

Friend Program aids young people

By VICTORIA PETTIES
Collegian Staff Writer

Young people in need of disciplinary, emotional and physical support are given the opportunity to develop and mature through a Friend Program involving University student volunteers, the executive director of Second Mile said.

Jack Raykovitz said the Friend Program joins University students with young people in large group activities "in the spirit of friendship."

"The aim of the Friend Program is to give kids the opportunity to interact with someone who will serve as a role model," Raykovitz said.

Children from single-parent homes or with special personal or physical needs meet with University friends twice a month to participate in large group activities, he said.

Kahadeejah Herbert (senior-division of undergraduate studies), captain of the Lady Lion basketball team and co-recipient of the Student Leadership Award at Second Mile this year, said the Friend Program gives young people an opportunity to discuss problems

with a close friend.

"It gives a chance for the kids to talk to someone outside of mom and dad, like about school problems, and also someone they can look up to," said Herbert.

University friends have good social, interpersonal and management skills and can share these with their young friends, Raykovitz added.

Bob White (junior-administration of justice), a defensive end for the Nittany Lion football team, is the other recipient of the Student Leadership Award.

The University volunteers attend a brief session promoting responsibility and commitment to the young people, he said.

Carl Chrabasz (junior-finance), a second-year volunteer in the program and forward on the Nittany Lion basketball team, said he became involved in the program because he benefited from the same type of program at a local recreation center in his neighborhood when he was younger.

"I remembered how much I looked up to these role models and I saw this as an opportunity to act as a role model myself," Chrabasz said.

Second Mile is a non-profit organization founded two years ago by Gerald Sandusky, the defensive coordinator of the football team, who said a majority of University volunteers are members of athletic teams.

There are 85 young people and 70 University friends in the program. The children range from 6- to 17-years-old, he said.

Kids in the program are referred to Second Mile by school counselors and parents who feel their child will benefit from the program, Raykovitz said.

Program activities include pizza parties, hay rides, ice skating, movies and holiday parties, Small said.

The Friend Program promotes group activities because college students cannot always meet on a one-to-one basis with their friend, Raykovitz said.

If a close friendship between a young person and a college friend develops, the friendship is encouraged, Raykovitz said.

Parents usually note an increased level of confidence in their children and feelings of acceptance by their peers, he said.

Kidney patients: Apartments to offer medical care

By ANTHONY NEWMAN
Collegian Staff Writer

An apartment building under construction in State College may give students with kidney ailments a chance to study away from home while providing the medical care they need.

John McQueary, administrator of Internal Medicine Associates, said the second floor of a building under construction at the corner of Pugh Street and East Foster Avenue will house kidney dialysis facilities and a dining hall to provide for the special dietary needs of kidney failure victims.

"The plan is to have two floors of students in . . . two to three years — about 28 to 30 students," McQueary said. "Beyond that, we would like to think we could eventually occupy the whole building."

The second floor will include a kitchen and will be staffed by a dietitian and other health-care professionals to assist students on dialysis, although McQueary said he hopes students will begin to assume responsibility for their own treatment.

"There are many students who may not be as inclined to go away to college at an institution such as Penn State because they're afraid there are not adequate health care services for their specific diseases — dialysis machines, and so on," McQueary said.

"We would hope that given the area, given the University's quality, given the medical care facilities and the kind of professional help we have, we would make the student/patient more inclined to go away to college," he added.

Dr. Jonathon Dranov, a State College nephrologist, said

a goal of the project is to increase the independence of the student/patient.

"At that age, when they're going through adolescence and should be breaking away from the nest the way everybody who's healthy does," Dranov said, "(we) want to help (student/patients) along, teach them how to manage themselves and not rely on their mother and father to fix their meals or provide their treatments."

McQueary and Dranov agreed that another goal of the program is to help parents see that their children can take care of themselves.

"Their parents tend to overcare for them, so (the children) never get a chance to go on their own and experience all the hassles, trials and tribulations of going to college, which is part of the education," McQueary said.

Dranov said student/patients will pay the same rent as other tenants in the building. Food and dialysis costs will be covered by health insurance, which Dranov said "they'd be paying no matter where they lived."

Kidney failure, or in-stage renal disease, is a gradual inability of the kidneys to filter potentially harmful substances from the blood, Dranov said.

In dialysis, blood is cleaned artificially by one of two methods, Dranov said. The first method, hemodialysis, is used by more than half of all renal disease victims, he said.

Blood is drawn from the body and passed through a filtering device composed of cellophane envelopes. The envelopes allow the exchange of certain substances between the patient's blood and the dialysis machine. Blood is then returned to the patient.

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Alumni Men's Basketball Game, 8 p.m., Rec Hall

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Atlantic 10 Women's Tennis Championship, 9:30 a.m., Tennis Club
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