

# The world of Michelle...

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battle and victories  
are measured by a smile*

By SHIRLEE IDEN

She's black, she's beautiful and she's nearly blind.

Michelle Hanks is just one of the blind and multi-handicapped children at Penrickton Center in Taylor, Michigan.

Each Sunday evening, her family leaves her at the center. On Friday af-

ternoons, she goes home.

She's a brain damaged child which is why her sight is so poor.

A nervous child, just 8 years old, she's a tooth-grinder.

At Penrickton, life is a battle where victories are measured by a smile, a spoken word, learning to crawl or walk on braces, or just to toilet, eat or dress oneself.

The care comes softly swathed in compassion and love from a small professional staff, child care assistants and volunteers too.

On Sunday, Oct. 24, The Cherub Ball, a benefit for the Infants Service Group will be held in Detroit.

Penrickton is one of the beneficiaries.

See related story in this issue's Suburban Life section.

Photographed by Gary Friedman

