

Foster parents organize to eliminate problems

By LINDA TAYLOR

Concern about the welfare and future of foster children has prompted the recent formation of Concerned Foster Parents of Oakland County.

The group, which met for the second time last month, hopes to bring about a sharing of experiences among Oakland County foster parents as well as lobby for more case workers and a statement of the state's intentions towards reimbursing foster parents for out-of-pocket expenses.

Meeting in Troy, the group agreed a program is needed to acquaint county citizens with the need for foster homes for underprivileged and handicapped children, who would otherwise go into an institution.

ACCORDING TO Harry Bull of Troy, who hosted the January meeting with his wife, the group is concerned about the case loads of county social workers. An investigation by the group showed a work load of 65 children is being carried by one person.

"This obviously precludes giving individual attention that these future citizens have a right to expect," Bull said. He added that social service workers are working with the group to seek help for foster children. "They want more to be done too."

Members of the group also think the state should meet their out-of-pocket expenses incurred while housing foster children.

"It was apparently acceptable to the foster parents that they should offer their homes and their efforts without any thought of reward, but the state has an obligation to meet out-of-pocket expenses," said Bull.

"A failure on the part of the state to accept this can only result in fewer foster homes being made available."

ACCORDING TO Dale Boker of Southfield, group president, "Foster parents are being taken advantage of. It would cost the state about \$90 a child to keep them in an institution, we get about \$4 a day."

He said most parents willing to take in foster children already have chil-

dren of their own, and feeding, clothing and caring for an extra child often poses a financial burden.

He described foster parents as "everyday people trying to do something for somebody else."

ANOTHER KEY reason for formation of Concerned Foster Parents, which includes families from Southfield, Troy and Rochester, is to give foster parents a chance to share ideas, experiences and problem-solving methods.

The county group also plans to analyze what other foster parent associations do and how Concerned Foster Parents can join with them to do better work.

A listing of these associations will be made available at the next meeting, to be held at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur L. Larson in Southfield. Those interested in receiving an agenda or in visiting to the meeting should contact Bull in Troy or Boker in Southfield.

Brookside benefit planned

Brookside Parents Council promises that "Modes, Moods and Movements" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 8 won't be just another fund raiser.

The event, a benefit for Brookside Elementary School, will be held at the Cranbrook School auditorium and will combine fashion, dancing and music.

With a musical review presentation, the designers of St. Laurent, Sonia Rykiel, Ungaro and others from L'Atelier's European Boutique in Franklin will set the modes and the moods.

Lots of movement will come from the Jessie Simlar Dancers of Kingwood and Cranbrook.

The evening won't be over when the curtain goes down. A move across the way will result in dancing to the Domino Morinelli Trio and dining at a buffet.

Mrs. Ben Weinberg of West Bloomfield is chairing the event with the assistance of Mrs. E. James Houston Jr. of Birmingham.

For more information or tickets call Brookside School.

Classes offered for heart patients

A series of special education classes for people recovering from heart attacks is being offered in March by the Oakland County unit of the Michigan Heart Association.

The classes have been designed to answer questions relating to the physical, psychological and financial aspects of the post-coronary patient's illness and recovery.

The series will be held on Monday evenings, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at St. David's Episcopal Church, 16200 Twelve Mile Road, Southfield.

There is no admission fee. The March 3 session on "Your Heart Attack: What Happened? Why Did It Happen and the Road to Recovery" will be held by Dr. Norman Samet, Birmingham psychiatrist.

THE MARCH 10 session will cover another facet of heart attacks.

Dr. Samet will speak again at the March 17 session on "Coping with Your Heart Attack: Psychological Concerns for You, Your Family and How to Cope with Them."

The final session will cover the topic: "Back in Circulation: Your Job, Your Financial Needs, Your Future" on March 24.

Pre-registrations for the series are not necessary, but will be welcome, according to Tom Vance, MHA's county unit field director.

If the first class fills up, a second will be arranged. Families may participate along with the patients.

For further information write Vance at the Michigan Heart Association, 1610 Twelve Mile Road, Southfield 48076.

Troy AAUW hosts speaker

"Get It at the Library" will be the topic as the Troy Branch, American Association of University Women, meets at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday at Hill Elementary School.

Speaker will be Christine Hage, adult services librarian, Troy Library. The Troy branch of the AAUW is

currently involved with the library in a volunteer service to shut-ins in the Troy area. Anyone who knows of someone who is unable to get to the library should call Ruth Stockler at the Troy library and she will contact an AAUW volunteer driver.

Program chairman is Harriet Midel.

Wine expert sets classes

Wine expert Walter W. Rosenberg will present two evenings with American Wines. March 17 and 23 at Bedford's restaurant in Bloomfield Hills. The first evening will explore the wines of California vineyards, their economic value and future potential. The second evening will feature wines from New York, the East Coast, Ohio and Michigan.

Each evening will be devoted to practical wine knowledge followed by comparative tastings of different wines, accompanied by the study and tastings of imported cheeses.

To register for this adult education course, call the Oakland University Division of Continuing Education. Registration and prepayment of tuition must be made before March 13.



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