

Dallas Township volunteer parent aides

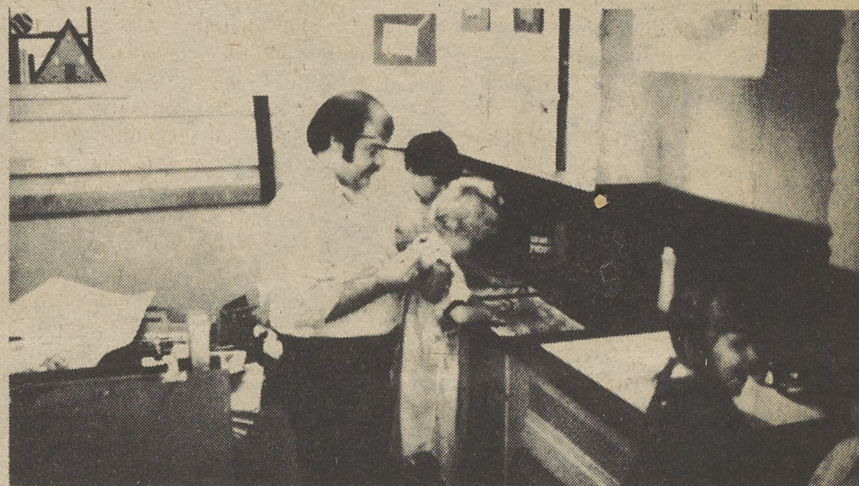
Volunteer aides are providing valuable services in several district schools. Parents at the Dallas Elementary, Dallas Township Elementary, and Dallas Intermediate schools have shared their time and talents to help improve the instructional program.

Mrs. Ann Marie Niznik is coordinator of the program at the Dallas Township school. Mrs. Niznik is presently coordinating the efforts of 20 parent volunteers.

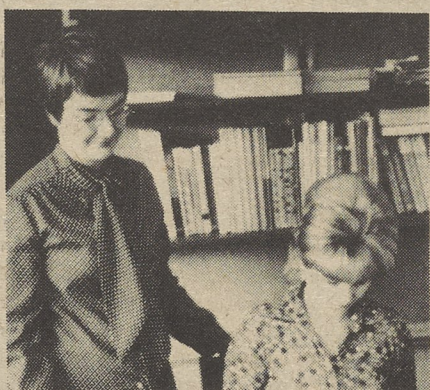
At the Dallas Elementary School Mrs. Mary Lou Swingle coordinates more than 20 volunteer aides and 10 substitutes. Two training sessions were held for aides by Dallas elementary teachers.

In all cases teachers have commended the parent aides for their consistent attendance and useful assistance.

The volunteer aide program developed from interest expressed by both teachers and parents. Parents who wanted to be more involved in their children's school were scheduled to work with teachers needing assistance with a specific project at that time. This initial interest and rather simple beginning has grown into a program where parents provide a multitude of varied and valuable services for teachers and children. This program has opened lines of communication among students, parents and teachers. It also provided parents a greater opportunity to take an active part in the educational process of the Dallas School District. From the positive reactions that are being generated by the program, it is evident that everyone who participated in it benefits greatly, especially the students.



Giving Kindergarten students the opportunity to express their ideas in paint can be fun, especially when a courageous father by the name of Dave Morris is willing to assist the students with this activity.



Mrs. Beverly Bunney, third-grade teacher, offers direction to Mrs. Doris Ide, volunteer parent aide.



Mrs. Susan Urbanas is assisting Miss Cohen by checking some of the student's workbooks.

Smoking clinic

The Surgeon General's Advisory Committee Report declared smoking a major health hazard and cause for national concern. Despite the constant warnings from the Public Health Service, American Cancer Society, National Heart Association, and many others—some forty-nine million Americans still smoke.

Dallas schools joined the fight in 1974, when Mr. Edgar Hughes, Assistant Principal of the senior high school, drew up for presentation to the School Board, one of the first anti-smoking clinics in operation in any local school.

The anti-smoking clinic was accepted by the Board of Education, and since its inception, has provided a meaningful learning program. Students caught smoking in school are required to spend five one-hour after school sessions under

the capable direction of Mr. Joseph Rakshys, Clinic Director.

The goal is to allow the student smokers an opportunity to seriously study their habit in relation to the facts presented. Hopefully the students will either give up smoking or reduce their smoking to safer levels, and in acceptable locations. These young people need the encouragement and support of their families, as well as of the school and the many health oriented agencies. Staff members have been pleased that several students completing the clinic have reported giving up smoking and others are making serious attempts to do so. An honest attempt has been made to face the smoking issue with a positive approach—that adds greatly to our overall educational program at Dallas Senior High School. Your help is needed and your suggestions are welcome for dealing with smoking problems among students.

The innovative group counseling program at the Dallas Junior High School is presently in its fourth year of operation. Thomas Carr and Gordon Schlier, the guidance counselors, are presently conducting group counseling sessions with eight different groups, and additional groups will be formed the second semester. The students in these groups are volunteers. Youngsters meet in groups composed of 8 to 10 members, one period a week, for approximately 8 to 12 weeks. According to John F. Rosser, principal of the Dallas Junior High School, approximately 300 students in Grades 8 and 9 have volunteered to participate in group counseling this year, which is an indication of how well this program has been received by the students.

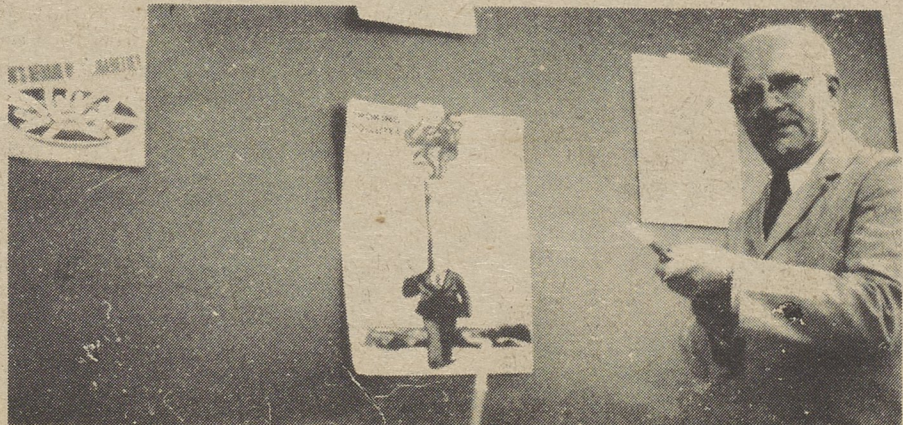
The objectives of counseling in the Dallas Junior High School, whether individual or group, are to assist the individual in evaluating and understanding himself and to assist him in developing his abilities to make his own decisions wisely and to solve problems independently. Counseling is for all students and not just for the ones with problems. Even the high-achieving ones need guidance in acquiring an understanding of their talents, aptitudes, and potentialities. The group counseling program provides an opportunity for the counselor to meet with students and to

work more intensively with them over a longer period of time, and many students find it easier to discuss their thoughts and feelings in groups than in individual counseling.

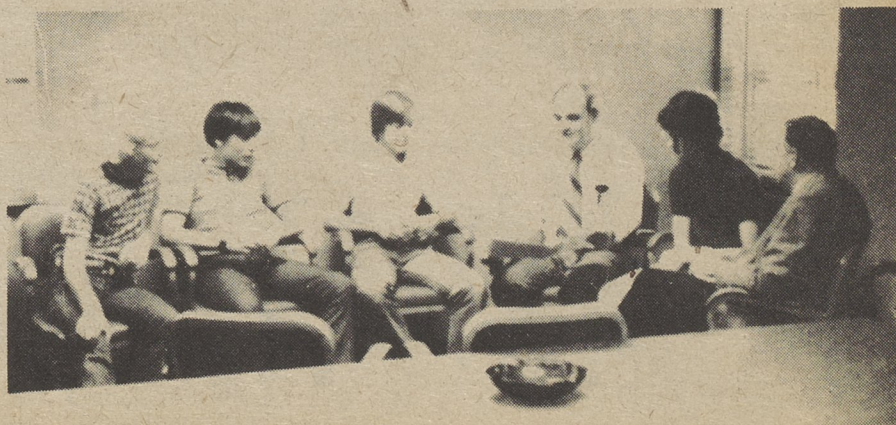
Some examples of topics that are covered in group counseling sessions are school adjustment, achievement, and relationships with peers, teachers, and parents. In the group sessions, the counselor acts as the facilitator or leader. The students themselves many times indicate what they wish to talk about and the discussion is allowed to develop naturally, focusing upon ways they can take more effective action in their own lives by learning or unlearning certain attitudes and behaviours.

In summary, group counseling in the Dallas Junior High School is an educational process that develops decision-making skills and facilitates in the students a deeper self-understanding and an acceptance of their own and other people's behavior.

Dr. Benjamin Cohn, a nationally known group counseling consultant, assisted the counselors in the organization and development of the present program that now serves as a model for other junior high schools than plan to initiate group counseling. Federal funds received under ESEA Title III were used to organize, implement, and document this program.



Mr. Joseph Rakshys, smoking clinic instructor, uses apparatus to demonstrate the hazards of smoking.



Junior high school students discuss group counseling program with counselors, Mr. Gordon Schlier, far right, and Mr. Thomas Carr, third from right.