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THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



EDWIN SULEWSKI FUNERAL DIRECTOR

What are some ways to help a child who has lost a parent?

First it is important to make sure the child is honestly included in all information and planning. This means being honest about the death and answering the child's questions. It also means allowing but not forcing children to go to the funeral or visitation as they wish. Secondly, a child needs love and security. Let a child know they will be cared for, take an interest in schoolwork and include them in play. Some children resent being pressured to accept burdens beyond their reach. "Taking over for Dad or Mom" may be too much responsibility. Naturally, changes will occur but a child needs time and help in adjusting to them.

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Tom Gregory (right) reads the *The Caine Mutiny* to 84-year-old Charles Murphy in Murphy's room at the Wesley-on-East housing complex. Gregory visits Murphy as part of Project: Care, a Catholic Family Center program. S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Volunteer program faces major cutback

By Rob Cullivan
 Staff writer

ROCHESTER — On a sunny Friday afternoon last week, Tom Gregory read from *The Caine Mutiny* to 84-year-old Richard Murphy in Murphy's room at the Wesley-on-East housing complex, 630 East Ave.

The two men are parishioners of Blessed Sacrament Church, 534 Oxford St., where Gregory belongs to the Young Adults group. He visits Murphy at least once a week under the auspices of Project: CARE, a Catholic Family Center program designed to keep elderly citizens in their own homes by providing them services they might otherwise seek from paid professionals or at nursing residences.

More than 200 volunteers provide such services as home visits, repairs, yard work, shopping and transportation to more than 300 elderly area residents. The volunteers belong to neigh-

borhood-based networks, including the one located at Blessed Sacrament Church.

As part of his visits with Murphy, Gregory reads books to him because of Murphy's failing eyesight.

"We're both avid readers," Gregory said. "But we do more talking than reading."

Although Gregory and Murphy have established a strong relationship, the possibility that future friendships will be forged through Project: CARE is endangered due to major cutbacks in the program's funding. Project: CARE began operating in January 1992, when the federal government agreed the prior fall to provide the program \$30,000 a year for three years.

Additional funding for the program's expenses — which include one paid staff person, volunteer recognition, and various administrative needs — was provided through matching monies from Catholic Family Center

and from members of Eldercare Coalition, which comprises businesses, churches, public service agencies and community associations. In addition, a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development administered by the City of Rochester also helped fund the program.

Yet on July 23, the Monroe County Office for Aging notified CFC that the final-year grant had been cut from \$30,000 to \$2,800. Irene Coveny, director of CFC's Elder Services, expressed shock and dismay at the announcement.

"If a senior citizen falls and breaks his or her hip changing a light bulb, the medical costs may be at least \$30,000 — an amount equal to Project: CARE's entire annual budget!" she said in a joint statement with New York State Sen. Richard A. Dollinger, Dem.-54th District. The statement was released at a press conference July 30.

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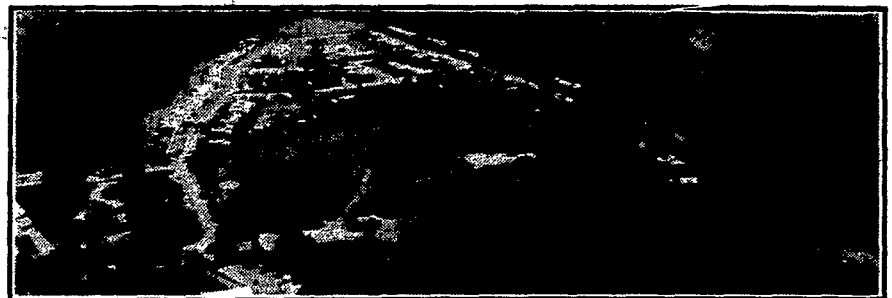
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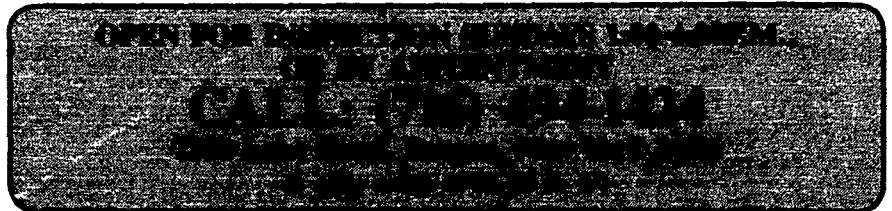
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