

# Youngsters find love within 'Green Circle'

By SHIRLEE IDEN  
What's inside the green circle? Better human relations for little children in their formative years, hopefully.

The League of Women Voters of Southfield-Lathrup in an effort to reach young children before prejudice and discrimination are hard-core habits, is sponsoring the Green Circle Program in Southfield Schools.

All elementary schools in Farmington have had the program in grades kindergarten through three for the past three years as part of their social studies and minority understanding program.

The program was brought into Farmington by Sue Krapf, a housewife and mother.

So, although new to Southfield, the program is not really new.

ACCORDING TO Rosemary Reid, LWV member, the program was originally started by the American Friends Society in Philadelphia.

"Green Circle is now a corporation and each community interested in participating has a sponsor," she said.

Mrs. Reid and Mrs. Lana Adams have taken the training program

necessary and have brought the Green Circle into several Southfield elementary schools already.

Green Circle is presented through the use of a flannel-board demonstration, child participation and classroom follow-up by the teacher.

Recently, Mrs. Adams did her presentation for a fourth grade class at Eisenhower School.

FIRST, she selected four children and gave each a large envelope.

The children took out parts of a puzzle and put together a large green circle.

"What does the circle tell us," she asked.

"Why was green chosen as the color?"

The answers spelled out the information that the circle is an unending shape with no beginning and no end and the green color denotes life and growth.

"Who is the most important person in our circle?" she asked.

Several children answered at once:

"THE PRESIDENT."

"My brothers and sisters."

The correct answer was "You."

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"Your circle must include you first," Mrs. Adams said.

In a series of questions and answers, the circle grows to include family, friends, community, county, state, nation and finally the world.

The demonstrator stresses the fact that just because a classmate may speak differently, look differently or act differently, one must not shut them out. Everyone must be included in the green circle.

Everyone is equal, we can all learn from our neighbors and friends, regardless how many miles may separate us.

The conclusion reached is: the green circle is a circle of love.

You must love yourself first, then love others.

Since it has been proven that prejudices are instilled in children

at a very young age, the green circle is an attempt to teach young minds that everyone is the same and should be treated equally.

AFTER THE PROGRAM is presented in the classroom, it becomes an individual project of the pupils and teachers, then hopefully, it will reach the homes and communities and continue to spread.

Teachers receive materials for continuing projects from the demonstrator.

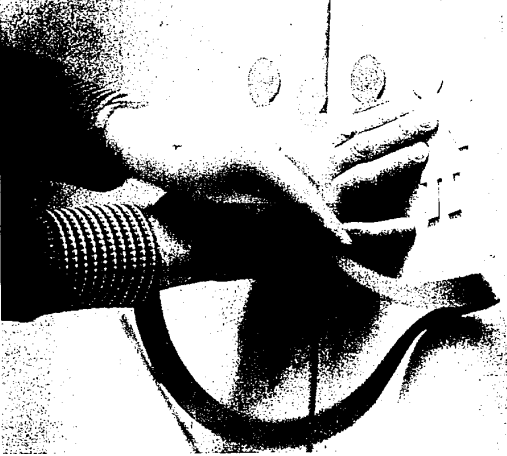
Mrs. Adams quoted Edwin Markham from a poem that sums up the green circle program.

"He drew a circle that shut me out —

Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout;

But love and I had the wit to win —

We drew a circle that took him in."



Photographed by Harry Mauthe