

Close-Up

The house that love built and sustains

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

They call it the "house that love built," and it's a house that has been home to hundreds of families during the past two years.

The Ronald McDonald House has been a home away from home to families with seriously ill and injured children who were being treated in one of the county's hospitals.

A national project, the Ronald McDonald houses

"I think one of the biggest benefits is that parents can be so close to their kids. Before, when parents had nowhere to go, many of them were sleeping in their cars or camping out in the lobbies of the hospitals because it just gets too expensive to stay in hotels."

-- Ellen Montgomery

began in 1973 when a parent whose child was fighting cancer decided to do something to help others in the same type of situation he had experienced.

Kim Hill, the 7-year-old daughter of Philadelphia Eagles football player Fred Hill, was undergoing treatment in a Philadelphia hospital when her father realized that families needed someplace to stay while their children were being treated.

Local McDonald's restaurants and the Philadelphia Eagles football team joined forces to open the country's first Ronald McDonald House in 1974. Today, there are more than 100 houses, and the Winston-Salem Ronald McDonald House is just one of these units, which are located in more than 60 U.S. cities. There is also a house in Sydney, Australia.

Similarly, the Twin City facility grew out of efforts based on love, and the house was built on just that foundation.

Locally, the organizers were Penny and Dick Latham of Davie County. The Lathams lost their 3-year-old son, Alan, to cancer. Following his death, the Lathams wanted to help other families in need of lodging while their children were hospitalized.

The Lathams met with other families and community representatives, and in 1981 a non-profit organization was formed. A large plaque in the corridor of the local house bears a portrait and dedication to the Latham family.

The local house, previously known as the Rainbow House of Winston-Salem, adopted its present name when McDonald's Corp. offered to lend its assistance to the fund-raising efforts.

The mortgage for the house, located on Hawthorne Road just across from Baptist Hospital, was paid by the corporation. However, the majority of the furnishings and supplies have been donated by local churches, companies and individuals.



Ronald McDonald House resident manager Ellen Montgomery stands in the doorway of the house, which is located on Hawthorne Road (photo by James Parker).

Ellen Montgomery, resident manager of the local Ronald McDonald House, says the house allows parents to be close to their children and helps defray the cost of lodging for parents whose children will be hospitalized for long periods of time.

"I think one of the biggest benefits is that parents can be so close to their kids," says Ms. Montgomery, who has been the resident manager at the

house since July. "Before, when parents had nowhere to go, many of them were sleeping in their cars or camping out in the lobbies of the hospitals because it just gets too expensive to stay in hotels."

Young patients come to the local hospitals from other parts of North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee. Ms. Montgomery says it is Please see page A16

Social Notes

Community Crime Watch group concludes year's agenda

The Easton Community Crime Watch Group held its last meeting of the year Thursday, Dec. 4, at Mount Carmel Baptist Church.

During the past seven months, the group has held meetings and a cookout for the citizens of the community. Last Thursday's meeting featured a special appearance by several city officials.

They included Alderman Larry Womble, Al Baity, assistant city manager; George Sweat, assistant chief of police; Steve Martin, fire captain; Officer Roberson, firefighter; Mary Johnson, assistant fire marshal, and David G. Bruce, crime prevention officer.

Peggy Sparks, who is the head of the group, opened the meeting. Prizes were given to the



Above, Peggy Sparks presents a plaque to Southeast Ward Alderman Larry Womble for community service (photo by James Parker).

two oldest residents of the neighborhood, Virginia Hairston and Roger Hutchins.

A donation was presented to Dr. Moore, the pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church.

The meeting was then turned over to Bruce, who shared his knowledge of crime prevention. He has worked closely with Mrs. Sparks on educating the community about crime prevention matters.

The group leaders extended special appreciation to the members of their neighborhood who have been active in the club.

Mrs. Sparks says the group has planned more activities and meetings for 1987.

Womble, commenting on the Please see page A14

'Toussaint' author to make special guest appearance at annual Black Rep Nite

Noted New York playwright Audley Haffenden will be the guest speaker when the North Carolina Black Repertory Company celebrates its fifth annual Black Rep Nite at the Hyatt Hotel Dec. 14 at 7 p.m.

Haffenden is the author of "Toussaint - Angelwarrior of

Haiti," which depicts the episodes in the life of Toussaint L'Ouverture and the saga of the Haitian Revolution.

The work will be presented by the company during Black History Month; the show will run from Feb. 6 through Feb. 15.

Born in Jamaica, West Indies, and currently living in New York, Haffenden is a graduate of Dillard University and has studied at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy.

Haffenden's other works include "Pushkin - A Poet's Search for Honor" and his latest

work, "The Gaston-Hudson Rail Disaster."

Admission to the gala is free; dress is "after-five."

Because of limited seating, all those planning to attend Black Rep Nite should contact the company at 723-7907.

SECCA plans members reception for opening of three new exhibitions this month

The Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, or SECCA, will open three new exhibitions to the public Saturday, Dec. 13. There will be a members opening

reception Dec. 12 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Opening in SECCA's main gallery and remaining on view through Jan. 25 will be an exhibi-

tion titled "10 Washington, D.C., Painters (Around, Behind and Under the Hill)."

The exhibit will feature a variety of work and modes of expres-

sion, from the rhythmic and geometric oils of W.C. Richardson to the highly decorative enamel painting on wood panels

Please see page A14

About Town

Personalized wishes greet Inez Shaw at retirement gala

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

A grand birthday reception was held last weekend at the Benton Convention Center for Inez Servance Shaw.

Family members, co-workers and friends gathered to bring birthday greetings to Mrs. Shaw and to congratulate her on her upcoming retirement.

The program and reception were planned with a Southern Bell theme in mind because Mrs. Shaw will be retiring from the phone company after more than 17 years of employment with the local company.

Invitations to the affair were prepared in the form of a recorded telephone message, and the program included references to familiar telephone technology, such as "call waiting," "custom

calling" and "person to person."

Several telephones were placed throughout the reception area to complement the yellow and gold decorations. A large banner with a picture of a telephone receiver hung on it was inscribed with the words, "It's for You, Inez."

The mistress of ceremonies was Annie R. Hairston, who appeared on behalf of the Richard-Servance-Shaw family ties.

Jack Gwin, Mrs. Shaw's work supervisor, spoke of the honoree as a loyal and valued employee.

Dr. Serenus T. Churn, pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church, profiled Mrs. Shaw and noted her work and leadership at her home church.

Gloria K. Wilson shared childhood remembrances of growing up with Mrs. Shaw.

A special surprise came with



Inez Shaw

the arrival of Mrs. Shaw's sister, Annie S. Wiley of Boston. Mrs. Wiley was expected for the

Christmas holidays but made the trip early to celebrate with her sister.

The guest of honor received an old-English brass rubbing from her family. The gift depicts the Madonna and Child etched in gold. Mrs. Shaw's son, Howard L. Shaw, made the presentation.

Ruth Cummings, a foster daughter, presented Mrs. Shaw with a bouquet of roses.

On behalf of the Southern Bell Pioneers, a group of retired employees, Willie P. Smith welcomed Mrs. Shaw as the group's newest member.

More than 260 guests attended the dinner celebration. A three-tier cake with a musical telephone box affixed to the top was a topic of conversation at the dinner.

MUSIC for the occasion was Please see page A11