

More Than 400 Participate in Summer Programs

More than 400 local children and teens participated in WMFC's various summer programs this year, a 25 percent increase over 1997. Even though the growth in the program's size is impressive, it's not what makes the program special and unique.

WMFC Executive Director Greg Dorrien said: "We don't want to provide just another playground program. Our goal is to ensure that the Center's summer programs are a rewarding and enriching experience for every child who spends time with us." Dorrien added, "Although we emphasize fun, the program is still an opportunity for each child to grow and learn to face new challenges."

This year's program was much more complex due to the addition of a second site at Floyd Elementary School. Kindergartners and first graders attended the Sunshines Program at the Center while the 'Sun'ational Summer and Teens In Training (T'NT) programs operated at Floyd.

Moving the largest part of the program to a new site created many challenges. The program required much additional planning, ranging from organization of shuttle transportation to and from home to preparing meals for hungry mouths out of two separate kitchens.

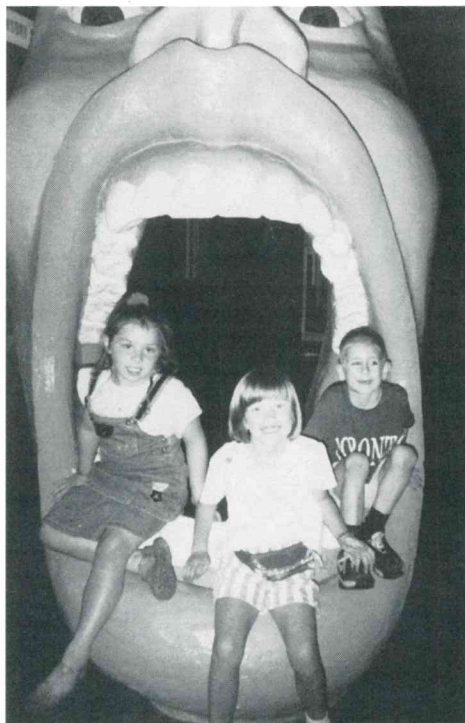
They say it takes a village to raise a child. Well, it takes the population of a small town to run our children's summer program. This year, WMFC's staff could not have accomplished their mission without the wonderful help and cooperation provided by local agencies.

The financial support needed to operate the various programs comes from many sources including the United Way, Hudson's, Strong Families/Safe Children, the Sunrise Optimist Club, the Bergstein Trust Fund and, of course, the many donations provided by parents.

As in the last two years, the Midland County Council on Aging provided breakfast and lunch to every child in the summer program. This summer they served 13,605 meals, or 41 percent more than last year's record total.

The program was also unique in the amount of support and help provided by the terrific staff of Floyd Elementary and Bullock Creek Schools. "Without Jim Anderson and the won-

derful folks at Floyd, we couldn't have handled the program growth we experienced this year," said Alan Oman, WMFC's Director of New Initiatives and Promotions. "They literally



Haleigh Harrison, Katie Day, and Robert Renig, all participants in this year's summer programs, take a break at a "Mick Jagger look alike" at the Impressions Five Children's Museum in Lansing. This was just one of many field trips enjoyed by more than 400 children who took part in WMFC's 1998 Summer Programs.

turned the school over to us for the summer. If it hadn't been for the generosity of Floyd's staff, I'm sure we would have been faced with long waiting lists this summer," added Oman.

But it wasn't just the building that Bullock Creek provided. School Title One funds were used to hire five teachers to support the summer program activities, and the school district gave the Center access to six school busses and drivers for use on shuttles and field trips. "Every time we made a request of the staff at Bullock Creek Schools, they came through for us," said Oman. "Each time we asked them for assistance, we were answered with the response 'we'd love to help... they're our kids too!'"

See Additional Pictures Page 2

The summer program also benefited from thousands of hours donated by the Center's many volunteers. Helpers from several other agencies volunteered to come out and make presentations or run clubs with summer program children. One of the greatest contributions came from the hard working Teens In Training members. This summer 43 teens each contributed many hours to making the program a success. From helping prepare meals to working as assistant club leaders, these middle and high school students always served as smiling and enthusiastic models for younger children to emulate.

Finally, none of the Center's programs and services would be possible without the hard work and dedication of the terrific WMFC staff. This summer, 50 Center staff members worked on the various summer programs. From bus drivers to club leaders, from receptionists to interns, everyone had a role to play and everyone contributed by putting smiles on young faces.

From Teen-in-Training to Board Member

All of the teenagers who volunteer at WMFC make valuable contributions, but one young woman has made an even greater commitment. Amber Phillips first got involved with WMFC when a teacher suggested she volunteer as a T'NT for the summer program. As she put it, "I got hooked." She returned for three more years before joining the staff this summer as team leader.

Phillips is also a member of the WMFC Board of Directors. She plans to be a teacher someday and says that her experience with the Sunational Summer Program has taught her the

Editor's note: This article was written by Sheila Fothergill of the United Way of Midland County and was first published in BY THE WAY, the United Way's summer newsletter.

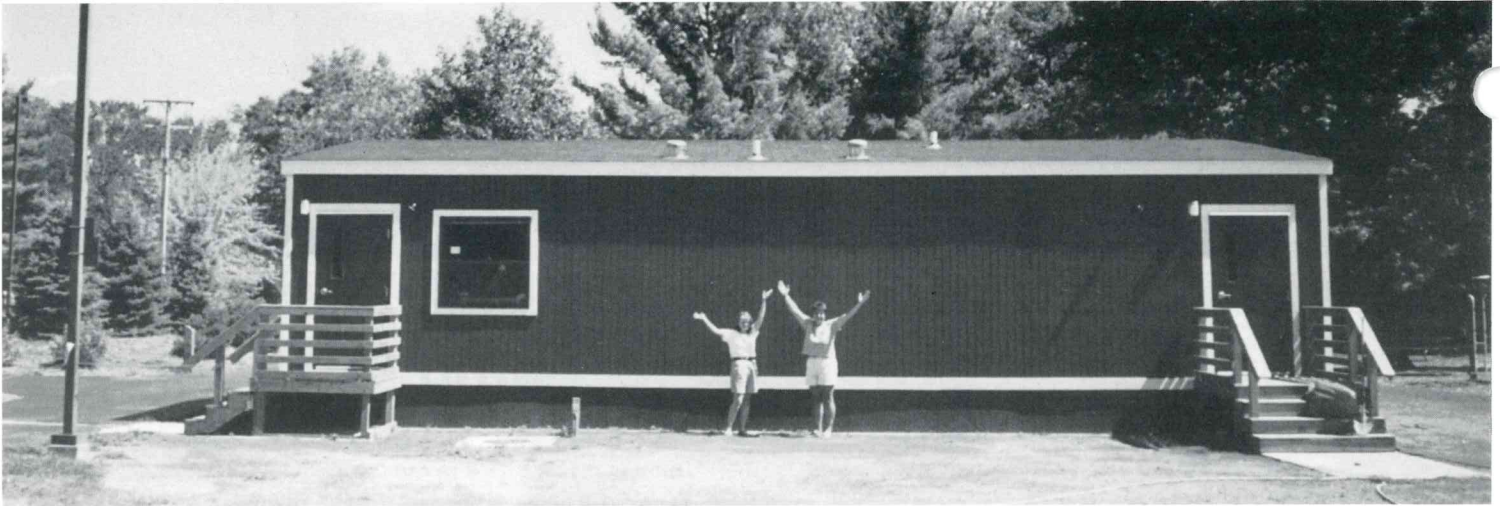


Amber Phillips and some of the new friends she made this summer.

PROGRAM GUIDE

The Fall Program Guide will be available at the WMFC front desk and at area schools in early October. For more information on WMFC programs and activities, please call the front desk at 832-3256.

New Modular Unit at WMFC Fills Urgent Needs



NEMCSA staffers Kim Hackett and Kathy Brown are happy to be a part the new Head Start preschool program located in the newly built modular classroom. Brown said, "We're very pleased to have a classroom at WMFC, and we are looking forward to working with all the staff and families at the Center." Anyone who has visited the Center this summer will have noticed the new modular unit. The building houses a preschool classroom, a family conference room, and an office for teachers and family support staff.

Summer "Pool" Was Full to Overflowing



The "pool" at WMFC was a favorite, if somewhat crowded spot during the long hot days of summer.

— Calendar of Events —

September 13Senior Sunday Meal	October 28.....Veterans' Employment Services (10:00 am-12:00 noon)
September 14Preschool Begins	October 28.....Health Department Immunizations (1:30-4:45 pm)
September 14 . . .Sharing Tree Registration Begins	October 31Halloween - No Bingo
September 23Veterans' Employment Services (10:00 am-12:00 noon)	November 3 Commodities Distribution (1:00-2:00 pm)
September 23 Health Department Immunizations (1:30-4:45 pm)	November 9 . .Dow COP Meijer Community Party (6:30 pm)
October 1.....Coed Volleyball League Manager's Meeting (6:30 pm)	November 9Blood Donation Drive (11:00am - 4:00 pm)
October 2Capable Kids Program Begins	November 10 . . .Adult Basketball League Begins
October 6 . .Commodities Distribution (1:00-2:00 pm)	November 11 Veterans' Counseling & Employment Services (10:00 am-12:00 noon)
October 6 . . .Head Start Parent Social (5:30-6:30 pm)	November 12W.I.C. Clinic (8:30 am-4:00 pm)
October 10Senior Sunday Meal	November 25Veterans' Employment Services (10:00 am-12:00 noon)
October 11Coed Volleyball League Begins	November 25 . .Health Department Immunizations (1:30-4:45 pm)
October 14.....Veterans' Counseling & Employment Services (10:00 am-12:00 noon)	November 26Building Closed to Regular Programming
October 15 . . .Sharing Tree Registration Deadline	November 26 .Second Annual Thanksgiving Dinner
October 20Basketball League Manager's Meeting (6:30 pm)	November 27 . . .Building Open - No Senior Meal
October 28Flu Vaccination Clinic (9:00 am-12:00 noon)	

WEST MIDLAND FAMILY CENTER

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	Bob Dostal
Vice President	Joe Du Fort
Secretary	Sue Thumma
Treasurer	Joe VanderKelen

Directors: Jim Anderson, Julie Arbury, Stephen Carras, Chuck Infante, Don Koster, Amber Phillips, Jo Ann Winchester

Advisors: Jim Burlingame, Gene Dauer, Dick Furlow, Tom Misner, Chuck Norisez, Roland Weaver, Win Zacharias

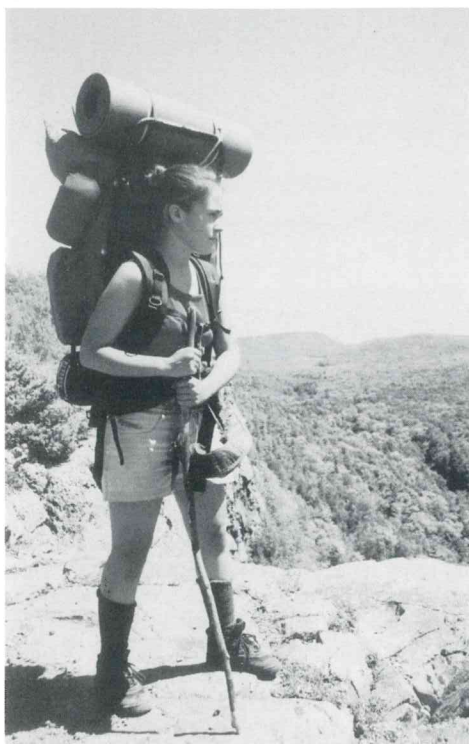
STAFF

Executive Director	Greg Dorrien
Program Director	Gail Crosby
New Initiative & Promotions Director . . .	Alan Oman
Office Manager	Becky Lampman
Office Supervisor	Diane DeMott
Receptionists: Teri Booth, Diane Dauer, Kathy Roberts	
Maintenance Director	Barry Lenski
Maintenance Staff: Gerald Burkett, Mike Kirby, Karen Leath	
Dow College Opportunities Director . . .	Tracy Meister
Dow Cop AmeriCorps Member	Scott Leslie
Youth & Teen Coordinator	Wyndy Johnson
Teen Program AmeriCorps Member . . .	Lisa Bonotto
Youth & Families Education Coord. . .	Renee Shauger
Youth Staff: Tom Berlin, Jody Cronkright, Nicole Gainforth, Anna Vogel, Stephanie Wirtz, Stacie Young	
Family Support Coordinator	Lois Burton
Family Support Assistant	Bridget Eveleth
Preschool Teacher	Elaine Fabinski
Preschool Teacher Assistant	Barb Simons
Preschool Aides	Missy Finney, Karen Hal'
Child Care Director:	Ginger Yarc
Child Care Aides: Connie Billings, Eileen Burch, Shannon Cottrell, Misty Dopp, Penny Owen, Nicole Schlese, Eva Searfoss, Fawn Wirtz.	
Senior's Program Staff	Sue Wells
Council On Aging Site Manager	Judy Wirtz

Dow College Opportunity Program Has Great Summer!

By ALISHA MITCHELL
DOW COP CLASS OF 1999

The Dow College Opportunity Program (OP) provides high school students with



Nicole Cornejo (Dow COP Class of 2001) enjoys the exhilarating view of the Porcupine Mountains.

exciting opportunities for travel, friendship, and fun while preparing them for college. Students interested in attending college are selected at the end of their eighth grade year from Bullock Creek, Coleman, Meridian, and Shepherd Middle Schools. Students selected for this year's class include Amber Anibal and Ashley McCann (Bullock Creek), Amy Haskin

(Coleman), Amy Neale, Damian Sanderson and Danielle Schaefer (Meridian), Kevin Smith (Shepherd), and Rachel Cook (Mt. Pleasant). These and other successful candidates participate in four years of group activities, academic support, cultural events, community service, and fundraising.

This summer the Dow COP students took part in a variety of trips and activities. The Class of 1999 began the summer trips with their college tour. The students visited the campuses of Hope College, University of Notre Dame, Carthage College (Wisconsin), Silver College (Wisconsin), and Northern Michigan University. They discovered what to look for in selecting a school: size, location, academic offerings, and facilities. They also learned more about the application and financial aid process. During this trip, the students enjoyed a Chicago Cubs game, putt-putt golf, and a day at the beach.

The Classes of 2000 and 2001, along with a few older students, went on a backpacking trip in the Porcupine Mountains. Although the trip was troubled with rain, curious bears, and a sprained ankle, all the students found the trip to be a learning experience and a fun adventure. Many of the backpackers discovered that they could achieve a lot more than they thought they could. They also learned how well they worked as a team.

In the final trip of the summer, the graduating Class of 1998 enjoyed a trip to Pennsylvania for white-water rafting, followed by an excursion into Canada for a couple of days at Niagara Falls and in Toronto.

In addition to the regularly scheduled summer trips for each class, six COP students spent a week at a Team Spirit Camp sponsored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). The trip to Traverse

City was made possible through support from the Kiwanis Club, Circle of Health Partnership and the Midland Sunrise Optimist Club. The students had a chance



Nathan Norris, Jennifer Reidlinger, and Tom Hauser, left to right, (Dow COP Class of 1998) provide the Captain of the Maid of the Mist with nautical advice as they sail beneath Niagara Falls.

to meet new people, learn more about how to positively influence their peers to choose an alcohol and drug free lifestyle... and have fun!

If you are a grade eight student interested in learning more about the College Opportunity Program, please contact Tracy Meister at 832-0959.

Literacy Council Services Now at West Midland

Hundreds of Midland County residents need to improve their reading skills. Some need help at work, or while they aid their kids with their homework.

Fortunately help is at hand. The Literacy Council of Midland County offers help to anyone to improve their skills in reading, writing, spelling, or basic math. Students meet one-on-one with volunteer tutors once or twice a week at convenient locations including WMFC.

For most adults who have difficulty reading, taking the first step in seeking help is always the hardest. The Literacy Council, a fellow United Way Agency, helps people by providing a safe non-threatening learning environment.

If you or someone you know could benefit from these services, call Lisa or Virginia at the Literacy Council at 839-0540. Tutoring services are free and always confidential.

1998 CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS

JANUARY - AUGUST

Organization	Amount		
State of Michigan	\$265,856	Sunrise Optimist Club	\$ 2,840
United Way of Midland County	\$115,500	Michigan 4C Association	\$ 2,680
Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation.....	\$ 20,000	Blessed Sacrament Church.....	\$ 2,000
West Midland Family Center Auxiliary	\$ 16,500	United Way Venture Grant	\$ 1,000
Vada B. Dow Trust	\$ 10,000	Stuart Bergstein Trust	\$ 1,000
The Midland Foundation	\$ 10,000	Midland Kiwanis Foundation	\$ 1,000
The Dow Chemical Foundation	\$ 10,000	First United Methodist Church.....	\$ 700
Children's Trust Fund.....	\$ 6,400	Bullock Creek H.S. Student Council.....	\$ 644
Homer Township	\$ 6,250	Westown Retirees	\$ 500
Midland County Child Protection Council ...	\$ 5,760	Child Care Concepts.....	\$ 450
Hudson's	\$ 3,400	Aldersgate United Methodist Church.....	\$ 139
Snow Machines Inc.	\$ 3,000	TOPS	\$ 130
Yost Enterprises	\$ 3,000	Homer United Methodist Women	\$ 100
		Chapter EP PEO Sisterhood	\$ 40

Individuals who have contributed:

Gene Anderson, Phyllis Breedlove, Dale & Rose Bursleson, Jim & Arlene Burlingame, Ruth & Bill Caldwell, Lois Craven, Wayne Crosby, Joe & Stacy Dostal, Dave Dunn, Eugene & Sandra Engle, Carl Garrison, Virginia Harlow, Jill Hartley, Kevin Hoerauf, Dana & Jodi Harrison, Vernon Harry, Charles Infante, John Jones, Ladonna Little, Gladys McRoberts, Tracy Meister, Elizabeth Minbiole, Alan & Julie Oman, Gary O'Neill, Mike & Noreen Parker, Walter & Joanne Rupprecht, Richard Shochdopole, Larry Sherwood, Jim Weaver, Jeanne Yost, Win Zacharias.

Creating Strong Families is Primary Goal of WMFC

Making new friends is never easy, but this summer many children overcame the barriers and made friends while having fun in our "Sun"ational Summer program. Due to the support of Midland County Family Coordinating Council that provided WMFC with a grant from the State's Strong Families/Safe Children funds, 80 additional families were able to participate.

Raising a family is said to be the most rewarding and challenging job a person will ever have. It's a tough enough job for any set of parents. Imagine being a single dad, raising three children and working full-time. Joe Spencer takes these challenges in stride along with his three children: Bailey, 10; Logan, 11; and A.J., 13. Thanks to the Strong Families/Safe Children program, all four of them were able to experience new rewards this summer.

For Joe, who found out about WMFC's summer activities through a contact with Family Support Coordinator Lois Burton, the Center's programs were a lifesaver. Each morning a WMFC vehicle picked up the three children in Midland and transported them to Floyd School for a nutritious breakfast provided by the Council on Aging.

Each morning the children participated in different activities and events which included environmental and science clubs, a camping club, a model rocketry group, and computer and reading time, to name just a few of the choices. In addition, most clubs and activities included an opportunity to practice reading, writing, and math skills through exercises and projects that teachers from Floyd School helped to design and deliver. After lunch (which was also provided by the MCCOA) the children enjoyed sports and games in the "Wacky Kids" club and were treated to shows and presentations.

Finally, each week included a special field trip, which for Bailey, Logan, and A.J. included a Lansing Lugnuts baseball game, swimming at



Bailey, Logan, A.J. and Joe Spencer. Everyone in the Spencer family benefited from the summer program offerings from WMFC in 1998.

Loomis Beach, and a trip to Michigan Adventure Amusement Park which Joe was also able to attend with his children.

At the end of each day, the Spencer children all boarded the vans and headed back home to share new stories and experiences with dad. While the emphasis in the summer program was on fun, the family also spent the summer learning and growing stronger. Each week Joe and the children participated in a "Family Ties" support group. At these sessions Joe took part in various parenting workshops and was able to share and discuss his own situation with other parents and group facilitators. While Joe was in class, the children usually went swimming at the Midland Community Center.

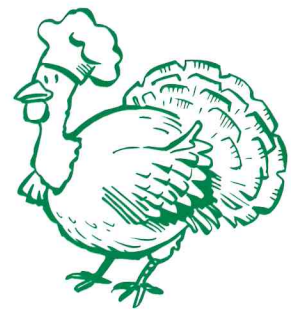
In addition to the Family Ties group, Bailey also participated in the six-week "What About Me, Too?" support group offered to 9-12 year olds in cooperation with Family and Children's

Services.

As the summer came to a close, the whole family packed their bags and participated in a three-day camp at the United Way's Camp Neyati. This family camp not only served as a family vacation for the Spencers, but was again an opportunity to gain new skills and learn new things. Bailey received her first make-over, Logan had his first sailing lessons, and A.J. learned how rewarding it can be to volunteer. He's set his sights on becoming a member of Teens In Training in 1999.

"For me, being a single parent and working forty hours a week, this was a fantastic program," said Joe. "The kids always came home from the program with smiles on their faces and were never bored all summer. They were able to do things that they would not normally have had the chance to do. I really can't say enough about the summer program. What the Center did for us was incredible," he added.

4



Join Us Thursday, November 26

**THANKSGIVING
DAY DINNER**

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