

Friends serve area retarded

Retarded individuals need a friend who's willing to spend time with them: at the ball park or the movies or just talking.

The Citizens Advocacy program of the Oakland County Association for Retarded Children (OCARC) aims to provide friends for more than 250 retarded persons.

Established in 1972, the program "serves all retarded person living in a group home, with his family or in a foster care situation and you want to know if we can relate to that person, the answer is yes," she said.

VOLUNTEER advocates attempt to re-introduce the retarded individual to the community.

"As more and more people are released from state institutional programs into community life, there is a need to give them support to help them adjust," said Mrs. Higgs.

"One thing that happens is

grouping retarded people and we find that by establishing one-to-one situations, we bring an individual out of a group situation," she added.

Currently, the program consists of 100 volunteers. But that number only touches the surface of need. Hopefully, said Mrs. Higgs, the program will gain 100 more volunteers by the end of July.

Also, hopefully, a large percentage of those new volunteers will be men.

Mrs. Higgs said there is a long list of retarded men in need of male companionship.

AMONG THOSE volunteers now involved in the program is Mrs. Kathy Goodwin. For the past year and a half she has been a friend of 20-year-old Kathy, who is brain damaged.

Mrs. Goodwin and Kathy get together to fix Kathy's hair, take care of Mrs. Goodwin's two children or simply talk. However the

time is spent, it's a morale boost for both of them.

Kathy lives in a home with about 10 other retarded girls. Mrs. Goodwin said even if she feels depressed when she goes to the home, the girls always lift her spirit.

Like many advocates, Mrs. Goodwin has enriched her own life as well as Kathy's.

Mrs. Higgs explained that advocates understand that retarded people don't get enough outside attention and try to do something about it.

Volunteers are accepted regardless of age or experience.

According to Mrs. Higgs, it is better if the volunteer has a driver's license. However, younger volunteers can establish friendships with retarded persons who live near them.

Anyone interested in volunteering may contact Mrs. Higgs at 335-1842.



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Clubs aid officers' families

More than 200 policemen and firemen are killed annually—often leaving their widows in financial straits.

To counter that, 53 Hundred Clubs have been formed in towns across the nation.

They are composed of 100 or more businessmen and government leaders who donate \$100 or more in private funds for survivors.

Now, for the first time since the first Hundred Club was formed almost a quarter of a century ago, a national organization of such groups has been formed.

Ordway P. Burden of New York, a member of many police organizations and Hundred Clubs, has been chosen as chairman of the newly organized Hundred Clubs Information Council.

He pointed out there are slightly more than 50 such units across the nation.

SOME CLUBS ARE known as 200 clubs, Shield Clubs, Blue Coats or Backstoppers, but their goals are the same—concern for the plight of public servants' families.

"Many of our clubs give a \$1,000 check to the widow within 24 hours of the tragedy," Burden said.

"Many give \$100 to \$1,000 each Christmas and savings bonds for the children.

"Virtually all the clubs examine the financial needs of the family and help eradicate the debts.

"When the clubs first started in Detroit in 1950 the benefits were designed solely for policemen.

"Now that has been expanded and many clubs cover firemen, marshalls, sheriffs, correction guards, state troopers, conservation law officers and, to some extent, federal law officers."

According to Burden, many of those public safety officers killed last year were in areas where no Hundred Clubs existed.

In addition to being a clearinghouse of information between the clubs, the council will help new clubs form.

The Hundred Clubs Information Council is at 663 Maywood Avenue, Maywood, N.J. 07067.

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