



After-school supervision

## Hunt's middle-school plan hinges on volunteers

Improving life for teenagers by providing supervised after-school programs is part of Gov. Jim Hunt's plan to reduce crime in the state. The success of the after-school program will depend on volunteers.

By TODD COHEN

Volunteers will be at the heart of Gov. Jim Hunt's proposed after-school program for all North Carolina's middle-school and junior-high students.

At a special session this month, state lawmakers will consider the after-school proposal as part of Hunt's anti-crime package. The after-school program would be phased in over two years and would

cost \$20 million a year when put into full effect.

That money would pay for after-school programs at each of the state's 250 middle schools and junior high schools.

The programs would be designed to keep teenagers off the streets and out of trouble from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on school days.

Similar programs are underway in some school districts, such as the middle schools in Durham and Orange counties.

Somewhat akin to Hunt's Smart Start program for early childhood development, the after-school program would be developed and run by local communities.

The state would provide funds and technical assistance, as well as oversight.

If lawmakers approve the project,

### EDUCATION

a statewide planning conference for community leaders would be held a month later — probably in March — to explain how it will work. Local school board and county commissioners then would have until April 15 to select neighborhood councils. A week later, those councils would receive materials to help them submit funding requests to the state.

Half the middle and junior high schools are ticketed to receive funding the first year. Each of those schools would get an average of \$60,000, which would be used to hire a full-time coordinator for an after-school program, buy materials and supplies and pay for transportation for students.

Funds would be awarded based

on need as measured by such factors as incidence of crime-related activities.

Grant proposals then would have to be submitted by July 1 to an inter-agency steering committee that will be established.

Tom Houlihan, Hunt's education adviser, says the role of volunteers and communities in the program will be crucial.

"One of the things that Gov. Hunt has repeatedly said is that it's time for government to change how it operates, and that attempting to solve community problems with big government programs just isn't going to work," says Houlihan.

"The philosophy behind the middle-school program is to put seed money out there for one coordinator and incidental costs. But the only way it can be successful is through a

strong core of volunteers who will serve as role models for these children."

In applying for grants, neighborhood councils must demonstrate they have recruited and involved community volunteers.

The makeup of the neighborhood councils is intended to be broad-based, including representatives of nonprofits, the religious community, business, schools, parents, social service agencies, law enforcement and court agencies and students.

Goals of the program are to reduce juvenile crime; increase the number of volunteers serving children; reduce the number of children who are home alone after school; improve academic performance; improve youngsters' behavior; and provide adult supervision for youngsters after regular school hours.

## Bicycling for a cure Student raising money, awareness

Leslie Anne Hummel knows well the seriousness of juvenile diabetes. Now, she's doing her part to find a cure, devoting her last summer before college to raising money for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

By KATHERINE NOBLE

As a small child, Leslie Anne Hummel saw her older sister nearly die. Now, she worries that her own children might suffer the same fate. And in fact, they might.

### HEALTH

Hummel is doing her part to make sure that doesn't happen. This summer, the 18-year-old star athlete and student will ride her bicycle coast to coast to raise money to find a cure for juvenile diabetes.

Hummel has set her sights high: She hopes to raise \$30,000. Already, she's raised \$6,000 in just three weeks. With five months to go until June 1, when she plans to head from Seattle, Wash., to Bar Harbor,

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## Strong mind, healthy body

# Volunteers give emotional support to cancer patients at Duke Medical Center

Being diagnosed with cancer and then enduring months of sometimes uncomfortable, tiring treatment can tap the spirit of even the most optimistic patient. A group of volunteers at Duke University Medical Center helps patients, and their families, make the best of a difficult situation.

By KATHERINE NOBLE

A diagnosis of breast cancer is shocking news to anyone, even more so to someone in her early 30s. But through surgery and nine months of treatment, Kim Warren found a silver lining in her experience: A group of volunteers.

Started in 1986 by a couple who had lost their young adult daughter to Hodgkin's Disease, the Cancer Patient Support Program at Duke University Medical Center is a model for other cancer treatment centers throughout the U.S.

In September, representatives from 19 treatment facilities gathered in Durham for two days of workshops on how to start, and run, a volunteer support program for patients and their families.

At Duke, what started with 15 people now has more than 100 volunteers and a professional staff of six. But as the program has grown, it

hasn't lost its personal touch — conveying a feeling of warmth and understanding that patients say adds a positive dimension to cancer treatment.

"It helps make cancer treatment a less threatening process," says Rachel Schanberg, who started the program in memory of her daughter, Linda Schanberg Clark.

Schanberg says her daughter realized through her own battle with Hodgkin's Disease that fighting cancer requires more than good medicine. Patients also have emotional and psychological needs.

On paper, the volunteers perform such tasks as helping patients find their way around the hospital and sign up for support groups, as well as simply keeping the waiting room supplied with cookies and juice.

In reality, they do much more. "They're on the front line," says



As head of the volunteer program at Duke University Medical Center, Pat Booth comforts and supports patients such as Emily Helm, seen here being helped into her car.

Photo by John Fletcher Jr.

Debbie Morgan, one of six counselors running the program. "They are wonderful at picking up on needs. I don't know of any other way you could do it more efficiently."

Often, she says, patients will tell a volunteer something they might hesitate to share with a counseling or medical professional.

"They do some fine listening and referring," says Morgan. "I'm amazed at the quality of caring that

goes on."

So was Kim Warren when she walked into the chemotherapy waiting room for the first time.

"It felt very friendly and welcoming," she recalls.

Having all these new friends waiting with the patient before treatment and being there after the treatment has been administered changed the

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### BRIEFLY

#### Volunteers collect toys for kids

Volunteers rounded up more than 100 toys for distribution at the Methodist Home for Children's recent Christmas party for foster care children in Raleigh. The MHC's foster care service is a network of nearly 40 foster homes serving children from birth to 18 who have been abandoned, abused or neglected.



#### WUNC-TV offers homeless special

Schools, churches and community organizations interested in showing "The Unity Against Hunger and Homelessness" special that aired on WUNC-TV in early January can call Hugh Morton Jr. at (919) 834-8444.

#### N.C. Museum of Art offers volunteers

The North Carolina Museum of Art's outreach volunteers are available to present slide-show talks on new museum exhibits to schools and community groups, statewide. The 189-member volunteer corps is supported by funds from the state. For details call Nancy Brantley, (919) 833-1935.

#### New resource for family programs

Volunteers and staff of nonprofits that work on family support, community development, collaboration or empowerment issues have a new source of facts and referrals: the North Carolina Clearinghouse for Family Support and Empowerment. The Clearinghouse was started by UPLIFT, Inc., a Greensboro-based nonprofit working to improve the well-being of North Carolina's families and children. The resource will also link N.C. nonprofits to model family support programs nationwide. To add your organization to the database or request information, call Laura Altizer, (910) 333-6302.