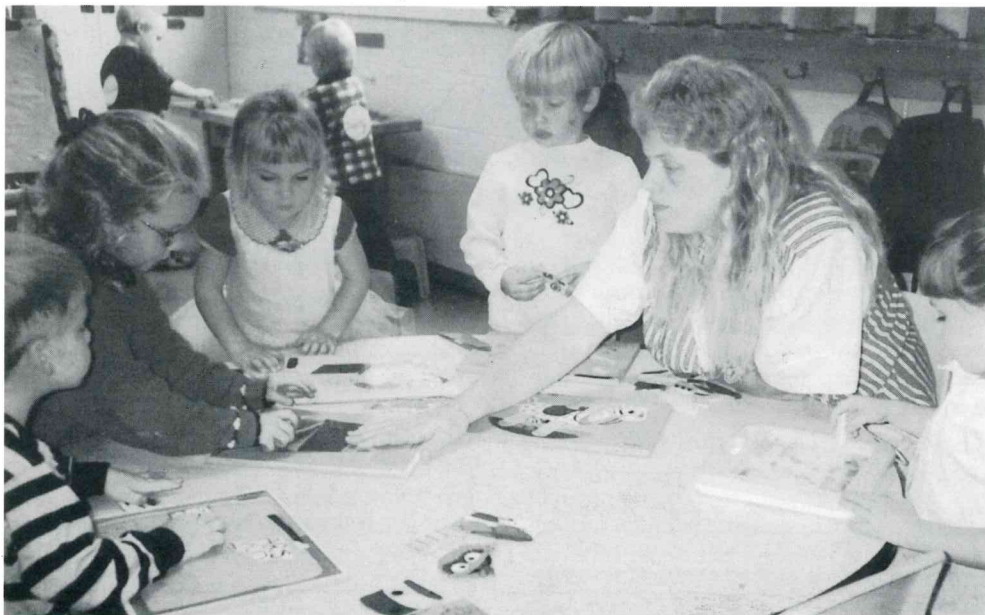


## WMFC to Expand Facilities and Programs for Fall



Some of the 36 fortunate preschool children who do get to attend class at the Center include from left to right: Nathan Fellows, Taylor Pretzer, Trina Snyder, Kassandra Thompson, Preschool Aide Becky Thompson, and Brianna Haney.

### FOCUS ON FUN, FUN, FUN!!!

## Outstanding Volunteers Honored at Dinner

The Annual Appreciation Dinner for Volunteers and Supporters, held April 26, was a little different this year. Traditionally, the dinner has focused upon a program of recognition and a keynote inspirational speech. This year, while the recognition of our outstanding volunteers and supporters was still the prime focus of the program, the rest of the agenda was just plain fun and silliness.

Lead by our ringmaster and "elephant trainer" Greg Dorrien, this year's event included clowns, "elephants," and the exceptional magic of Gene Anderson. Gene's magic show kept the audience of 150 supporters on the edge of their seats as he took them through a series of thrilling illusions and tricks. Many of the magic tricks required "audience participation" which included Gene getting volunteers to perform magic on stage without them even knowing how they were doing it!

The highlight of his show included set-

ting fire to a \$50 bill belonging to Center Director Greg Dorrien. Despite the worried look on Greg's face, Gene was able to make Greg's lunch money reappear out of thin air.

As always, the dinner was an opportunity to recognize the outstanding contributions made by Center volunteers. While every volunteer deserves praise and sincere thanks, three of the most dedicated individuals were selected to receive WMFC's highest honors.

This year's recipient of the *Orrin Barrett Volunteer of the Year*



Win Zacharias



Wyndy Johnson



Justin Lent

"When 40% of the kids that come to Floyd School arrive without a preschool experience, someone needs to do something," said Jim Anderson at the January 1998 WMFC Board of Directors Meeting. Anderson is the Principal at Floyd Elementary and is a member of West Midland Family Center Board of Directors.

That "something" turned out to be a modular classroom / parent education center and a collaboration with NEMCSA Head Start. Head Start is the Federally funded preschool program that helps children who live in poverty prepare for life and school. "It presents a wonderful opportunity for us to reach more of our most vulnerable community members without the added cost of program staff and administration," said Greg Dorrien, West Midland Family Center's Executive Director.

NEMCSA Head Start will pay for 100% of the cost of teachers, aides, transportation, health surveys, and other needs associated with their own half-day preschool program. That is not to say that there will be no cost to West Midland Family Center. The Center will be spending approximately \$80,000 to set up the new modular unit. The West Midland Family Center Board decided to use remaining unspent funds from the 1989 building project.

"In some ways I think this is a tribute to Orrin Barrett," said current Board President Bob Dostal. Orrin was the Building Project leader for the current Center and completed the project both on time and under budget.

At the conclusion of the project, Win Zacharias, President of the Board during the building project, notified the five build-

See EXPANSION, Page C

## MAILING LIST

We would like to have you on our newsletter mailing list. If you are not currently on our mailing list and would like to be added, please contact Diane DeMott at 832-3256.



# Outstanding Volunteers Honored at Appreciation Dinner

(continued from Page A)

Award was Win Zacharias. Win was the Center's Board President for many years and currently chairs our Fund Raising Committee. Win was responsible for developing and leading the team that oversaw the planning and construction of the current Center in 1989. Since that time, he has helped raise over a million dollars for the Center's Program and Facility Endowment Funds.

This year's *Phyllis Breedlove Friend of the Center Award* recipient was Wyndy Johnson. As most readers will know, Wyndy is the Center's Coordinator of Youth and Teen Programs. Wyndy is a constant whirlwind of activity who makes a huge difference in the lives of so many of the children and teens who visit the Center each week. Not only does she believe in the Center with her whole heart, her energy and enthusiasm is infectious for everyone who works with her.

And last, but certainly not least, is Justin Lent, the recipient of the *Stephen Barstow Youth Volunteer of the Year Award*. Justin is an eighth grader at Shepherd Middle School and a member of the Center's Teens In Training program. In the last year alone, Justin has volunteered over 500 hours at the Center. His permanent smile is a constant reminder of his genuine spirit of caring and dedication.



Ringmaster Greg Dorrien and his amazing "trained elephants" were a highlight of this year's Appreciation Dinner.

Many of the volunteers and supporters who attended this year's dinner said that it was the best one yet. Their only question was "what will we do in '99 to top it?" Please make a point to come next year and see if we do!

*Keep your eye on the ball, your shoulder to the wheel, your ear to the ground -- now, try to work in that position.*



Magician Gene Anderson and Greg Dorrien demonstrate how fast \$50 can disappear these days.

## WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President .....Bob Dostal  
Vice President.....Joe Dufort  
Secretary .....Sue Thumma  
Treasurer.....Joe Vanderkelen

Directors: Jim Anderson, Julie Arbury, Stephen Carras, Chuck Infante, Don Koster, Amber Phillips, Jo Ann Winchester

Advisors: Jim Burlingame, Gene Dauer, Dick Furlow, Tom Misner, Chuck Norisz, Roland Weaver, Win Zacharias

### STAFF

Executive Director .....Greg Dorrien  
Program Director .....Gail Crosby  
New Initiative & Promotions Director .....Alan Oman  
Office Manager .....Becky Lampman  
Office Supervisor .....Diane DeMott  
Receptionists: Teri Booth, Diane Dauer, Kathy Roberts, Valerie Wise

Maintenance Director.....Barry Lenski  
Maintenance Staff: Gerald Burkett, Mike Kirby, Karen Leath

Dow College Opportunities Director.....Tracy Meister  
Dow COP AmeriCorps Member .....Scott Leslie  
Youth & Teen Coordinator .....Wyndy Johnson  
Summer Program Assistant Coordinator.....Kelly Page  
Teen Program AmeriCorps Member .....Lisa Bonotto  
Youth & Families Education Coord.....Renee Shauger  
Youth & Families Interns .Margo Chabois & Beth Frey  
Youth Staff: Mollie Benford, Tom Berlin, Jan Burton, Rod Dishaw, Nicole Gainforth, Tim Gates, Rich Little, Carissa Mahoney, Julie McKeith, Amber Phillips, Karyn Tucker, Stephanie Wirtz, Stacie Young

Family Support Coordinator.....Lois Burton  
Family Support Assistant .....Bridget Eveleth  
Preschool Teacher.....Elaine Fabinski  
Preschool Teacher Assistant .....Barb Simons  
Preschool Aides: .....Missey Finney, Karen Hall  
Preschool Van Aides:.....Connie Billings, Becky Thompson  
Child Care Director:.....Ginger Yarch  
Child Care Aides: ..Anita Bass, Eileen Burch, Shannon Cotrell, Misty Dopp, Penny Owen, Jessica Pieper, Eva Searfoss, Lara Siebert, Bree St. John, Vonda Wendt, Danielle Willis, Fawn Wirtz

Senior's Program Staff .....Sue Wells  
Council On Aging Site Manager .....Judy Wirtz



# WMFC to Expand Facilities and Programs for Fall

(continued from Page A)

ing donors that we had approximately \$80,000 remaining. At that time the Center offered to return the money to the five building donors (The Dow Chemical Company, Dow Corning, the Charles J. Strosacker Foundation, the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, and the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation). All five said to contribute the surplus money toward the Center's Facility Fund. So in essence, because of Orrin's superior project management and the donors' generosity to the Center, we are now able to add the new modular unit!

The modular unit will be used by Head Start in the mornings. During the afternoon the Center will use it for its rapidly expanding Child Care Development Program. "There are many more added benefits that will grow out of our collaboration with NEMCSA," said Gail Crosby, Director of Programs at West Midland Family Center. "They include many things that we will be doing jointly, like recruitment, parent / family education events, transportation, and staff training workshops to name a few," added Crosby.

The modular unit will be located behind the Center (not viewable from M-20). It is also intended to be a short-term fix to the current "busting at the seams" situation that has occurred due to the popularity of the Center's programs. In addition to the classroom, the modular unit will house a conference room and an office for two staff members.

The proposed facility expansion that the staff is currently working on includes space for Head Start and expanded child care services. The exact details of what new activities the expansion will include are still being developed.

One of the biggest question marks is the long-term viability of our after-school Class Act tutoring program for elementary-age students. One concern is money to direct the program. Assuming the Center is successful with its grant requests, there is still the question of which site is the most effective location for the program. This year we had 90 elementary students enrolled in the program at the Center. This forced cancellation of the traditional after-school drop-in recreation activities for students who were not in the program.

This fall WMFC will direct the Class Act program at Floyd Elementary School. The hope is that the new location will make the program more accessible and successful. This will allow the Center to have the best of both worlds: the Class Act program will continue at Floyd School and drop-in



Brooke Stephens and her classmates could not wait for the new facility expansion so they built their own.

recreational activities can return to the Center.

Making sure that all program options and partnerships are explored before we proceed with the building expansion is critical. "When we feel we truly understand all the needs of the Community, we will proceed quickly with requests for facility expansion funds," said Dorrien.

When that expansion is complete, we envision that the modular unit will no longer be required at the Center. At that time we envision moving the unit to a new site, possibly one of the trailer parks east of the Center, and use it as an off-site parent education / community outreach center.

If that plan is successful, the unit will still be used by WMFC to serve area families and will also be available for many of the other human service agencies to use to provide services to out-county residents. The final step at the Center will be to put a picnic pavilion over the slab that once served as the modular unit's foundation.

As you can see, there are many exciting plans for the Center's future. The year 1999 will be the 25th year that WMFC has served the community. With planning, cooperation, and community partnerships, the future for helping families grow stronger is bright.

## 1998 CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS

### JANUARY – MAY

Organization	Amount		
State of Michigan.....	\$168,291	United Way Venture Grant.....	\$1,000
United Way of Midland County .....	\$ 72,188	Bullock Creek H.S. Student Council...\$	644
Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation ....	\$ 20,000	Westtown Retirees .....	\$ 500
WMFC Auxiliary .....	\$ 10,500	Child Care Concepts.....	\$ 450
Vada B. Dow Trust.....	\$ 10,000	Sunrise Optimist Club .....	\$ 340
Homer Township.....	\$ 6,250	Homer United Methodist Women.....	\$ 100
Snow Machines Inc.....	\$ 3,000	Chapter EP PEO Sisterhood.....	\$ 40
Michigan 4C Association.....	\$ 2,680	TOPS.....	\$ 30

### Individuals who have contributed:

Gene Anderson, Phyllis Breedlove, Dale & Rose Burleson, Ruth & Bill Caldwell, Lois Craven, Wayne Crosby, Eugene & Sandra Engle, Carl Garrison, Virginia Harlow, Jill Hartley, Kevin Hoerauf, Dana & Jodi Harrison, Charles Infante, John Jones, Ladonna Little, Tracy Meister, Elizabeth Minbirole, Alan & Julie Oman, Gary O'Neill, Mike & Noreen Parker, Walter & Joanne Rupperecht, Larry Sherwood, Jim Weaver, Jeanne Yost, Win Zacharias.



# Greendale Seniors Complete First Quilting Project



Susan Wells and Effie Swoffer display the beautiful quilt which will be the "feature item" to be raffled off at the Ice Cream Social (Senior Fund Raiser) July 16 at the Center.

## — Calendar of Events —

June 8 .....	Child Development	July 16 .....	Senior's Ice Cream Social
June 10 .....	Classes begin at ETC	July 22 .....	Health Department
June 11 .....	Veterans Benefit Service		Immunizations
June 14 .....	W.I.C. Clinic	August 12 .....	Veterans Benefit Service
June 22 .....	Summer Building Hours Begin	August 13 .....	Last Day of WMFC
June 24 .....	First Day of Summer Programs		Summer Programs
July 4 .....	Health Department	August 13 .....	W.I.C. Clinic
	Immunizations	August 26 .....	Health Department
July 8 .....	Independence Day		Immunizations
July 16 .....	(Building Closed—No Bingo)	September 7 .....	Labor Day
	Veterans Benefit Service		(Building Closed)
	W.I.C. Clinic	September 9 .....	Veterans Benefit Service

D

The Greendale Seniors, with some help from participants in the Young and Old Alike Program, have finished our first quilt at the dining center. Everyone involved had tons of fun and made a few new friends. Now that the quilt is complete, we have decided to raffle it off at the Senior's Ice Cream Social in July. Proceeds from the raffle will help support the senior programs at the Center.

If you would like to see the quilt, it is currently on display, along with other prizes for the social, in the Center's lobby. The hand-made, queen-size quilt is pink and mauve and would be an ideal addition to anyone's home.

The July 16 Ice Cream Social will include the quilt raffle, a raffle of Native American statues and plaques, a silent auction, and a 50/50 drawing. If you would like to make a reservation for the social, would like to buy a ticket for the raffle, or have items to donate to the silent auction, please call Judy at 832-8683.

The Ice Cream Social is a community event hosted by the Greendale Diners, so make sure you bring the whole family for delicious ice cream, a multitude of toppings and tons of fun and good company. See you there!

-Judy Wirtz

## CHILD CARE

Fully Licensed Child Care  
is now available at

### West Midland Family Center

- 2 1/2 Weeks - 12 Years
- Monday thru Friday
- 6:30 am to 7:00 pm

Financial Assistance  
may be available  
through the  
Family Independence Agency

For detailed information  
please call (517) 832-3256  
and ask for Ginger Yarch

U.S. POSTAGE  
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
PAID  
Midland MI  
Permit #153

WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER  
4011 Isabella Road  
Shepherd, MI 48883