

# Adult Day Care Seeks More Clients

BY DORI COSGROVE GURGANUS

Jean Marshall, executive director of Brunswick Adult Day Care Inc., normally makes appeals to the public for more volunteers for her programs, but not these days.

"We're pretty well blessed with volunteers," she said, "but I want to get more participants here."

The elder-care center has two branches since the Shallotte facility opened about three months ago (the other is in Southport). Ms. Marshall works out of the Shallotte branch, which right now is staffed to take in eight participants at one time.

"I know that there are more elderly people out there who are not being looked after," she said, "Isolated, lonely people don't have to stay that way. They shouldn't be watching TV or sleeping all day."

The center provides not only service for elderly persons, but also for the family members who must care for them. Ms. Marshall said that a person can bring an elderly family member by in the morning and enjoy a day of shopping or golf.

"It's for the family members' well-being, too," she said.

Some participants, she said, live with their children and shouldn't be left home alone while their son or daughter is at work.

Ms. Marshall wants more people to be aware of what sort of activities take place at the centers, and also to understand how easy it can be to participate.

"If a person is brought here everyday, they're forced to get up and get dressed. Coming here to be with other people and to be shown love and care is better than staying at home by themselves," she said.

The center provides the materials and a crafts room for participants to create items for special community projects. The seniors made napkin holders for the recent Volunteer and Information Center awards dinner, and were also making turkey table decorations for a Thanksgiving event at The Brunswick Hospital. Ms. Marshall also plans a sale of arts and crafts items made by participants to generate extra income for the center.

The living room at 106 Al Street, Shallotte, provides participants with a television, videocassette recorder, organ and a stereo system for entertainment. Lunch is provided by The Brunswick Hospital.

Ms. Marshall said that she understands that day care for the elderly is sometimes difficult to finance. She reported that at a recent convention, she learned that seven of the 80 elder-care facilities in North Carolina had closed in 1990.

Ms. Marshall said that previously the state allocation for indigent care was \$1.8 million, but that beginning July 1 of this year, funding had been cut to \$1.5 million.

No matter what a person's income, however, Ms. Marshall said that sponsorship can be found to pay an elderly person's daily fee to stay at Brunswick Adult Day Care. Churches and community groups often sponsor a low-income participant.

Special programs and events are also part of the schedule at the center, which provides participants with activities to look forward to and enjoy.

Last Friday, Jill Flaccavento's second grade class from Union Primary School came to the center to entertain the elderly with a Thanksgiving performance.

The children dramatized the first Thanksgiving in the American colonies, dressed as pilgrims and Native Americans. They finished with a rendition of *Over the River and Through the Woods*, for which the elderly participants gave a noisy round of applause in appreciation.

"I'm having a lovely time," said Audrey Dermann, one of the elderly who visits BADC every week.

Ms. Marshall had invited participants, volunteers and board members from both branches to take part in the afternoon's event, which included a traditional Thanksgiving lunch of turkey and fixings.

"This sort of (elder-care) program is needed everywhere, but especially in Brunswick County," Ms. Marshall said later. "I'm glad we can help the participants we have, but I know we can help more."

"And then, of course, I'll start asking for volunteers again. We can always use more of them."

# Units To Mark Anniversary Of Attack On Pearl Harbor

Members of Holden Beach Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post No. 8866 and Calabash VFW Post No. 7288 will hold memorial ceremonies Saturday, Dec. 7, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

The honoring of American soldiers who lost their lives that day will take place in Calabash at the VFW Building at 7:30 a.m. and in Holden Beach at the foot of the bridge at 1 p.m.

Calabash VFW Post members are asking churches and fire stations to give one ring of a bell at 7:30 a.m., in remembrance of the event that launched the United States' involvement in World War II.

Eunice Campbell, spokesperson for the Holden Beach VFW Ladies Auxiliary, said that unit's event will coincide with the main observance ceremony being held in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Both observances are open to the public.

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# Southeastern Seeks Holiday Gifts For Younger Clients

Hattie Anderson has 70 children she wants to make sure receive presents this Christmas.

A child-youth psychologist with Southeastern's clinic at the Brunswick County Government Center, she works with children who are mentally ill or emotionally disturbed.

Ms. Anderson said the children on her list range in age from 21 months to 18 years, who come from

underprivileged homes and are being counseled at the local mental health center. They are not disabled, and therefore don't qualify for DSS programs.

"These kids are not on the DSS roster, and probably will not get anything," she said, though they deserve special note at Christmas as well.

The children's problems vary from alcohol abuse to depression

and attempts to hurt themselves, and Ms. Anderson doesn't believe they get the attention they deserve.

"You'd be surprised what a hug can do," she said, "and I want them to know that they are being thought of at Christmastime."

To help remedy the situation, she has sent a letter out to local businesses and agencies, requesting assistance in the form of cash or donated gifts.

She said she wants the community to understand "that mental health is part of the whole picture."

Her idea is to place a festive Christmas tree in the lobby of the department, and have each child's

name on a gift that can be picked up at least a week before Christmas.

In her plea to local businesses, she states that any kind of toy, game, candy, fruit basket, art supplies or puzzles will be accepted, as the wide range of ages of the children call for a wide variety of gifts.

Ms. Anderson also invites schools, churches and community groups to donate money or gifts to her program.

"I want each child on my case-load to get something," she said.

Interested persons may call Ms. Anderson at her office in the Brunswick County Government Center, at 253-4485.

# FEMA To Distribute Funds

Applications are being taken until Dec. 7 from organizations that would like to be considered to receive funding from the Brunswick County Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Board.

The local board was recently notified by the national FEMA board that it had been awarded \$33,241 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in this area.

The national board consists of representatives from The Salvation Army, the American Red Cross, Council of Jewish Federations, Catholic Charities, United Way and other non-profit organizations.

The board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country.

Under the terms of the grant, local agencies chosen to receive funding through this program must be non-profit, have an accounting system and conduct an annual audit, practice non-discrimination, have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency and/or shelter programs and, if they are a volunteer group, must also have a voluntary board of directors.

The local FEMA board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds, but must have applications at its office by the Dec. 7 deadline.

Contact Julia Bailey, chairperson of the Brunswick County FEMA Board, at 919-845-2972, or write her at the Brunswick County FEMA Board, P.O. Box 2424, Southport, N.C. 28461.

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