

# Center's mission: Safe children

By JONI HUBBARD  
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He is 13 years old, the unfavored one of twin boys adopted as infants into a family where nurturing and love are as unfamiliar as snow in August.

Until he found help at Care House Children's Center, he began every day having to clean up after a household of 50 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 Hoefler 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, Hoefler 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," Hoefler commented.

When she first considered taking her current post, Hoefler 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, Hoefler said, who formed the initial core of the Circle of Friends: Lois Schaeversky, Dr. Linda Siracus, Vicki Celani 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 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 Saroki.

## RECREATION NEWS

**DADDY/DAUGHTER DANCE**  
Dads can treat their daughters to an evening of fun on Feb. 4 or 5 at the Costic Activities 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.

**DOWNHILL SKIING**  
The Farmington Hills Recreation 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 pickup 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 Everest," Kasichko said. "And you still have to climb ... The biggest challenge of all is the mountain within you."

The cold, howling wind, coughing, headaches, poor food, sleepless nights 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, Kasichko 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 Kasichko 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 breaking a solemn vow his wife, Sandy, had asked him to make before he left, in three 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, Kasichko 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 Kasichko turned back, his adventure was far from over.

He found himself descending into a storm that blew down 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, Kasichko thought about the people he loved.

He thought about not wanting to die alone. Frostbitten, blinded by snow, debilitated by hypoxia, Kasichko 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 Kasichko 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 survive. Now, Kasichko 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," Kasichko said.

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**For The 21st Century**  
by Herbert M. Gardner, D.D.S.  
THE BIGGER PICTURE

By addressing the problem of periodontal (gum) disease, dental patients can significantly improve their overall health picture. Researchers in both this country and Germany report periodontal disease appears to double the risk for both heart attack and stroke. What is the connection? Researchers speculate that the culprit is chronic inflammation. It raises levels of fibrinogen, a blood-clotting factor that is currently recognized as a marker of cardiac risk. Studies show that men with high levels of fibrinogen are also at increased risk for heart attacks. Thus, when dental combat the inflammation associated with periodontal disease, the beneficial effect extends beyond the gum to the rest of the body.

February is "American Heart Month." Keeping periodontal disease in check through regular checkups and treatment of tooth decay provides benefits that reach far beyond the mouth. At LIVONIA VILLAGE DENTAL ASSOCIATES, we're here to review your oral and general health history and give you the options available to you. Your dental health is our number one priority. Please call 478-2110 to schedule an appointment for general dental care. We're located at 19171 Merriman Road, where we are currently accepting new patients. Smiles are our business.

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**ASPIRIN AND SALICYLATES**

At times, the old ways are still the best ways. In choosing anti-inflammatory medications such as aspirin and salicylates, we are at the forefront of a millennium that promises extraordinary advances in technology, medicine, and the treatment of pain. However, we should not drop everything that we've learned from the past as being out of date.

Aspirin and salicylates emphasize this point. None of the other twenty-three non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs introduced in the last century including the most recent ones, do a better job in fighting inflammation as aspirin and salicylates.

Not are any of these other drugs safer than the salicylates. It is true that aspirin can cause bleeding, stomach ulcer, and is related to Reye's Syndrome - a condition in children of high fever, with possible liver and brain damage. However salicylates are just as effective as anti-inflammatory medication and cause none of the side effects of aspirin.

In addition, because of the rapid introduction of these other anti-inflammatory drugs, the medical community has lost sight of the fact that when these drugs may interact with other medicines to cause a toxic reaction or nullify the other drug effect.

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 decision is as up-to-date as a cellular telephone with internet connectivity.

**Orthodontics**  
by Josephine Finazzo, D.M.D.

**OPEN AND SHUT CASE**

Sometimes, the teeth in one jaw may not meet those in the other in an even plane. The best teeth to meet first are the front teeth. When the front teeth do not meet, the teeth between the upper and lower front teeth, which may be the result of the jaw growing in different directions, it is more often the result of habits such as thumb sucking and tongue thrusting. In rare cases, the permanent anterior open bite is characterized by too few teeth doing too much work. Not only does imbalance strain the chewing muscles and temporomandibular joints, but it can also have an untimely appearance.

Orthodontic treatment coupled with behavior modification can improve both form and function of the bite. Both genetics and environmental factors can influence the development of your jaw and muscles. Although early treatment renders the fastest and best results, orthodontic treatment can be successful at any age. Kids as young as seven years old can start wearing braces, and for adults it's never too late to begin treatment. For further information or to schedule a free initial consultation, call THE ORTHODONTIC GROUP, 19650 Middlebelt (422-8885).

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