. "Trustworthiness, caring for others, humility and the power of will ... those were the qualities that played the largest part in my decision to survive."

It all really does come down to character, he said, no matter what decision one makes, whether in business or private life. Or at the top of the world.

"Judgment is what separates the living and the dead on Everest," Kasischke said.

Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D., RHEUMATOLOGY
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ASPIRIN AND SALICYLATES

Aspirin, the old ways are still the best ways, in treating arthritis and many other diseases. It is the oldest pain reliever at the entrance of a millennium that promises extraordinary

advances in technology, medicine, and the treatment of pain. However, we should not let the old ways be forgotten. Aspirin and salicylates emphasize this point. None of the other twenty-three non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication introduced in the last century, including the most recent ones, do a better job in fighting inflammation as well as aspirin.

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In addition, because of the need to constantly take aspirin and other anti-inflammatory drugs, the medical community has insufficient experience in identifying when these drugs may interact with other medicines to cause a toxic reaction or nullify the other drug.

In the case of aspirin and salicylates, which have been in use for a hundred years, these interactions are known.

Do not consider a physician old-fashioned because he prescribes salicylates. That doctor is as up-to-date as a cellular telephone with Internet connectivity.

Orthodontics

by Tompkins Finezza, D.M.D.

OPEN AND SHUT CASE

Sometimes, the teeth in one jaw just won't move, no matter what the orthodontist does.

The teeth move more easily in the front teeth than the upper and lower front teeth. While the upper and lower front teeth are more inclined to grow in different directions, it is more than the result of habits such as thumb sucking and nail biting. In any case, the reason for stasis is not clear. It may be caused by too few teeth doing too much work. Not only does imbalance strain the chewing muscles, it can also cause a tooth to move too far, too fast, or too late to begin treatment. For further information or to schedule a free initial consultation, call Tompkins Finezza, D.M.D., of THE ORTHODONTIC GROUP, 19650 Middlebelt (248-388-8800).

THE ORTHODONTIC GROUP

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