



Dallas Post/Charlot M. Denmon

Children gather

Back Mountain children taking therapy at Wyoming Valley Children's Association at one of the sessions last week were, from left, Joshua Sutton, his grandmother, Mrs. Jacqueline O'Brien, Mrs. Theresa Gwilliam, volunteer program coordinator, with Raggedy Ann, used in presentations; Joshua Link and Cori Gwilliam.

'Kids Come in Special Flavors'

Handicap awareness program helps outsiders to understand

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Correspondent

"Kids Come in Special Flavors" is a handicap awareness program that has been renewed by staff and volunteer members of the Wyoming Valley Children's Association.

The program, which was first introduced two years ago by two staff members of the Association, is aimed at fostering outsiders understanding of the handicapped children by having them "walk a mile in someone else's moccasins."

Just as ice cream is basically the same but comes in different flavors, representatives of the Wyoming Valley Children's Association share that same philosophy by promoting the fact that people are basically the same but each one unique.

Mrs. Theresa Gwilliam of Harveys Lake and other volunteers have presented the program to more than 200 groups since it has been renewed several months ago. Most of their demonstrations have been before Brownie Troops and other youth organizations, for the most part ranging in age from six to nine years of age.

When Ellen Bujnowski and Bonnie Margo, members of the Association's staff, initiated the program "Kids Come in Special Flavors" two years ago when the demand for their appearance before groups became so overwhelming that they had to drop the program due to lack of time.

Mrs. Gwilliam, who has a young daughter, Cori, with a hearing and speech handicap, became involved after speaking at a school with the Wyoming Valley Children's Association's Program Director, Sue Janos. She heard about the former "Kids" program and expressed an interest in reviving it.

No sooner said than her offer was accepted and soon Mrs. Gwilliam and a core of volunteers began to present the program. Their aim is to create an awareness among the members of the audience that the handicapped children are different but alike just as flavors of ice cream are different but basically alike.

They do not lecture, but present an audience participation program whereby the members of the audience take part in such exercises as trying to transpose Braille, try to hear what one of the volunteers are saying when they turn their back on the children and whisper rather than speak aloud directly to them. The volunteers also let members of the

audience put on braces to learn what it is like to walk with them on, to hold their tongue against the roof of their mouth and try to speak distinctly and also how to sit in and operate a wheelchair.

Through these various exercises those children without handicaps learn that the handicapped children, although unique in some respects, are basically the same as their peers.

Children in the audience are also given a kit of written projects originated and put together by the volunteers which shares such information with them as things they couldn't do if blind, or how to communicate with others if deaf. The audience participants also learn how to read lips, or how to use sign language, how to use the Braille chart, how to use walkers, crutches or man-made feet or arms. They are also taught what it is like to have a learning problem and how it can be corrected.

The bottom line of each program is to teach the children without handicaps to realize that the handicapped child is basically the same as they are and that they want to be treated the same.

Usually, four volunteers go to each group appearance in order to cover the physically handicapped — blindness, hearing, mental retardation and dyslexia (seeing things in reverse). The members of the Association hope by making more children aware of the handicapped, the handicapped or disabled children can better reach their potential.

The Wyoming Valley Children's Association (formerly the Wyoming Valley Crippled Children) founded in 1924, has a therapy program and a pre-school program, both provided five days a week. There are all degrees of disability and the children attend the pre-school or have therapy according to their needs.

Theresa Gwilliam, as coordinator of the program, is in charge of all publicity, and all literature pertaining to the "Kids Come in Special Flavors" program. Nancy Dorzinsky and Alexias Edwards are the core members of the group. As an R.N., Theresa is familiar with handicaps and when her daughter, Cori, returned to her home two and a half years ago, after spending two and a half years as a patient in a hospital, Theresa became involved in the Wyoming Valley Children's Association. Cori's hearing disability is now normal with the use of a hearing aid and is learning to speak through therapy.

She also attends the pre-school classes.

The Association is presently contacting the colleges for volunteers for their program and will welcome any students who are interested.

Annual Cancer Crusade will begin

Volunteers who knock on Wyoming Valley doors during the Annual Cancer Crusade held in April will be intent on saving lives as well as raising funds.

They will offer to every resident a pamphlet entitled "Eating to Live,"

which discusses what food may help reduce the risk of cancer.

Dates for the door-to-door phase of the Annual drive are April 17 through April 28. However, prior to that time, the volunteers must be recruited and trained.

The Residential Unit is in need of captains and neighborhood crusaders. If you can spare a few hours to help save lives, please call your local American Cancer Society at 825-7763.

Officials

(Continued from page 1)

of Kingston Township and that project would take another several years. He said he strongly recommended approval of the drainage project since the developer recently applied for two new building permits.

Zincavage said he thought the supervisors should table the agreement pending further evaluation by the supervisors, but Planning Commission representative John Filip said that the stipulated state limitation of 60 days is now up, and Woodridge Associates would be given approval under the state regulations regardless of the supervisors action.

Thomas Adams then moved to accept the agreement which was seconded by Charles Cigarski and the agreement was accepted unanimously by the three supervisors.

Evans then presented a proposed agreement relative to the Woodridge project's road maintenance and stated that a recommendation from PennDOT said the township would be reimbursed from the liquid fuel funds if it maintained the development's roads.

Despite Filip's report that the roads were acceptable for taking over by the township, Zincavage again expressed concern over the stipulations of the proposed resolution and stood fast on tabling the issue for further study.

A proposal submitted to Solicitor Evans by Township Tax Collector Jacqueline Latosek to deposit tax revenue in a savings account in First Eastern Bank where the money could earn interest was questioned as to its legality by Evans.

He told Mrs. Latosek he appreciated that she wanted to earn additional revenue through interest on the funds, but he wanted time to

research the validity of such an account since the tax monies deposited include township, county and school district funds and earned interest would be on all three.

Police Chief Donald Jones reported that during the past month, there were two accidents, four arrests and 26 complaints answered by the police department.

Jones also said that three months ago, the supervisors agreed on a request to purchase a new police cruiser through a state program. Jones said since that time, he has checked on the status of the state program and learned that the state is in litigation with its supplier and the future of such a program is uncertain.

Jones recommended that the supervisors advertise for bids on a 1986 vehicle from local dealers using the state police specifications with a few minor changes suggested by the township police. The board unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the secretary to advertise the bids for a 1986 vehicle as soon as possible.

Chairman Zincavage reported that since the February meeting the bidder on the 1974 township truck has increased his bid from \$1800 to \$3,000. Evans recommended that they accept the \$3,000 and transfer the truck to the bidder upon receipt of the check in the amount of \$3,000.

John Filip told the supervisors that residents of Sutton Hill development requested the township accept full responsibility for maintenance of the development roads and other facilities. Chairman Zincavage asked Filip to submit a letter to the supervisors explaining specifically the requests of Sutton Hills residents.

Eddie Turchin, 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Turchin, Zbick Road, Jackson Township, attended the meeting in order to meet one of the requirements for a Citizenship Boy Scout Merit Badge.

Eddie is a second year member of the Boy Scouts and is working on the requirements to obtain the rank of Eagle Scout.

The sixth grade Lake-Lehman student's achievement is exceptional due to the fact that he is within two merit badges of obtaining Eagle Scout while recovering from a serious illness. Eddie underwent surgery for a brain tumor in 1982 and his Boy Scout achievement is a major part of his comeback following major surgery.

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Kanjorski

(Continued from page 1)
"We have begun to turn it around and we are now beginning to thrive. Following his early morning speech, he also made announcements at Hazleton City Hall, the Wise-Borden plant in Berwick and at the Paxinos cogeneration facility

in Shamokin. Kanjorski sits on the the committee of House Veterans Affairs, and the Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee in addition to the Democratic and Steering Committee.

— JOHN HOINSKI

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