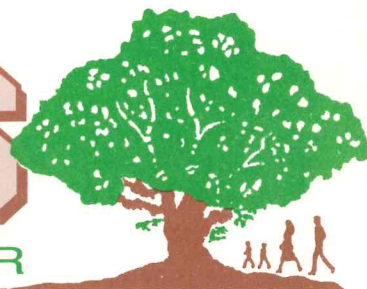


FAMILY FOCUS

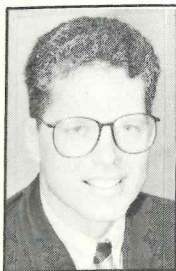
NEWS FROM WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER



VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1

SHEPHERD, MICHIGAN

APRIL 1992



Dorrien



Diment

New directors leading WMFC

An old face with a new job and a new face have been among the changes made at the West Midland Family Center recently.

In December, former assistant director Greg Dorrien was promoted to the position of executive director upon the retirement of Phyllis Breedlove, who was director for 17 years and the guiding force behind the WMFC program.

In April, Lisa Diment was hired as program director, filling a vacancy created when Sherry Keys-Hebron resigned. Keys-Hebron had been hired when Dorrien was promoted.

Dorrien, a Midland native and a 1975 graduate of Midland High School, had been assistant director for 4½ years.

Diment, originally from Kalamazoo, has a bachelor's degree in psychology and physical education from The College of Wooster in Ohio and a master's degree in athletic administration from Western Michigan University. She now lives in Merrill.

She is planning an August wedding.

She enjoys playing sports and played varsity basketball and ran track in college. She has coached basketball, soccer and softball during her tenure as Director of Programming and Fitness at Penfield Racquet & Fitness Club, Rochester, N.Y., and while a faculty member at Kalamazoo College.

Dorrien said the WMFC's new emphasis on life-long learning will take up more of his time. Programs such as after-school tutoring for children and adults will be emphasized.

Grant to help WMFC summer readers

"Learning can be fun"

That's the message that the West Midland Family Center wants to share with children and their parents involved with the 1992 Summer Program.

"In the past, our summer programs have emphasized recreation," says Gail Crosby, WMFC Summer Program Coordinator. "This summer we are adding a literacy component to our activities."

The WMFC, in cooperation with the North Midland Family Center and the Midland County Literacy Council, received an \$8,000 venture grant from the United Way to help pay for the six-week program, which starts June 22.

The program, which will serve up to 100 children, expands upon past summer programs by adding various activities that incorporate reading and other learning opportunities. At the NMFC, children will receive literacy

tutoring twice a week; at the WMFC, the program will run four days a week.

Children will have an opportunity to join in on games, sports, special clubs, a computer lab, a reading room and other special events. Clubs available include a wildlife club, a pen pals club, sports card collecting and a fashion club.

In each club, WMFC will emphasize reading skills as they relate to the children's special interests," Crosby says. "The idea is to provide reading opportunities in a fun activity, to show how essential reading skills are."

In an effort to involve parents in the learning process, the children will have the opportunity to take home Togetherness Time Totes. The totes include a book with a special project to be read and completed by children with their parents.

"We still will have many recreational games available in

the program," adds Jamie Smith, youth activity director. Following a lunch break, participants will have the freedom to choose from a wide variety of options, ranging from a hands-on computer lab to a quiet reading room. A "Battle of the Books" will take place, with prizes going to many young readers. Special quests and speakers will provide daily events for the program, including a weekly science project, while regular field trips will add to the variety.

Special "thank-yous" go to the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library and the Sunrise Optimist Club for supplying reading materials. Additional opportunities still exist for groups or individuals wishing to help support the summer program. Interested persons should contact Gail at the WMFC. Registration information will be available starting May 1.



Kathy Sian, picture above, has been selected as the first Youth Volunteer of the Year Award. She was presented the award Sunday at the annual Volunteer Dinner. Also winning volunteer awards were Judy Campbell, the Orrin Barrett Volunteer of the Year Award, and Geri Horsley, the first winner of the Phyllis Breedlove Friend of the Center Award.

The Red All-Star team of the West Midland Family Center: Front row, left to right, Dan Pulver, Mark King, Pete Latoski and Bill Wilson. Back row, left to right, Greg Bergtold (manager), Brian Otto, Rick Loose, Todd McGee and Padro Garrett.

Jock Shop winners

In West Midland Family Center regular basketball season action, the Jock Shop, managed by Greg Bergtold, three-peated as league champions with a 10-0 record.

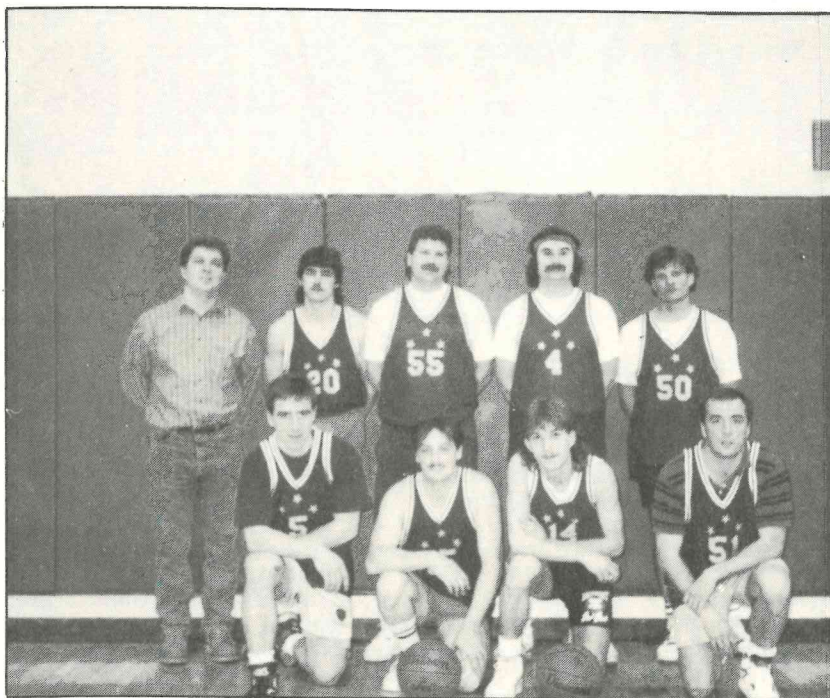
They are 25-5 over the past three seasons.

The league's High-point Award winner was McPhillip's Auto's Bill Wilson, with 202 points and a 25.5 average per game.

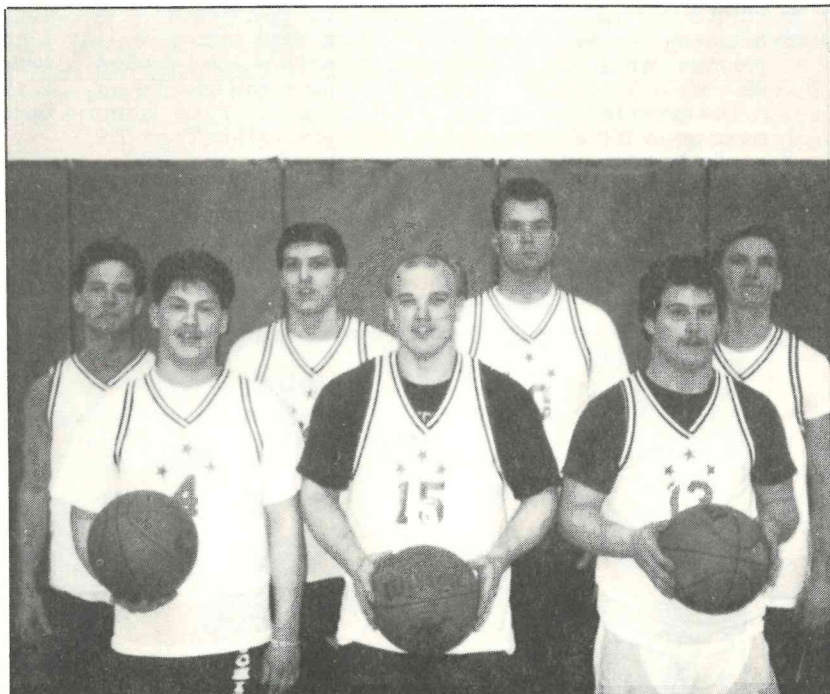
The league's Most Valuable Player Award went to Dowell-Schlumberger's Steve Chapin. Chapin shared the award with the Jock Shop's Jim Kowalski in the 90-91 season.

In the recently completed co-ed volleyball season, Leo's Archery sported a 10-0 record to take first place.

The White All-Star team of the West Midland Family Center: Front row, left to right, Barry Dice, Mike Ritt and Chris Stack. Back row, left to right, Lonnie Campbell, Mark Craig, Brian Shammock (manager) and Dean DeWildt.



All-Stars



Calendar of Events

Summer Program Registration begins.....	May 1
Tigers Baseball Game Trip	May 18
4-H Club Picnic	May 19
Tournament Day.....	May 20
Spring Fling Fair.....	May 27
Summer Program begins	June 23

President's corner

All aboard

By WIN ZACHARIAS

West Midland Family Center experienced a change in management in late 1991 as indicated elsewhere in this newsletter.

We are grateful to the Search Committee chaired by Orrin Barrett for assisting the Board with extensive planning, evaluation, interviewing and final selection of a replacement executive director and director of programs from about 80 candidates. This is never an easy process but we are gratified by the caliber of the new leadership and have full confidence that Greg and Lisa, will take us on to 2000 and beyond in grand style.

It is now time to get back to the fundamentals that brought us to where we are today. Continuing to provide professional growth for our staff, welding the new team, focusing on the three elements of our mission (Education, Recreation and Social Service), recruiting and rewarding our volunteers and creating and implementing programs which serve the needs of our families is key.

Beyond this is the additional requirement to maintain a balanced, committed and working Board, staying in touch with the community at large, and working toward sound, long-term funding in concert with the foundations, benefactors and United Way that have been supportive over the years.

In brief, these are our challenges this year.

ALL ABOARD!

Board of Directors

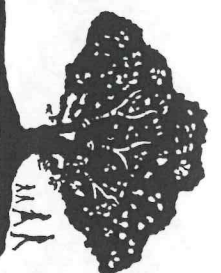
President... Win Zacharias
V. Pres..... Ralph E. Wirtz
Secretary... Chuck Norisz
Treasurer... Steve Barstow
Trustees Roland Weaver
..... Richard Furrow
..... Linda Kellogg
..... Jim La Bean
..... James LeViere
..... Laurence Wyman
..... Jim Burlingame
Staff

Exec. Dir..... Greg Dorrien
Prog. Dir..... Lisa Diment
Off Mang. Kahren O'Brien
Youth Dir..... Jamie Smith
Maint. Sr... Gerald Burkett
Bldg. Sr..... Diane Dauer
Fam. Dir..... Gail Crosby
Rept./Sec. Judy L. Wirtz
..... Peggy Norisz
..... Brenda Norris
..... Barb Simons

WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER

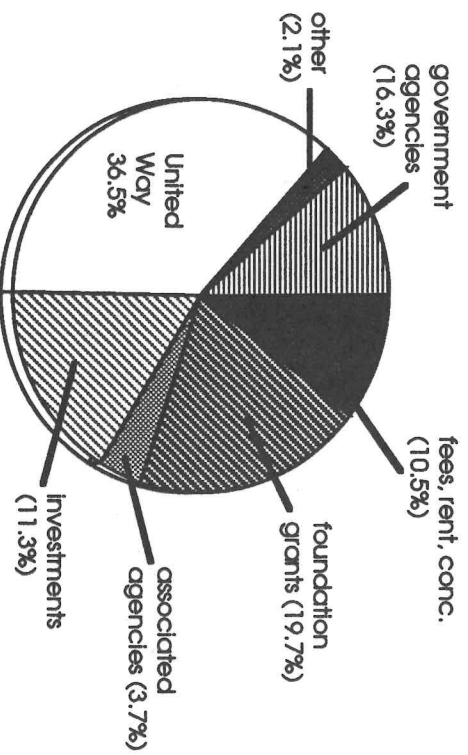
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1991 Operating Budget Annual Report (Unaudited)



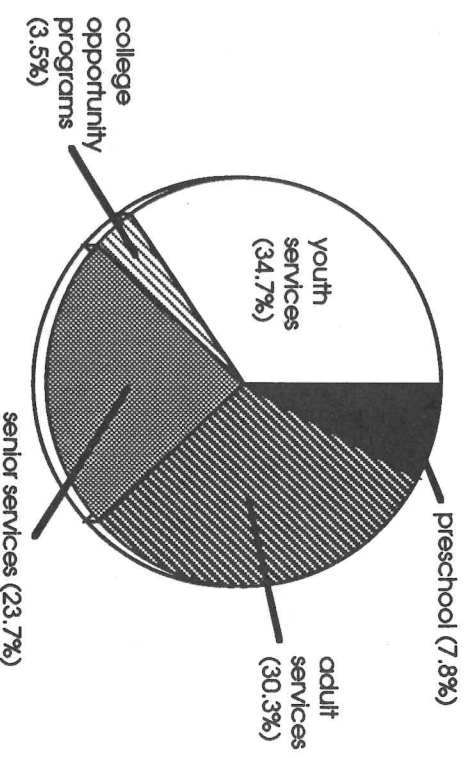
1991 INCOME

TOTAL: \$354,434



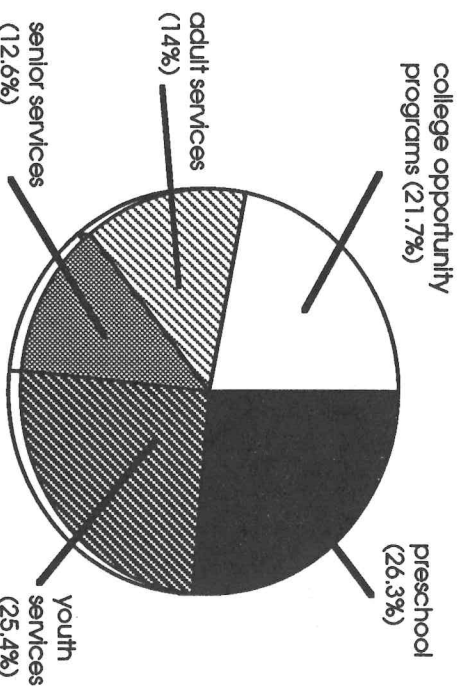
1991 ESTIMATED USAGE

TOTAL: 74,328



1991 PROGRAM EXPENSES

TOTAL: \$367,210



VOLUNTEER GOODS AND SERVICES

MARKET RATE

Volunteer Hours	\$63,300
Donated Goods	\$48,200
Total Worth	\$111,500

**OUR MISSION: TO PROVIDE A COMMUNITY HUB WHICH SERVES
THE
EDUCATIONAL
SOCIAL AND
RECREATIONAL
NEEDS OF WEST MIDLAND COUNTY FAMILIES**

1991 New Programs

YOUTH

"Library Lions" - a summer reading program for 42 young children

1992 Goals

Expand literacy component throughout the summer program

TEENS

"Just Do It" - Friday night activities for 600 teenagers exclusively

Begin accepting students annually for the college opportunity program

ADULTS

"Socializin' Singles" - recreational activities for 50 single adults on Sunday evenings

Develop and implement "Life Skills" program for young mothers

SENIORS

"Humanities Class" - discussion group examining common interests for 20 senior citizens

Involve senior citizens in the preschool program

OVERALL

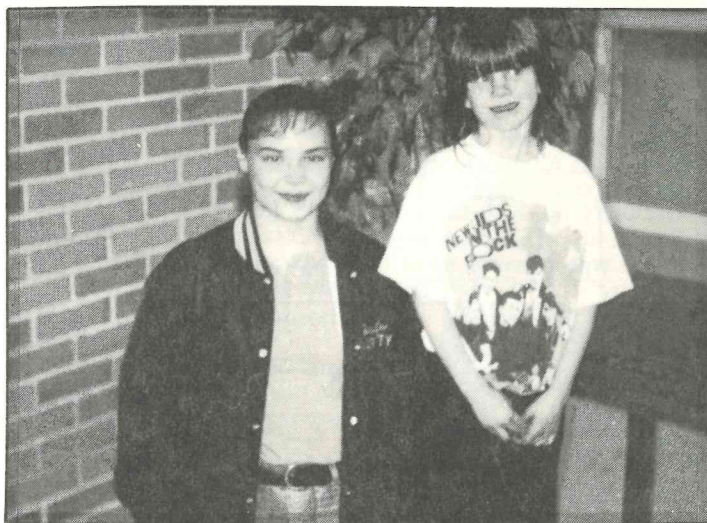
More than 74,000 visits - a 5 percent increase in use

Develop a wider base of financial support



Best Buddies . . .

A new program at West Midland Family Center is the "Best Buddies" program. In the program, teens from the Gordonville United Methodist Church have volunteered to spend time with young users of the WMFC, similar to the Big Brother/Big Sister program. Older buddies volunteer at least one hour a week. Young buddies can apply and will be paired based on interest and older buddy availability. The first pairs in the program were Danny Smith and Joey are pictured above and Jennifer Stephens and Crystal are pictured below.



More than 200 children, including 6-year-old Ryan Burch of Midland, attended the WMFC "Eggstravaganza" the Saturday before Easter. Gail Crosby and Jamie Smith set up the program that included a cake walk, the Easter Bunny, hands-on crafts demonstration and numerous games in the gymnasium.

Phyllis says 'good-bye'

Dear Friends and Colleagues,
I have been truly blessed!

First, I want to thank each and every one of you who have made the beginning of my retirement a new and exciting adventure.

I have received so many beautiful gifts, flowers and cards. I have received personal invitations to luncheons and dinners. I have received a treasure of wonderful letters from the people with whom I have shared the growth of the West Midland Family Center during the past 17 years. The overwhelming expression of warmth is most humbling.

I must express special appreciation to my staff for preparing the book of Memoirs, spanning 1974-1991, recorded in clippings and pictures that tell such a heartwarming story.

I was deeply honored in December with the announcement of the establishment of the Phyllis Breedlove Friend of the Center Award, and so thrilled when the Helping Hand Fund was established in my name.

All these things I will always hold close to my heart.

How can I truly express the deep emotion that I feel? Thank you seems so inadequate. Our contributors, our volunteers, my friends and family have made these past 17 years most rewarding. You are the most caring and sharing people in the world.

It is with mixed emotion that I leave my position as executive director of West Midland Family Center. Where else could anything so beautiful happen? It is unique ... one of a kind. It reflects the dedication and devotion of all of you who made it happen. I shall be eternally grateful.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Breedlove

Phyllis Breedlove Helping Hand Fund

Yes, I would like to do my part with my contribution to the Phyllis Breedlove Helping Hand Fund.

I am enclosing my contribution of \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

*contributions are tax-deductible

Contribution received _____

By West Midland Family Center _____

DONATIONS

List of Recent Donors for the Family Focus:

United Way of Midland County.....	\$46,000
Herbert & Grace A. Dow Foundation	\$10,000
Dow Chemical Company.....	\$10,000
Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation	\$10,000
West Midland Auxiliary.....	\$9,900
United Way Venture Grant.....	\$4,000
Greendale Township.....	\$2,000
Sunrise Optimist Club.....	\$1,000
Kiwanis Club.....	\$500
Westtown Retirees.....	\$140
Greendale Happy Diners Adv. Council	\$140
Midland Cogeneration Venture.....	\$100
Vernon Harry.....	\$40
Phyllis Breedlove Helping Hand Fund	\$661 (aggregate)
Midland Workers Club.....	Preschool toys

Strosacker Award to Breedlove

By LISA OWENS

Phyllis Breedlove received the second annual Charles J. Strosacker Award for her outstanding service and dedication as executive director of the West Midland Family Center.

The award is given to honor excellence in service by a United Way agency professional. It consists of a bronzed plaque, \$1,500 for continuing education and the recipient's name is

engraved on a permanent plaque in the Strosacker Center. Nominations are submitted to a committee of agency board members and are evaluated on individual merit.

This award is the highest honor for service to a Midland United Way agency and Phyllis Breedlove definitely has proven her dedication to WMFC.

Congratulations, Phyllis.

Helping Hand fund set

West Midland Family Center President Win Zacharias has announced the establishment of the Phyllis Breedlove Helping Hand Fund as a "living memorial to Phyllis."

"This fund embodies the spirit which Phyllis has conveyed during her long tenure as executive director," Zacharias said. "Her compassion for those less fortunate has been demonstrated time and again ... and this fund will help her successor to continue in her name."

A "Helping Hand" will be administered at the discretion of the current executive director, Greg Dorrien. Small donations are not only welcomed, but encouraged. If you would like to be a part of this fund, a special form has been reproduced on page 2 for your convenience.



Phyllis Breedlove, above, is pictured with the plaque which will hold the names the Phyllis Breedlove Friend of the Center Award winners.

Phyllis retires

After 17 years and much inspiration and perspiration, Phyllis Breedlove retired Dec. 7. In 1974, Phyllis and a group of volunteers with \$25,000 founded the West Midland Family Center in the old Greendale schoolhouse. "I just had a lot of caring for the needs (of people) and a lot of love to give, and I just wanted to share it," she said.

She served as the group's director for 17 years and watched as the WMFC outgrew its quarters. She worked diligently to help secure funding for the new building, which opened in 1989, and which has been a source of community pride since then.

She was honored upon her retirement by family, friends

and associates during a dinner at WMFC in December. She received two significant awards at the dinner. The Phyllis Breedlove Friend of the Center award was established to help recognize those who contribute greatly to WMFC. And, the Phyllis Breedlove Helping Hand Fund was set up to help people with small, temporary financial problems relating to WMFC use.

Breedlove lived in the Greendale area from 1955 until three years ago, when she moved back to her girlhood home of Mount Pleasant.

Travel plans will take up the bulk of her retirement days, she said.

