

Special Care Results In Special Friendship

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff
EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) —
When Dorothy Dennis broke her
ankle, she was distressed at the
thought of being hospitalized. Her
husband, who has some physical
problems, was not well enough to
care for her.

But a service called Special
Care had a solution. They sent a
caregiver to the Dennis home to
help with personal care, fix meals,
run errands and do light
housekeeping.

While Mrs. Dennis was skepti-
cal that a live-in housekeeper
might make things a bit uncom-
fortable, she was pleasantly
surprised.

"Chemistry happened between
us. We sat and talked the day and
night away," Mrs. Dennis said.
It's that chemistry between

caregiver and client that Special
Care strives to provide, said Scott
Knoll, who directs the program.

Special care places highly
screened and experienced caregiv-
ers with those who need help to
remain independent.

"It's a low-cost alternative to the
more expensive choice of nursing
home care," Knoll said.

Care can be arranged from four
to 24 hours per day and from one to
seven days per week.

Services are also available in
special circumstances such as a
family vacation, respite care or an
illness in the family.

Knoll said that Special Care was
founded in 1982 by Jean Griswold,
the wife of a Presbyterian minister.
Griswold is confined to a wheel-
chair because of multiple sclerosis.
The concept of Special Care
evolved from a tragedy in her hus-

band's congregation. An elderly
widow died in her home from kid-
ney failure after being unable to
find someone to care for her at
night.

Griswold compiled a list of peo-
ple who would work as compan-
ions to the elderly. That first week,
she received 20 calls for assis-
tance. The demand resulted in the
company opening 37 offices
nationwide within the past 12
years. Unlike visiting nurse ser-
vices that send licensed profes-
sionals who generally only stay a
few hours, Special Care dispatches
nurse's aides who aren't licensed
but who take care of helping
clients bathe, grocery shopping,
meal preparation, and housekeep-
ing duties.

According to Knoll, fees are
generally \$4 to \$6 lower than most
home care companies because the
philosophy of Special Care is to
provide high quality care at an
affordable rate.

"It is often more desirable for an
individual to receive care at home
rather than being uprooted to an
institutional setting," Knoll said.
"Home-based service allows the
client to control his or her own
care. By living at home, the client
has easier access to family, friends,
community, and church."

Knoll said that the service fol-
lows up with care to make sure that
the client feels comfortable with
the caregiver. If not, they will
replace the person.

For more information about
Special Care services, call (717)
394-5111.



"Chemistry happens," said Mrs. Dennis of the live-in ser-
vice that Rose Murphy provided. "We sat and talked the day
and night away."

Training For Child Care Providers

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)
— The Lancaster County office of
Penn State Cooperative Extension
is offering a "Better Kid Care"
training for child care providers in
Lancaster County to be held on
Saturday, October 1, 1994 from
8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Farm
and Home Center.

The training is open to all child
care providers, especially family
day care providers, to strengthen
their caregiving skills through par-
ticipation in four workshops. Top-
ics include, "Fitness for Young
Children," "Handling Emergen-
cies Until Help Arrives," "Effec-

tive Discipline," and "Nutritional
Needs of Young Children."

Cost of the training is \$25 and
includes lunch. Providers will
earn six (6) credit hours of training
towards their state requirement for
attending the training. Providers
will also receive full reimburse-
ment of their registration fee fol-
lowing their attendance through
the Pennsylvania Department of
Public Welfare, KURC-HBC
Directed Training Program.

To register or for more informa-
tion, contact Debra Naumann at
the Cooperative Extension office,
(717) 394-6851.

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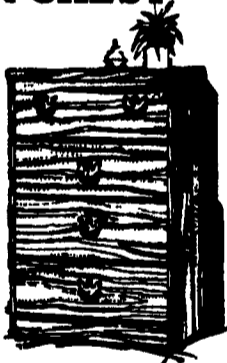
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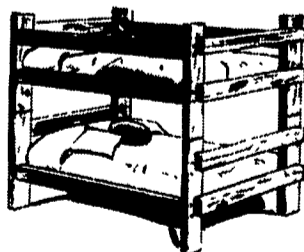
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