

New Horizons Gets A Boost

By CORINNE ABATT

There's plenty of sunshine in the New Horizons workshop - which recently relocated at Clarencville at Westbrook School, Farmington Hills.

Several kinds of sunshine, in fact - the real thing which comes in from a bank of windows along one wall of the spacious new workshop and another which shows on the faces of clients and staff.

"Clients" is the term which Mrs. Peg Prentice, workshop foreman, uses for the mentally retarded adults in workshop programs.

The move of the workshop, from the old Farmington Township barn location two months ago to the three rooms in the school, has been a great morale booster. The additional space means that workshop activity is separated from the classroom as well as the dining area, and lunch can be eaten in still another room.

The classes were established as a result of state mandatory special education legislation which took effect last summer. While half of the 24 are in class, the other half are on the job in the workshop filling contract orders from business and industry.

Being accepted by their neighbors in the new quarters has been another positive factor.

At first, the school people did not know what to expect. Gradually, teachers and school administrators began dropping in. Then, three girls students paid a formal call, toured the facilities and wrote an article for the school paper about New Horizons. It concludes: "New Horizons, we're glad you're at Westbrook."

Karen Johnsen, workshop floor supervisor, said the work load has been steady.

While she spoke, one group was taking cards out of brochures for Michigan Consolidated Gas; four clients were seated at a table assembling small bags of bearings and screws to be packaged with shower doors produced by American Enclosures. Orders for 6,000 at a time come in from the company every

three weeks. Another job, the weighing, counting and packing of coils, was being done for the Chase Corp.

Every Thursday, clients receive psychtests for their work. They are paid on a piece basis, and the weekly pay averages \$15.

Clients spend six hours a day at New Horizons with a 15 minute break in the morning and a half-hour for lunch. All alternate between working and attending class.

Until special education became mandatory, many had never attended a class because as youngsters none was available for them. Even now, there are no guidelines established for classes of mentally handicapped adults like those in the 19 to 49-year-old bracket. So the New Horizons staff has been improvising with great success.

Teacher Peggy McWensley and her aide, Karen Kainers, are working on "daily living" demonstrations and discussions. Recently, there was a section on dental care, how to brush and care for teeth.

Last week a resource person from Detroit Edison gave a demonstration on how to use some of the new electric grooming appliances such as a toothbrush, brush rollers, electric combs and the like.

Beside the table in the classroom is an attractively dressed manikin, "Doris." It serves as a teaching aid in how to assemble and wear clothing tastefully and wisely.

A Michigan Bell representative who visited the class spoke on how to dial, how to handle emergencies by phone and what to do when a wrong number is dialed. One of the best popular programs was meeting a fireman and a policeman. The fire truck is due in for a visit soon.

Getting out into the community is another facet of the program. A trip to Greenfield Village is on the agenda along with several nearby areas.

Miss Sartore, a special ed teacher at Wayne State University, is very enthusiastic about the challenges which the class has provided both to the students and the staff.

"This is a great age to work with - they like everything we've given them, and there are absolutely no discipline problems. They are so very receptive."

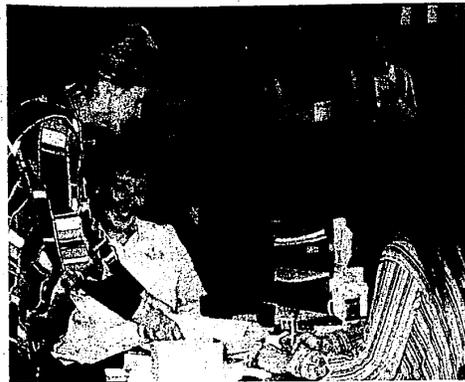
Mrs. Prentice says that the community response to New Horizons since it moved has been "really fantastic."

She is proud of Helen Abel, of Farmington, who works three full days as a volunteer. The Livonia Ladies Auxiliary has offered to assist the workshop in some of its projects.

New Horizons is a non-profit organization. Money comes from government grants for vocational rehabilitation and mental health programs as well as private donations.



PACKING AND COUNTING coils is a contract job which comes regularly to the New Horizon workshop from Chase Corp. Supervisor Karen Johnsen (center) works with Marilyn Potts and David Gordon.



NEW HORIZONS workshop foreman Peg Prentice (left) checks a progress report with volunteer Helen Abel (center) of Farmington and Karen Johnsen, floor supervisor. (Event photos)

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Local Artist Joins Exhibit

Carol Beaubien of Redford Township will be among artists participating in Art Show No. 1 Nov. 16-18, in the Algona Lions Club, Washington at Mill St., Algona.

The event, sponsored by the Algona Sponsors of the Arts, is scheduled for noon to 8 p.m., all three days.

A total of 47 artists will be exhibiting pottery, macramé, sculpture, water colors, oils, weaving and many other art forms.

Featured artist will be Harold Kohn from Harsens Island.

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