

# FAMILY FOCUS

NEWS FROM WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER



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Fall/Winter, 1994

## WMFC receives \$25,000 Barstow grant

Foundation honors Stephen L. Barstow, Midland architect and former WMFC board member, supporter of youth programs

Midland's Barstow Foundation memorialized one of its own at the West Midland Family Center recently.

The foundation gave the center a \$25,000 endowment gift to enact the Stephen L. Barstow Wellness Program, which will benefit all users of the center.

Stephen Barstow was a board member of the Center from 1983 to 1992, and one of the guiding forces toward the creation of the new Center.

Stephen L. Barstow died of a brain tumor on Aug. 3, 1992.

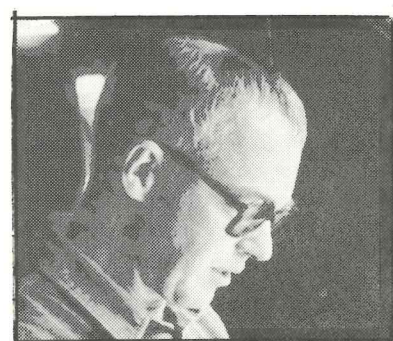
"I remember when he first wanted to get involved in the community," said Phyllis Breedlove, retired executive director of the Center.

"He had just bought a beautiful piece of property on the Chippewa River and was planning to build a contemporary home of

his own design. He explained what he was going to do and I thought it sounded nice, but not until I was in it did I realize what a wonderful artist and architect he was," she said.

His work extended beyond the West Midland community. "The Santa House next to the Midland County Courthouse is another fine example of his architecture," she added. "It was fitting that he left his home to Central Michigan University's art department so that they could begin an artist-in-residence program," Breedlove said.

At the Center, Barstow was active on many committees. "He was chairman of the Facility Committee and many of his ideas were incorporated into the design of the new building, but what he seemed to enjoy the most was just stopping in and watching



**Stephen A. Barstow**

the kids have a good time," Breedlove said.

"And when he saw there was a need for new equipment or whatever, he would go see his fellow members of the Midland Kiwanis Club and the next week he would show up with a check," she added.

(See "Barstow, page 3)

### Inside:

The 1994 Fall/Winter program schedule is provided for you inside this edition of Family Focus. Please retain for reference.

## *Hudson's and United Way make a difference*



Pictured above are Teens in Training participants on their way home from a weekend of Team Building & Leadership Training at Eagle Village. Safe-Ride provided transportation for this trip.

A new program, developed just for teens, made its debut at WMFC this summer and it turned out to exceed all expectations for success. Teens in Training, affectionately known as "T'NT," was made possible through a \$5,320 Venture Grant from the United Way and a special \$4,500 grant from Hudson's.

Developed and led by Youth and Teen Program Coordinator Jennifer Holcomb, T'NT was designed to give area youth a chance to develop useful volunteer and teamwork skills while assisting in the SUNsational Summer Program (for 7-12 year-old students) at the center.

Students from Bullock Creek, Coleman, Meridian and Shepherd high schools, 32 in all, became a part of the program, which consisted of three main components: training and education, volunteer service and rewards for hard work. The "rewards" consisted of a variety of field trips, including a visit to Detroit, tubing on the Chippewa River and a day-long journey to Cedar Point in Ohio.

"To see the excitement in their eyes and to feel their willingness to grow and learn was a great reward for me. I learned just

(See "T'NT," page 4)



# Seniors are not yet the age of majority

A celebration party and dinner on Oct. 20 will mark the 20th anniversary for the Greendale Happy Diners!

Commemorative t-shirts will be on sale all fall, and plans are under way for the Anniversary Dinner party. Site Manager Kathy Pressnell says, "Our seniors are very proud and excited to share their anniversary event with everyone. We will all be wearing our t-shirts to celebrate the event."

Within the past year, two intern students from Central Michigan University have taken part in planning events for seniors to enjoy. Ken Ziel, who completed his internship in December, organized field trips to the Midland Center for the Arts and to Amish Village, which included dinner at the Chow House. Mike Kocsis, who recently concluded his internship in August, traveled to a Detroit Tigers' game with seniors.

The Tigers won the game and Mike said, "We had a grand time, with lots of laughs."

Seniors have been taking part in a number of activities at the center for many years, including using the fitness room and walking club.

A new program emphasis this year

## Bingo! Warner a nervous man

One year ago Don Warner was a nervous man. Today he is proud. Don's nervousness was understandable. He had just agreed to head up a committee. The B i n g o Committee.



**Don Warner**

"I know the end result of a good job would be a lot of happy kids," said Warner. That's because the bingo program is the fourth largest contributor to the operating fund and the operating fund is where the dollars come from to keep the doors open and activities in place. "Not to mention I was following a bingo legend (retired Chairman Chuck Norisez)."

Norisez was responsible for all program aspects for 10 years. This included volunteer recruitment, training, scheduling, record keeping,



**Central Michigan University intern Ken Ziel and a group of Greendale seniors enjoy a trip to Amish Village.**

will be intergenerational activities for seniors and youth, especially preschoolers. Several events have been planned during which the 4-year-olds will get to know and have a fun time with the seniors who are at the Center every day. There also will be a special day for preschoolers to bring grandparents to the Center.

"Both seniors and preschoolers bene-

inventory control and much more.

"I wasn't about to be responsible for all that," said Warner. "So upon Chuck's resignation, we formed a committee and divided up all the responsibilities. We now get together once a month to discuss the business aspects as needed."

When asked why he thought bingo was so successful, Warner said there were two major reasons. "One is the attitude of the volunteers. They make it fun for the players. The second includes the youth program. Players bring their kids with them and even when they don't win, they know their kids had a fun night out."

Other committee members include: shift chairpersons Gene Dauer, Judy Campbell, Larry Kokx, Alice Mulligan, Treasurer Kahren O'Brien and Concessions Chairperson Donna Hackett. The committee would welcome any new volunteers for bingo night and players at-large to serve on the committee.

fit from spending time with each other," says preschool teacher Elaine Fabinski.

Many current Happy Diners who remember the old building reflect how nice and attractive the new building is.

All area seniors are invited to stop by to learn more about the program options at West Midland Family Center. Congratulations, Greendale Happy Diners.

## West Midland Family Center

### Board of Directors

President .....	Ralph E. Wirtz
V. President .....	Joe Dufort
Secretary.....	James Burlingame
Treasurer.....	Dick Furlow
Trustees.....	Joe Vanderkelen
.....	Sue Thumma
.....	Linda Kellogg
.....	Orrin Barrett
.....	Bob Dostal
.....	Chuck Infante
.....	Jim LaBean
Legal advisor.....	Tom Misner

### Staff

Executive Director.....	Greg Dorrien
Prog. Director.....	Lisa Panepento
Office Manager.....	Kahren O'Brien
Maint. Supervisor.....	Gerald Burkett
Family Programs.....	Gail Crosby
Youth & Teen Prog.....	Jennifer Holcomb
EAL Director.....	Tracy Meister
Night Spvsr.....	Diane Dauer
Preschool.....	Elaine Fabinski
Receptionist.....	Judy Wirtz



## Barstow ...

The grant will be used to teach residents of West Midland County about exercise, nutrition and diet.

"The grant will begin the long-term development of holistic wellness programs and activities at the Center," said West Midland Family Center Executive Director Greg Dorrien.

Barstow's other community services included his involvement with the Kiwanis

Club. He was a member of the Memorial Presbyterian Church and a board member of the Barstow Foundation.

He also was a member of the Higgins Lake Boat Club, where he served as treasurer.

He attended Carleton College for two years, transferring to Michigan State University where he received his BA degree. He studied at the University of Michigan, receiving his Bachelor of Architecture degree from there.



**Jacquie Billington and some of the students she tutors get together on Saturday mornings to go over school work that the students want to do. More tutors are needed.**

## EAL students say tutoring helps

EAL College Opportunity Program students are well-acquainted with the West Midland Family Center Tutoring Program. Volunteers from the community spend four hours each Saturday explaining algebra equations, deciphering Shakespeare, listening to young readers, and more. Tutoring takes patience and sometimes creativity.

Many of the EAL students participated in tutoring as tutors. Jacquie Billington volunteered many hours during the last school year to help Jessica and Daniel Hickerson improve their reading skills. "Jessie and Dan are pretty good readers but the extra practice will pay off," says Billington, an honor roll student. Other EAL students who volunteered to tutor are Priscilla Fraley,

Rosalind Finney and Linette Fredrickson.

Volunteers who really care about the students and their progress make the program such a success. Thank you to our tutors: Jacquie Billington, Kendra Burton, Mike Collver, Tara Dowling, John Shay, Curt and Karen Heckelman, Kevin Thornton, Lynn Hempen, Gerald Geyer, Sue Thumma, John Bishop, Steve and Karilyn Jons, and Chuck Norisz.

Tutors for all subjects and grade levels are being sought for the 94-95 school year. If interested, please call 832-3256. Students must register in advance. The registration deadline for the first session is Wednesday, October 26.

## Midland Mover provided needed transportation in western part of county

The Midland Mover Program, which provides transportation to Midland from various points in western and northern Midland County twice a week, has ended for now, but will begin again in October. (See Focus on Programming insert.)

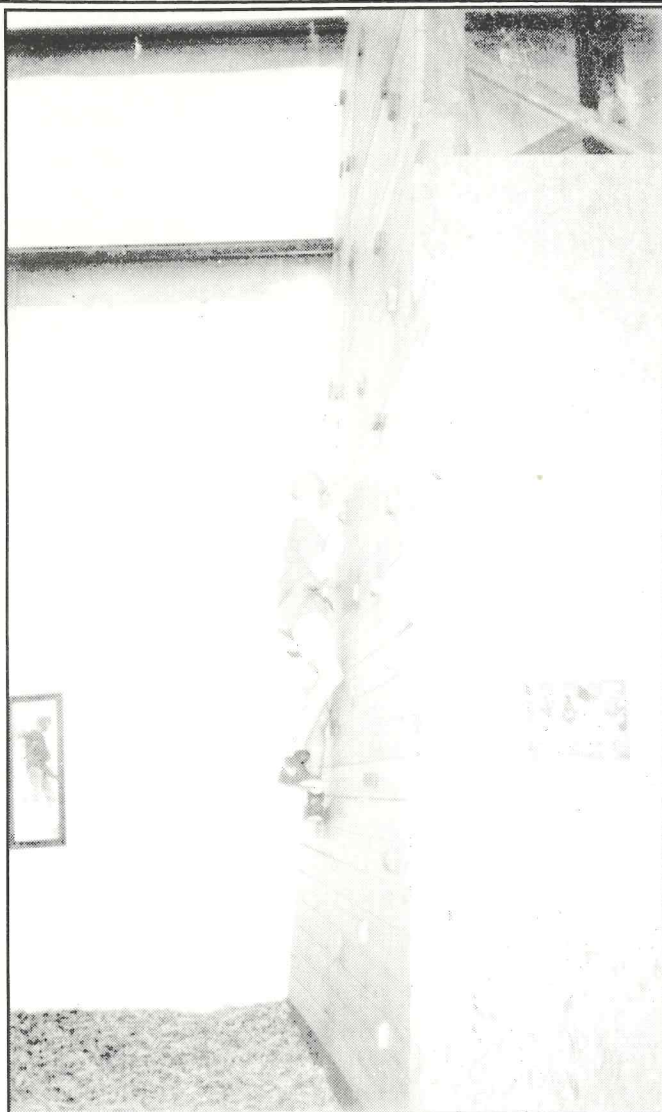
July reservations totaled 53. In August, that figure climbed to 68. Like all new services, people were unaware and apprehensive at first, but once they understood the system better, more people began using it.

Funding for the experimental transportation program came from the United Way and the Midland Foundation. "Initially, we wanted the out-county kids to get to use the facilities in Midland," said Chairman Bill Buckingham. "We put together a group of people from the West and North Midland family centers, the Community Center, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Campfire to develop the program. Kids Kab has been providing the transportation, and they have been very cooperative in getting this service off the ground," Buckingham said.

Josh Lee, one of the Midland Mover's teen riders, said, "I was nervous at first, but I thought it was a good experience because it helps kids to be able to go places. They know they can have transportation."

Midland Mover only has scratched the surface of the transportation needs in Midland county. "Many people wanted to use the service but not within the time frame or service areas we now offer," WMFC Executive Director Greg Dorrien said. "They have dealt with parents wanting to get their children to and from the center, senior citizens wanting to go to different retail establishments, doctors' offices, the hospital or the 555 Building and many others. This fall we are going to be able to transport to most any location in the City of Midland after a stop at the Midland Community Center," Dorrien said.





Above, Josh Lee, a T'NT participant, assists Derrick Chamberlain, one of the "Bookworm Buddies" children, with learning how to use a computer. More than 100 children participated in the "SunSational Summer Program" and were able to experience many clubs, such as nature, science, sign language, computers, crafts and reading. The most popular one, however, was computers. T'NT students helped with the program. At left, Eddie Burns, a T'NT participant, takes the challenge to climb and then rappel "The Wall" at Eagle Village. T'NT students attended training at Eagle Village.

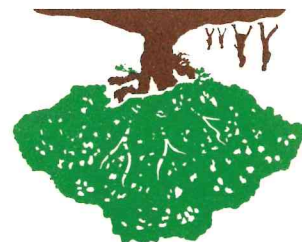
## T'NT ...

(Continued from page 1)

as much as the teens did this summer," said Holcomb. "The program was definitely worth all the hard work!"

Many future "Teens in

Training" are looking forward to next summer when they are old enough to take part in the program. Special thanks to Midland Mover and Kids Kab who helped provide transportation for our field trips!



Non-profit organization

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