

Trust, Then Anger, Then Awareness

First, you learn to deal with other women — like them and trust them.

Then you become angry — not satisfied with the position of women in the world.

And then you're surprised to learn just how much prejudice and unliberated thinking there is in your own makeup.

This progression was described by a young Oberlin woman who has participated for about 18

months in a woman's consciousness-raising group.

JOAN NEFF, Farmington mother of two whose husband, Rick, is minister of the Universalist-Unitarian Church of Farmington, related her experiences last week to women attending the Northwest YWCA Ladies Day Camp.

"I was invited to join a group like this a few years ago

when I was living in California," Mrs. Neff said. "I declined then, because I felt I already was a liberated woman and didn't need it, because I considered women's conversation rather trivial and was complimented when told I talked and thought like a man, and because my husband was home the night the group met and I thought I should be spending the time with him."

She gradually came to the conclusion that she was wrong, and worked to establish a group when she and her husband came to Farmington.

IDEALLY, Mrs. Neff said, a consciousness-raising group has eight to 10 members who don't miss a session if they possibly can help it.

"Too big a group gets unwieldy," she explained, "and

you lose the closeness. We formed a second one when that happened. And off-and-on attendance breaks the continuity. I also think it's best not to add new members after the first few weeks."

Some groups of this type have a leader, Mrs. Neff said, but hers does not. "I think women need to get out of their unassertive and passive type of thinking," she added, "and they're more likely to do this without a leader."

large our marriages have improved," she added.

Answering a question, she said some husbands had been the group objectionable and a men's group was started.

"But it wasn't as successful," she said. "I think men find it harder to express their fears and frustrations."

In her own case, Mrs. Neff said, "my husband hates to have me miss a meeting — he realizes it's where I get rid of anger."

"But women need to get credit for it. Their husbands can't be their total ego-satisfiers, and neither should their children. It has to come from a whole new acceptance."

m. m. memos

Our neighbors were preparing for a vacation trip with three small children.

"Each of the kids had a whole suitcase of toys," reported our daughter who is their No. 1 baby sitter.

I could offer sympathy and understanding. I well remember the stacks of toys, coloring books, crayons and comic books that accompanied our long rides of very few years ago. To say nothing of the wrangles when boredom set in and the clamor for souvenirs and treats.

But recently I heard about an amazing vacation system dreamed up by a most unusual mother. (She must be unusual, because otherwise why didn't I think of it?)

It's too late for us to make much use of the idea, but I can't resist passing it on.

This remarkably practical woman gave each of her children a sum of money at the beginning of each vacation trip. This was souvenir money, to be used in any way the child saw fit — no questions asked, no advice given and no more available when it ran out.

Then she decreed that anyone starting an argument or participating in one or whining or complaining would have to pay a fine out of that sum.

It really worked very well, she reported. That I believe, and I wish I'd met her 10 years ago.

—Margaret Miller



JOAN PACHOTA, (left), works with Phyllis McCaffrey and Dolores Forge in "patterning"

three-year-old Mark McCaffrey. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

300 Special Friends Pattern Mark's Life

By MARGARET MILLER
Women's Editor

Small Mark McCaffrey of Livonia has about 300 special friends in his young life. At least 128 of them come to see him every week, and he recognizes many and calls them by name. Others come more on a substitute basis.

All are needed vitally in an exacting program that's designed to help Mark make the most of his potential.

And all share—to some extent, at least—in the long wait on the part of Phyllis and John McCaffrey to see how much this mighty community

effort will affect the future of their small son.

MARK, NOW THREE, has been slow in many phases of his development, and the problem is diagnosed as neurological disorganization. He's one of thousands of children from all over the country being "patterned" on the Doman-DeLacatto program of neurological organization, centered in Philadelphia.

"It's a program of hope and hard work and a guarantee," states Phyllis McCaffrey. "It's also a program that

needs many people cooperating, and that's where all those special friends come in."

MARK SPENDS seven hours every day in all sorts of specific activities designed to mature and stimulate his brain.

He creeps and crawls. "There's a difference," his mother points out. "Creeping is on the hands and knees and crawling on the stomach."

He also breathes through a one. "There are about 300 volunteers in all, including the substitutes," Mrs. McCaffrey said. "And the substitutes are just as important as the regulars, because we just can never skip a pattern."

recognition. And many more things mainly under the supervision of Mrs. McCaffrey.

And he also, every day, is put through six "patterns"—the movement of his arms and legs in specific routines. These require three helpers for each pattern, and volunteers take over here.

Patterns last five minutes, six times a day, and there are different volunteers for each over here.

"There are about 300 volunteers in all, including the substitutes," Mrs. McCaffrey said. "And the substitutes are just as important as the regulars, because we just can never skip a pattern."

THE VOLUNTEERS come from all over this area, and they learned about Mark in a variety of ways.

Organizing them have been Mrs. Joan Pachota, Mrs. Dolores Forge and Mrs. Shirley Erickson, who from the beginning took over as coordinators.

When Mrs. McCaffrey made plans to take Mark to Philadelphia, they started visiting churches and recruiting in the neighborhood. Many expressed willingness to help, and there was no delay in getting the program under way.

"Phyllis called us Sunday night to say she was coming home with Mark," Mrs. Pachota remembers. "She arrived on Tuesday, and we started the patterning the next day."

"It's developed into a daily routine that keeps Phyllis one of the busiest mothers around and also one of the most grateful. 'It just wouldn't be possible without all the help I get,' she said, 'and I wish I could find a way to thank everyone enough.'"

SUCH ORGANIZATIONS as the Livonia Jaycettes and FISH in Livonia have sent patterns. Many come from the immediate neighborhood and also help Phyllis with her shopping and ironing and take care of her other son and Steven, six.

There are volunteers who have worked on patterning of other children and understand the routine. One whole group had been working with a little girl who left the area.

Several entire families

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PATTI COVERT, (center) checks with Gale Williams (left), and Julie Vornhagen on plans for a garage and bake sale in Westland July 14 to 16 to enable a new teen group to aid Plymouth State Home youngsters. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

Teens Aid PHS Kids

"It's a big chance to do more for the kids than we can as volunteers," said Patti Covert of Westland, teen volunteer at the Plymouth State Home for more than two years.

She was speaking of the newly-organized Youth-PARC, teen branch of the Plymouth Association for Retarded Children, which will sponsor a garage and bake sale Friday through Sunday, July 14 to 16, as its first major activity.

The aim is to get some funds to be used for parties and short trips for the youngsters the Youth-PARC members have come to know through volunteer work.

PATTI, president of the new organization, said the group began meeting a couple of months ago and now has about 20 members as well as a constitution.

"Most of the members are volunteers at the state home, but that's not required," she said. "We'd like to have anyone interested in bettering the lives of the kids there."

The sale will be held at the home of Youth-PARC board member Julie Vornhagen, 30385 Avon Court, Westland. "Turn south off Ann Arbor Trail on Donna between Middle Belt and Merriman, and Avon Court is the second

street on the right," Julie directed.

The hours will be 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 12 noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

All kinds of baked goods will be available for the sale, the girls said, and the teens also are collecting household items and clothing. Those with contributions may call the homes of Julie or Patti, 29059 Brady, Westland.

Candi Cosper of Dearborn is youth sponsor for the new organization, formed under the guidance of the Plymouth Association for Retarded Children headed by Bill Eaton.

Spotlight on Women

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