

Children Looking for Fresh Air

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What is a Fresh Air child?

Why are the green grass and cool country air part of a world he has never known?

A Fresh Air child is Samuel or Julie, eight years old, whose only playground is the city streets, whose world is bounded by the walls of tenements, and whose only knowledge of nature's seasons is the slush, wind and rain of winter and "dirty" steaming pavements upon which he plays in summer.

Samuel is the second oldest in a family of five children. His mother badly needs an operation, but there is no money. His father does not contribute to the family's support. They live on public assistance. Naturally, his mother is concerned about her family's welfare and hopes that Samuel and his next younger sister will be able to see a happier way of life by spending part of their summer with a family who lives in what they call the country.

Julie lives with her parents in a run-down cold water flat on the

lower East Side along with four sisters and brothers. Their kitchen is also their living room and bathroom, all the other space in the apartment is taken up by their beds. The father's income barely supports the family, but all are happy, clean and well-groomed and possess a typical strong family bond.

Their parents, fearful of the rough neighborhood in which they live do not let the children play in the street or playground except during school hours. When they are taken to a park it is a rare treat — so their two weeks outdoors in the country during the hot summer, are just about heaven to them.

Samuel and Julie would like to be invited to visit the Rochester and Monroe County area under the Fresh Air Friendly Town Program. About 1000 needy city children will be invited to visit to Friendly Towns without regard to race, creed, color or national origin. Each child comes for two weeks to share in the daily activities of his or her host family.

Fresh Air Program is looking for

new host families. Children range from five through twelve, of either sex.

Families are asked only to provide hospitality (food and care). All other expenses, including medical services, are provided by the Fresh Air Fund. (This may be deducted from income tax also, if a Fresh Air child is taken for two weeks).

Local representatives may be contacted at 225-9404 or 586-7155. The children will be arriving July 8 and July 22.

TV DOCUMENTARY

"Women and the Ministry," a one-hour documentary on the issue of the ordination of women, will be shown on Channel 21 Thursday, June 3 at 10 p.m. Produced through Portable Channel's Homemade TV program by Nancy Rosin, the show examines in particular The Rev. Merrill Bittner's irregular ordination as an Episcopal priest.

Safety Poster Award

Photo by Bob Tripiciano
Pamela Raith, a fifth grader at Blessed Trinity School in Auburn, was awarded a commendation in the National School Traffic Safety Poster Contest sponsored by the AAA. There were 35,000 entries from 43 states, the district of Columbia and Canada judged by the national board. From left to right are: Sister Anne O'Malley, SSJ, principal; Pamela; and Mrs. Patricia Hohman, representative of the local AAA.

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