

Community service

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the lookout for more options. Sophomores Lisa Ludwinski and Siobhan Kava were listening to Sister Cecilia Marie Zondlo OSF, coordinator of community resources at COTS, talk about opportunities at the emergency shelter in downtown Detroit.

"We're near the new Comerica Park," she said, making the analogy as the Tigers took to the mound on Opening Day 2000.

"We've had volunteers from all

over the metro area," Sister Cecilia added. "We have a new program called Shelter Plus which placed 35 elderly or physically challenged into housing units."

"Next up is permanent supportive housing. We've purchased a site at Joy Road and Wyoming. There will be 57 units—seven two-story buildings. This will also be geared to the most vulnerable. There is still lots of

rehabilitation needed."

Jill Clinton, a mother of three Mercy graduates, manned the booth for the Westland-based Young Mothers Assistance Program.

YMCA needs helpers for its Summer Workshop on Awareness and Prevention (SWAP) a free 5-week summer program for at-risk middle school students. "It's prevention work," she said. "We're looking for students to assist therapists, to help kids with arts and recreation. Peer mediation skills are good."

She was also looking for girls

to provide "loving child care" on Monday evenings at the center.

Sister Flores, a 1995 Mercy grad and a Wayne State University graduate, was showcasing her employer, Freedom House.

"It's in southwest Detroit.

It helps with social services to refugees fleeing their countries.

There are opportunities for recreational activities, cultural exchange."

She brought along some beeswax candles, hand-rolled by residents and volunteers, to sell as a fund-raiser, as well as

canned maple syrup, another fund-raiser volunteers can support from the ground up.

Flores handed out lists of 50 ways volunteers can help Freedom House, founded in 1983 to help refugees from El Salvador.

Sandy Hird of Leaps and Bounds, a child care center on the University of Detroit campus, was looking for help with its program which caters to low-income infants through preschoolers. It's part of the Poverty and Social Reform Institute.

And Mary MacDonald of Manup Meals, located in the basement of St. Peter Episcopal Church on the southeast corner of Michigan and Trumbull, was

there to get more students involved with the soup kitchen. It serves 500-800 bowls of soup, sandwiches and cups of coffee each day it's open (every day except Thursday and Sunday). More than 100 volunteers, including Mercy staffer Pat Atchison, come to prepare and serve the food each month.

Other agencies at the fair were Oakman School, Hospital Home in Farmington Hills, Botsford Hospital, Therapeutic Riding, Mercy Education Project, Focus/HOPE, Common Ground Sanctuary, Detroit summer program, MacArthur School, Peace Action, LightHouse, Scamp, and the Farmington YMCA.



STORY PHOTO BY BILL BEEZEL

Scanning: Mercy student Annie Giamarco reads about a volunteering opportunity.

Chat room

from page B1

ing down the process of adding condiments was the fact that the catsup and mustard dispensers were located on the counter, between the lines. Patrons dodged red and yellow splatters in order to dress up their dogs.

We didn't want to wait. Instead, I inquired about whether there were any other dispensers; the concession worker responded that some were located across the concourse. She was right—but those were empty.

So we opted to pass on the mustard, and carried our condiment-free hot dogs to our seats in 339.

Opening day glitches

With on-the-field ceremonies almost ready to start, Chris and I were immediately awed by the spectacular view of the downtown skyline and by the open setting. Folks outside the ballpark were standing against a wrought-iron fence to catch a glimpse. My brother noted that it was a nod to the past, when fans peered through wooden slats at Bennett Park.

Not so special were the heralded cup holders, located on the backs of the seats in front of us, and nearly down at shoetop level.

What happened to Comerica Park being the ultimate of fan-friendly venues?

Once the game started, it became painfully obvious this new place is going to take some getting used to from a baseball-watching point of view. There was the long distance from the \$12 upper deck reserved seats, particularly to action around home plate and the pitcher's mound. Our green chairs (yeah, green) were closer to third base than to the left field foul pole, but the game looked as far away as it did in the old upper deck bleachers at Tiger Stadium.

Or at least it appeared that way, although our perception could have been altered by the din of chin and gus of cold beer.

Unfortunately, many people took off for a warmer environment (either under the stands or their cars) as soon as the Tigers finished batting in the first. There was an exodus after the bottom of every frame, actually.

Not us. Chris and I waited it out until the top of the seventh, although we took toe-tawing junkets on the look-out for short bathroom lines and hot choco-

late. We were unsuccessful in our quest on both accounts. But glitches happen. Workers need to get used to this place, too.

All things considered, it wasn't such a bad day, we said to each other as we left our first ever baseball game at Comerica Park.

On the walk back through Grand Circus Park to the shuttle bus, we managed to notice how full of life that Detroit landmark was. Our parents always raved about downtown's glory days, but we'd never really seen it. Now, we agreed, there at least was a chance for those days to return.

Meanwhile, on the shuttle ride back to Michigan and Trumbull, the voice of Ernie Harwell could be heard calling the final innings of the 5-2 Tiger victory over Seattle. It was just like old times.

Tim Smith of the Farmington Observer is a lifelong Detroit Tiger fan who poses the age-old question, "Whatever happened to Jerry Lumpel?"

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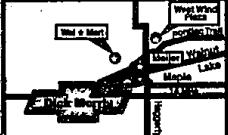
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