

Doctors With A Heart: A New Tradition

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

Gone are the days of doctors who make housecalls.

However, physicians have recently begun a new tradition of compassion. It's called "Doctors With A Heart" and it means a day of free professional services and materials to people in need.

Begun by a Dr. Duane Schmidt in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, "Doctors With A Heart" goes nationwide this year with physicians across the country donating a day of no cost services.

In Charlotte, optometrist Dr. Paula Newsome is area coordinator for the event. Her job is to contact the city's doctors to solicit their participation in "Doctors With A Heart." When Dr. Newsome first heard of the event, she admits the idea excited her. She's hoping that feeling will be infectious.

"I'm hoping we'll have a real



Dr. Paula Newsome

large response," says Dr. Newsome. "Doctors don't often get a chance to give back to the community as much as we get."

Accordingly, Dr. Newsome has chosen Valentine's Day, February 14, as an appropriate date to hold the community-wide "Doctors With A Heart" day. "What better day to show your patients you love them and to give the community back some of the love it has extended to you," she points out.

Dr. Newsome has requested the help of area physicians, dentists, optometrists, chiropractic physicians, podiatrists and clinical psychologists to join in the cause. So far, she has received confirmations from a couple of urologists, chiropractors and a clinical psychologist.

Meanwhile the same type of or-

ganizing efforts are going on across the nation in the name of "Doctors With A Heart." Forty-four states and Canada have designated February 14 as a day for health professionals of every discipline to render free services or materials to patients.

From her office, Dr. Newsome will be giving free eye-exams and eyeglass frames and lenses. She says she especially wants to reach, on this day, the people who fall between ones who have their medical expenses paid by Medicaid and those who are able to afford to pay for their medical services. In other words, people who can hardly afford medical care though they are not eligible for public assistance.

"The people of Charlotte have been very good to me," confesses Dr. Newsome, who has been in practice in this city for three years. "I don't believe in having a one way street. I want to give something back to the community."

Dr. Newsome urges other doctors to find their "heart" on Valentine's Day and participate in "Doctors With A Heart." However, the date is not mandatory she points out. "Any day can be chosen to fit the doctors schedule," Dr. Newsome relates, "since services will be provided from the physicians' offices."

For more information on how to get involved in "Doctors With A Heart" call Dr. Newsome at 375-3935 or Ms. Cyndee Schmidt Ferris, nationwide executive director, at (319) 366-0698.



Mayor Harvey Gantt

Charlotte

Receives

Award

Larry J. Parker, manager of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's North Carolina Office, presented a Certificate of Special Recognition to the Honorable Harvey B. Gantt, Mayor of the City of Charlotte, in a ceremony at the 6 p.m. City Council meeting recently. The award is recognition of the City's efforts to improve shelter and services to low-income citizens.

The United Nations officially designated 1987 as the "International Year of Shelter for the Homeless" (IYSH) to focus global attention and action on the problems of the homeless and those living in substandard housing. HUD is the focal point for IYSH activities in the U.S. and in that role encouraged local project sponsors to submit applications as official International Year of Shelter projects. More than 180 projects nationwide were submitted and the City of Charlotte's Second Mortgage Equity Participation Deferred Loan Payment Program is one of only two projects in North Carolina which were selected by a distinguished private-sector panel for recognition.

The City of Charlotte, through its Community Development Department, established this program to assist low and moderate income families achieve the classic American dream of home ownership. To date, six families have become first-time homeowners and the City expects to use this same program concept to build additional housing in other redevelopment areas.

Learn To Be

A Machinist

Learn the fascinating and rewarding skill of the machinist in a six month on-the-job training program beginning February 16. Sponsored by the City's Employment and Training Department, the machinist training program is open to economically disadvantaged high school graduates. For a challenging career opportunity, call 336-3101 or stop by 600 E. Trade St. before January 30.

Women

Representing

Women

Women Representing Women will be holding its first public meeting on divorce and how it affects women on Thursday, January 29, at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 3rd and Davidson streets, Charlotte, at 7:30 p.m.

When a woman divorces she faces low income, low status and laws that are only beginning to protect her financially.

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