

Respite Cares!

continued from Page 6

Ruth experienced was the goal of the Rev. William Gaventa, a Baptist minister who founded Respite Cares! in 1984. He was convinced that people of faith should be those most concerned with the quality of life of their neighbors — a conviction the organization's current executive director, Mary Muller, shares. To date, Respite Cares! has looked to churches for most of its volunteers although it is a non-denominational program.

"As Catholic and Christians, if we believe life is sacred, we have to believe it is sacred not just in your own family," Muller said.

When the Paynes volunteered for Respite Cares!, Ginny and Gary simply told their children that Chester and his family needed some special help, and providing that help was what Jesus wanted them to do.

"We wanted our children to understand there's nothing wrong with these kids," Ginny said. "And we didn't want them to take for granted that everything on them so far works right."

They found that their children, aged 4 through 12, related to Chester far more easily than most adults do.

"The first time was kind of iffy," recalled Scott, who, like Chester, is 12. "When you see a retarded person, you think they're different, and they are, but not really in a bad way."

"We learned a lot by experience. When we started out, we were doing things too easy for him. Then we tried things that were too hard, and finally we found a middle part that was comfortable," Scott explained. "I treat him the way I'd treat a friend. You have to be ready to help him in any way you can, but you wait till he needs it."

"He has a lot of determination," Scott added. "Winning or losing aren't important to him. It's just the doing of it that matters."

Jonathan, 6, said Chester has not only taught him to be happy that he's not handicapped, but has also made him notice people's reactions to handicapped persons.

"People stare at him in the store. It's not nice. You should treat him like anybody else," Jonathan said.

Getting to know Chester has also prompted Ginny and Gary to reconsider some of their fundamental attitudes and values. "I don't worry about not having living room furniture anymore," Ginny said.

"You don't worry about getting your kid into Harvard either," Gary added. "I guess you stop and smell the roses more often."

Their renewed appreciation for life as a gift comes from sharing with Ruth and Chester the joy of his accomplishments and the pain of his frustrations. Not everyone can sincerely celebrate the news that a 12-year-old has just learned to use the telephone or to count with the numbers on a digital watch.

Since they don't see Chester every day, the Paynes also provide Ruth with a different perspective, often observing small behavioral changes or progress she overlooks in her son.

Perhaps most important to Ruth is that in spending time with the Payne family, Chester has gained a new sense of independence and

the semblance of a normal life.

"It was good for me to be forced to see that someone else could take care of him," she admitted. "But I had to get to the point where my stamina was running out to be able to leave him."

"It's a great independence step for him," she added. "I've seen parents send a child off to a group home at 18 when they've never been apart before."

That's the scenario that stiffens her resolve to keep on dropping Chester off in the Paynes' driveway and taking him to camp each summer — to do whatever she can to

push him toward independence no matter how many tears of worry and relief she wipes from her eyes on the way home.

"He's aware of what other kids do, that they have friends over, that they spend the night with other families, that they go off on their own," she explained. "He should get to leave home too someday."

Respite Cares! is seeking individuals and congregations willing to provide support to the families of disabled persons. If you are interested, contact Mary Muller at (716)227-4769 or 473-6345.

COURIER-JOURNAL/CATHOLIC CHARITIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL SOCIAL MINISTRIES OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER 1150 BUFFALO ROAD, ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14624 (716) 328-3210



continued from Page 1

60 Mr. F. wanted to move his wife and small son into more adequate living quarters. With his minimum-wage job, he was able to pay the rent, but could not manage the security deposit. Asking for help was very difficult for this independent young man.

61 The A.'s are a poor family with two little children and another on the way. Mr. A. has a serious back injury that prevents him from working, and Mrs. A. is quite frail. They receive public assistance, but they can barely pay the rent and utilities with that money. Many times they use food money to pay bills. Christmas is a time of sadness not joy, since gifts are out of the question when food is lacking.

62 P. is a single black female who had worked for 13 years. She got into legal problems and was suspended from her job without pay. She used up her money because she didn't want to ask for help when she didn't absolutely need it. Then, unemployment checks didn't arrive when they were supposed to, and she found herself totally without resources. The St. Andrew's Food Program learned of her plight through Lifeline, and responded with food, toiletries and cleansing materials.

63 One of the families residing in the Finger Lakes area is composed of a set of parents, two adult children, and nine minors, some of whom are offspring of the adult children. This family has no dignity. The father is a temporary worker; the mother strives to maintain the household. There is evidence of love and caring among the family members.

64 J.'s wife recently left him with three young children. It is certain that she will not return. The financial problems that were always there have now been compounded. Money that would have been used for Christmas gifts must now go toward baby-sitting services.

65 R. is a young, single parent of a second grader and a pre-schooler. She has been struggling with cancer for the past three years and has had some success. Now that the cold weather is here, she needs help to provide her two growing children with clothing that will keep them warm, dry and healthy during the winter.

66 A woman who lives alone on her Social Security income works in the government food-distribution program just so she can receive an extra box of surplus cheese. She disconnected her clock and all other electrical appliances to save money, and she keeps the thermostat at 58 degrees all winter.

67 Mrs. B. is 35, divorced, and a paraplegic. She has a daughter who is in a drug rehabilitation program and a grandson in foster care. She has a power wheelchair, which is usable only in the summer and is stored in an inaccessible location. She is on public assistance, awaiting Social Security benefits. She has been told that she must return a manual wheelchair she uses in her room and which her friends use to transport her to community activities and for shopping, etc. After paying her room and board, she has little left for her other needs. A used manual wheelchair would allow Mrs. B. some freedom from the confinement of her bed.

68 A senior citizen who is without sufficient food is unable to solve the situation without some intervention from a parish community.

69 The husband of one family is on disability. His wife has to care for him and three children. One child has asthma.

70 Mr. and Mrs. Z. have been married two years and have a young daughter. Because of health problems, Mr. Z. is unable to seek employment. The family relies on Mrs. Z.'s mother for material assistance.

71 For the past two years, Mr. R. has been experiencing emotional difficulties and has required hospitalization. He is no longer able to maintain a full-time job. Mrs. R. is having trouble providing for their two children.

72 Mr. B. lost his job due to recent cutbacks. He has been unable to find another position, although he continues to search. The family is rapidly using up the savings they had accumulated and are unsure of where they will turn next.

73 R. is an eighth-grade student. His father works part time as a farmhand, and the family somehow manages. R. has eye problems, but the family has not been able to afford eyeglasses.

74 Mr. and Mrs. S., who have two school-age sons, share their home with a teenage niece whose mother has died. The family is on public assistance. They are unable to meet their basic needs each month and are in desperate need of warm winter clothing for all. In particular, they need winter coats for both sons.

75 Mr. and Mrs. B., whose family comprises four adults and two children, are only eligible for food stamps. All the men are unskilled workers who take any work that is available. The teen daughter is pregnant, and the family is afflicted with many illnesses. It is difficult to make ends meet in this household. Especially needed are prescribed medications for mother and pre-natal treatment for expectant teen daughter.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

THOSE WHO WISH TO HAVE ARRANGEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE IDEALS OF THEIR FAITH, CONTACT THE FUNERAL DIRECTORS LISTED BELOW FOR PRE-NEED OR AT-NEED SERVICES AND COUNSELING.

ROCHESTER

Ashton-Smith Funeral Home Inc.
(482-6260)
Mattie Funeral Home
(716) 482-2440
853 Culver Rd.
Malcolm M. Nulton James R. Gray

Corbett Funeral Home, Inc.
Roger G. Blakeslee
109 West Avenue
Rochester, N.Y. 14611
(716) 235-2000

Polvino & Granata Funeral Home Inc.
Serving Rochester and Gates
Frank Granata
371 Lake Avenue
Rochester, N.Y. 14608
(716) 458-3341

Schauman Funeral Home Inc.
Edwin Sulewski
2100 St. Paul Street
Rochester, N.Y. 14621
(716) 342-3400

Michael R. Yackiw Funeral Home
1270 Norton St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14621
(716) 544-5000
If no answer 342-9300

Younglove-Smith Funeral Home, Inc.
Serving Greece
1511 Dewey Avenue
Rochester, N.Y. 14615
(716) 458-6200

IRONDEQUOIT

Burns-Hanna Funeral Home
1795 East Ridge Rd.
Rochester, N.Y. 14622
(716) 467-5745

Edward H. Dreier Funeral Home Inc.
Edward H. Dreier
Alan E. Giltner
1717 Portland Avenue
Rochester, N.Y. 14617
(716) 342-8500

Paul W. Harris Funeral Home Inc.
Richard P. Harris
Charles E. Davis
570 Kings Highway S.
(corner Titus)
(716) 544-2041

May Funeral Home
George L. May Jr.
Raymond L. Welch
2793 Culver Rd.
Rochester, N.Y. 14622
(716) 467-7957

Schauman Funeral Home Inc.
Edwin Sulewski
2100 St. Paul Street
Rochester, N.Y. 14621
(716) 342-3400

Alvah Halloran and Son, Inc. Funeral Home
H. Daniel Halloran
2125 Chili Avenue
Rochester, N.Y. 14624
(716) 247-7590

CHILI

Leo M. Bean Funeral Home, Inc.
2771 Chili Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14624
(716) 235-4134
We Invite Comparison

GREECE

Arndt Funeral Home
1118 Long Pond Rd.
(near Maiden Lane)
Greece, N.Y. 14626
Ronald John Arndt
Parking for over 100 cars
(716) 225-6350

Vay, Schleich and Meeson Funeral Home Inc.
"Greece's Largest and Most Complete Facilities"
2692 Dewey Avenue
Greece, N.Y. 14616
(716) 663-5827

HENRIETTA

Henry D. Halloran Son Inc. Funeral Home
5781 W. Henrietta Rd.
Henrietta, N.Y. 14586
(716) 334-9350
Francis J. Martin Sr.
Francis Joseph Martin Jr.

MACEDON

Payne-Nulton Funeral Home Inc.
22 Rickford St.
Macedon, N.Y. 14502
(315) 986-7781
Malcolm M. Nulton
James R. Gray

PENFIELD

Nulton Funeral Home
1704 Penfield Road
Penfield, N.Y. 14526
Malcolm M. Nulton
James R. Gray