

# FAMILY FOCUS

NEWS FROM WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER



Volume 4, Number 1

832-3256

Winter 1993



**WEATHER OR NOT** — Mitch Leiter from Mid-Michigan Alliance talks about winter home weatherization to families at the September Family Day.



**SHAKE IT OUT** — Youth in the Summer Program get fit with "Up with Life" counselors from the Dow Chemical Co.

## 1992 was a banner year for WMFC programs

By Lisa Panepento

If 1992 had a theme at West Midland Family Center, it was certainly one of new growth and challenges for everyone.

Many new programs began, with enthusiastic response and support. These new programs illustrate the continued mission of WMFC to provide high-quality educational, social and recreational programs for western Midland County residents.

A highlight of the past year clearly would be the Summer Program, which was paid for in part by a Venture Grant from the United Way to provide literacy-based activities in conjunction with the many typical recreational programs that have taken place in the past. Approximately 150 children ages 4 to 14 years registered for the six-week program which offered tutoring, a reading contest, crafts, learning about health and fitness,

field trips and a variety of kids' clubs, in addition to many of the fun outdoor activities you'd expect to find in the summer!

A new year of Preschool has gotten under way, with 36 "at-risk" four-year-olds receiving daily classroom learning and playing opportunities. These educational experiences will help these children develop the skills necessary to succeed in school, at a time which is so critical in their development.

Our adult recreational programs are going strong, with more than 40 women competing in the volleyball league, and 128 men playing in the basketball leagues. Needless to say, the gym is a very busy place!

Several special Holiday events took place at WMFC which attracted much attention from local families. In April, the Easter Eggstravaganza provided 150 children

and their parents with a carnival-like atmosphere to celebrate Easter.

In October, the WMFC Haunted House was a smashing success, with over 300 people daring to take the "Fright Walk" and another 150 participating in the "Lil' Goblins Party."

The Family Power Network, a group of related human services agencies, sponsored three Family Days at WMFC during the recent fall months. In September, Mid-Michigan Alliance provided families with home weatherization tips, while in October, Red Cross and Midland-Gladwin Mental Health officials spoke about home safety and first aid. In November, Michigan State Cooperative Extension Service offered shopping and "penny-pinching" advice.

A special thanks goes to Midland Kiwanis, Department of So-

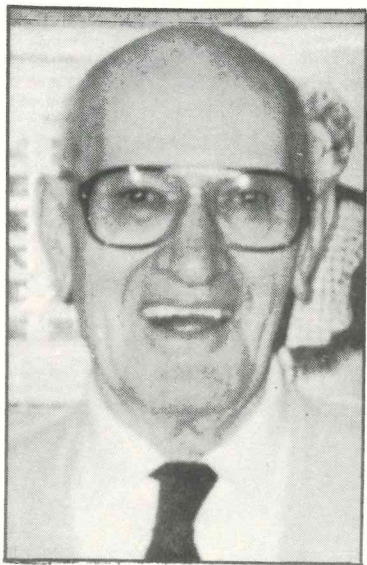
cial Services, Church Women United and the previously mentioned agencies for all their help with these events. More than 60 families total attended the Family Days in 1992, and more are planned for the coming year.

The beloved senior citizens who enjoy daily meals at WMFC through the Council on Aging were treated to many special musical entertainers, as well as a Humanities and Creative Writing Class, exercise classes and many other daily activities. Any Midland County resident age 60 and over is invited to join in the many opportunities taking place here.

It is obvious that WMFC continues to grow and stretch, and we owe a deep thanks to everyone who supported us through the great year of 1992. We look forward to continued development in 1993, and beyond.

**Achievement Awards Banquet is April 18, see page 4**





## Retiring with honors

Retiring board members, from left to right, Laurance Wyman and Roland Weaver, have been elected honorary board members for their dedication and commitment to the mission of West Midland Family Center. Both Weaver and Wyman have served on the board continuously since 1975. The present board, staff and patrons of the center will miss them both.

## The president's corner

### From the President:

We have written in the past about the important part that foundations, organizations and individual donors have played in getting West Midland Family Center to where we are in the new center.

Likewise, we are perpetually reminded of the importance of the individual volunteers and staff in keeping the programs and operations at top effectiveness.

In this issue of Family Focus I want to give recognition to the Board of Directors, who fill a vital behind-the-scenes role.

We are pleased to announce that our two retiring directors, Mssrs. Laurance Wyman and Roland Weaver, have been awarded the rank of Honorary Board Member. Both Wyman and Weaver have served most of the 19 years the center has operated. They are the first two directors in the center's history to be singled out for Honorary Board Member status.

The remaining directors — Mrs. Linda Kellogg, Mrssrs. Chuck Norisez, Jim Le Viere, Jim LaBean, Richard Furlow, Jim Burlingame and Ralph E. Wirtz — also deserve special thanks for the valuable and dedicated service!

They, along with committee members, give knowledge and leadership, invaluable to the present and long-term direction of WMFC. This encompasses and embraces the education, recreation and social needs of the West Midland community.

Together we make a winning team!

Thanks to all  
Win Zacharias

## WMFC 'Wish List'

The following is a partial wish list made available for any group, organization or individual wanting to make a directed contribution for a current, unmet need. Costs are estimated.

Picnic pavilion	\$15,000
Automatic front door opener.....	5,000
Laser printer .....	2,500
Activity room remodeling project.....	3,500
Youth incentive prizes .....	1,500
Complete pole barn project .....	1,200
Youth summer program supplies .....	1,000
Reading specialist coordinator.....	750
Restock bookworm buddy bags .....	500
Portable fold-up display.....	450
Permanent bulletin board/case.....	350
Field trip scholarships.....	250
Literacy project club supplies .....	200

### USED ITEMS NEEDED

Overhead projector  
Outdoor Christmas tree lights  
Fitness room scale  
Parking lot brooms  
20 feet scaffolding  
Broken hockey sticks



**NEW BOARD** — Meet your board. These people have accepted and have been elected to the Board of Directors for 1993. They are, from left to right, Chuck Norisez, Joe Vanderkelen, Jim LeViere, Jim Burlingame, Ralph E. Wirtz, Richard Furlow, Joe Dufort, Jim La Bean, Linda Kellogg and Win Zacharias. Zacharias, it should be mentioned, stepped down this year after serving for five years as board president. He remains vice president and is on numerous committees.

## WMFC directors, staff

### Board of Directors

President.....	Ralph E. Wirtz
Vice Pres. ....	Win Zacharias
Secretary .....	Chuck Norisez
Treasurer .....	Richard Furlow
Trustees .....	Linda Kellogg
.....	Jim La Bean
.....	James LeViere
.....	Jim Burlingame
.....	Orrin Barrett
.....	Joe Dufort
.....	Joe Vanderkelen

### West Midland Family Center Staff

Exec. Dir.....	Greg Dorrien
Prog. Dir. ....	Lisa Panepento
Off. Mang. ....	Kahren O'Brien
Youth Dir.....	Jamie Smith
Maint. Sr.....	Gerald Burkett
Bldg Sr.....	Diane Dauer
Fam. Dir. ....	Gail Crosby
Rept./Sec. ....	Judy Wirtz
EAL Prog.....	Mike Ritt



# MISSION

The Mission of West Midland Family Center is to enhance the quality of life for area residents of all ages by providing facilities, programs and activities which:

- Stimulate Lifelong Learning
- Encourage Wholesome Social Interaction
- Create Recreational Opportunities

Thereby developing a sense of individual worth . . . and strengthening the family unit.

**WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER**



	<u>1992 GOALS</u>	<u>1992 RESULTS</u>	<u>1993 GOALS</u>
<b>YOUTH</b>	Expand literacy component throughout the summer program	Enrolled a record 192 students and received unanimous support for program continuation	Sponsor youth reading contests; develop and implement "Fit Kids" exercise program
<b>TEENS</b>	Begin accepting students annually for the college opportunity program	Accepted eighth graders starting school year 1992-93	Enroll first group of 22 EAL college opportunity program students in colleges across the nation
<b>ADULTS</b>	Develop and implement "Life Skills" program for young mothers	Developed and implemented two programs, Family Power Network and Building Strong Families, with 25 families each.	Develop a scholarship program for graduate level students from our EAL program
<b>SENIORS</b>	Involve senior citizens in the preschool program	Implemented "Read to Me" program for five senior citizens	Provide expanded opportunities for recreation with field trips, classes and tournaments
<b>OVERALL</b>	Develop a wider base of financial support	Implemented an Endowment Drive. Received more than \$100,000 in new endowment funds and received a 3-to-2 challenge grant with a maximum payout of \$600,000 over the next five years.	Increase total center usage by 5 percent

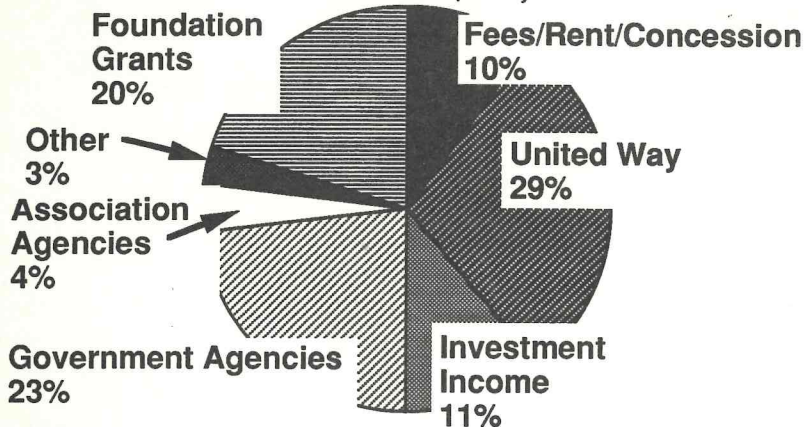


# WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER

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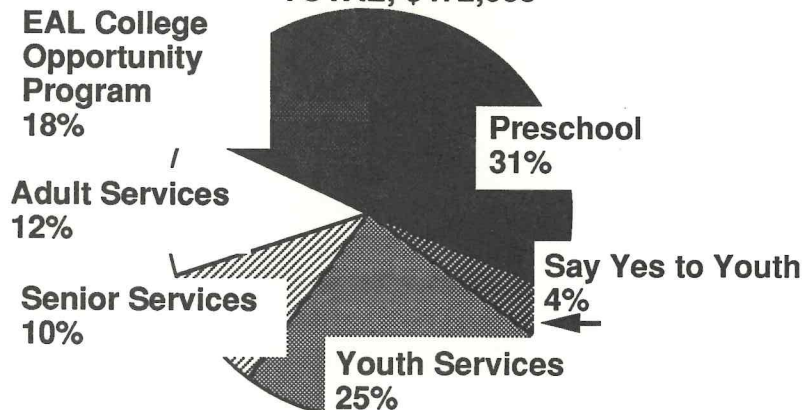
## 1992 Income TOTAL: \$475,576



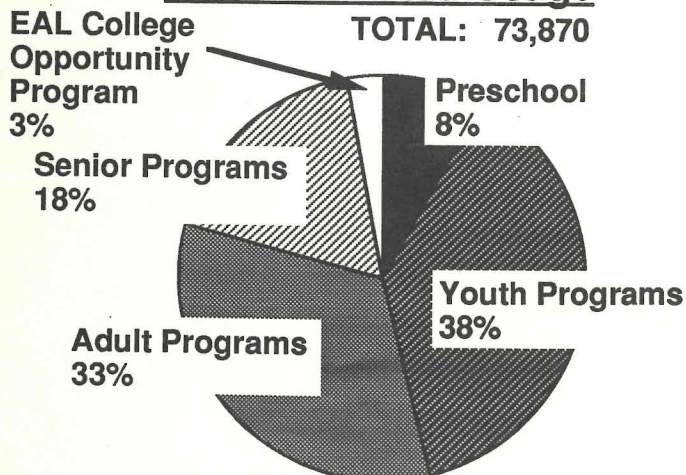
## 1992 OPERATING BUDGET

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**  
(UNAUDITED)

## PROGRAM 1992 EXPENSES TOTAL: \$472,633



## 1992 Estimated Usage TOTAL: 73,870



## VOLUNTEER GOODS & SERVICES

	Market Rate
Volunteer Hours	\$178,500
Donated Goods & Services	\$226,500
<b>TOTAL WORTH</b>	<b>\$405,000</b>





**GETTING A RIDE** — Martha LaVack, preschool bus aide, gets ready to board the van with some of the WMFC's preschoolers: Cara Gilmore, Amanda O'Dell, Justin Dietrich, Lance Kessinger and Amber Hale.

## Midland Foundation, WMFC Auxiliary make travel easier

By Greg Dorrien

The Midland Foundation and the West Midland Family Center's Auxiliary teamed up to provide funding for our new 15-passenger van.

The Midland Foundation provided \$5,000 and the Auxiliary \$1,000.

"The van has been a tremendous help in providing service to our preschoolers," said Gail Crosby, preschool coordinator. "Last year we had to use our old school bus and many times it was not up to the task. This year the kids get to school every day!"

The youth program also has made good use of the van by attending the Midland County Fair, the Midland Roll-Arena and Detroit Pistons basketball games.

"Most of the kids that attend these field trips would have no other way of ever getting to these recreation events if it wasn't for the

center providing transportation," said Recreation Director Jamie Smith. "But, what I'm really going to like about the van is next summer when the bus is full on our large field trips. I'm not going to have to tell as many kids you can't go. We'll have an additional 14 spaces now that is going to make for 14 more happy campers."

WMFC would like to personally thank Gene Arnold, Eileen Starks, Ginny Morrison and all of our other supporters at the Midland Foundation for making these education and recreational opportunities available.

Thanks, again and again, goes to the Auxiliary's Chuck Norisz, Donna Hackett and our faithful Bingo volunteers for their continuing contributions. In 1992, the Auxiliary volunteers gave more than \$27,000 to the center for operations and special projects.

## Volunteers can aid Summer Program

Believe it or not, the 1993 Summer program is just around the corner, and WMFC staff already is planning the six-week session that starts in late June. Last year's program inspired a host of new activities including tutoring, kids' clubs, Health Olympics, a reading contest and special theme days.

We already are looking for volunteers who are willing to give some time this summer to work with youth ages 4-14 in a wide variety of areas, from tutors to recreational staff.

Volunteers can help our program by donating as little as one to as many as 20 hours a week this summer. If you have a special interest or skill that you'd like to share, please contact Lisa Panepento.

## Leo's Archery league winner

Leo's Archery won the Women's Volleyball League this year with a perfect 10-0 record. Manager Pam Wolfgang led the team of Roxanna Stevens, Theresa Pobocik, Vicki Strouse, Cheryl Wheeler, Anita Bennett and Penny Johnson to their third league championship in four years.

On Jan. 11, the following players competed in the All-Star games. Congratulations to: Vicki

Strouse, Penny Johnson, Anita Bennett, Cheryl Wheeler, Mary Neuhaus, Dawn Little, Wendy Decker, Margie Mettert, Abbey Finney, Roxanne Bradfield, Lorie Carl, Jackie Cassidy, Lisa Panepento, Gail Crosby, Judy Wirtz, Wyndy Johnson, Denise Shuler, Kandy Messersmith, Terri Cassidy, Shawnee Maier, Bonnie Starks, Kathy Lunsford, Karen Leath and Trudi Luckett.



**GIFTS AHOY!** — Sharing Tree volunteers Brenda Norris, left, and Diane Dauer sort some of the 536 gifts that were distributed through WMFC to area residents.

## Christmas was a time for giving at WMFC

Midland County residents opened their hearts and pocketbooks to make sure everyone had a present under the tree this year.

"The Sharing Tree program once again made the largest impact for the sheer number of recipients," WMFC Executive Director Greg Dorrien said.

Of the \$11,000 in presents distributed through the center, \$8,000 worth came through Sharing Tree, a program run by the Voluntary Action Center, a United Way agency.

"This is the first year I can remember that when Christmas rolled around we didn't have anyone on a holiday waiting list," said long-time WMFC employee Diane Dauer. "The difference this year was all the additional contributions that came in after the Sharing Tree deadline passed."

The gifts were as widely varied

as the groups and individuals that gave them," Dorrien added. "Like the Chamber of Commerce, they let us collect used children's clothes at their annual holiday open house and instead of used clothes we received almost all new clothes, toys and even a \$100 cash donation from John and Judy Rapanos."

"Gifts were showing up from all sorts of sources — Christmas trees from the Midland Jaycees, bags of food and clothes from Cub Scout Troop Nr. 3703, the Midland Daily News, Regis Styling Salon, Greendale Happy Diners and even the center received a present — a Communitree from the Midland Target store," Dauer said. "The list goes on and on."

When asked if he expects the same outpouring of support for those less fortunate next year, Dorrien said. "I hope there won't be as much need as there was this year."

Don't we all.



April is  
Volunteer  
Month!

# Achievement Award Banquet Sunday, April 18

Mark your  
calendar!

We want everyone who has volunteered or supported the West Midland Family Center in some way during the past year to attend the banquet. At that time, we also will honor individuals who demonstrated exceptional commitment to WMFC. The awards include:

Orrin Barrett Volunteer of the Year Award  
Phyllis Breedlove Friend of the Center Award  
Youth Volunteer of the Year Award

Nominations for these awards have been completed by our users, volunteers and staff and WMFC's Activities Committee will select the winner for each category. Please RSVP at 832-3256 for yourself and one guest maximum by April 2.



## Calendar of Events

Greendale Happy Diners Valentine's Day Party .....	Feb. 11
Co-ed Volleyball League starts .....	Feb. 15
Cake decorating class starts .....	Feb. 17
Free tax preparation assistance .....	Feb 20, March 20, April 3
Youth dance (Grades 2-6) .....	Feb. 23
Immunizations offered .....	Feb. 24, March 24, April 28
Spring building hours start .....	March 1
All-star basketball games .....	March 2-3
Preschool reunion .....	March 24
Just Do It casino night .....	March 26
Family Easter Egg-stravaganza .....	April 10
Kindergarten round-up .....	April 12-14
Volunteer Appreciation Dinner .....	April 18

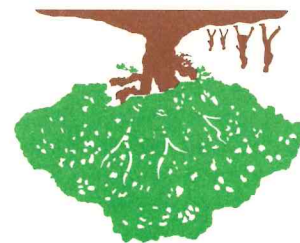
## A thanks to our donors

The Board of Directors and staff would like to thank all of the following individuals and organizations for their recent support:

1993 United Way allocation .....	\$146,000
West Midland Auxiliary .....	8,500
Paul Orefice .....	6,250
West Midland Auxiliary (Special Projects) .....	5,500
Midland Foundation .....	5,000
Charles Strosacker Foundation .....	2,500
Sunrise Optimists Club .....	2,240
Kiwanis Foundation .....	1,380
Midland Jaycees .....	665
Greendale Packers .....	209
Charles Infante .....	200
Midland Kiwanis Club .....	158
TOPS Michigan Nr. 1171 .....	50
Leah Sirrine Adams & James Adams .....	50
Jack & Betty Rogers .....	25

### Phyllis Breedlove Helping Hand Fund Donors

Phyllis Breedlove .....	\$750
John & Judy Rapanos .....	100
Gene Engle .....	100
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Bergstein .....	25



Non-profit organization

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