

Chapter Seventeen: Peeking at Programs

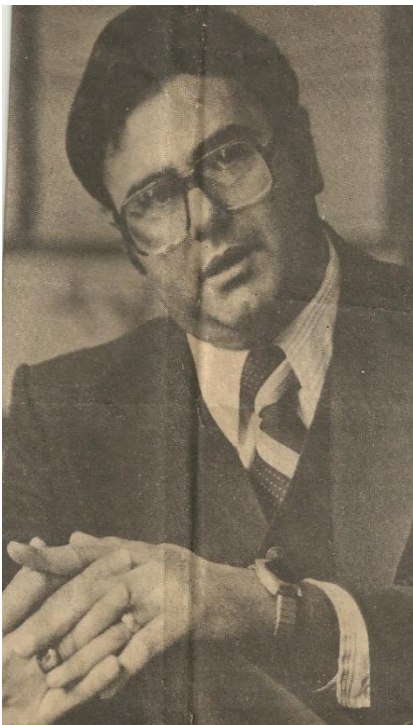
Infant Stimulation...

September 30, 1979

A Better future



Children receive individualized attention in the Infant Stimulation Program as shown by assistant instructor Bev Skarlinski and Charlie Smith, a child with Sotos Syndrome, the only such case ever in the program. Each session is limited to three to four children. Ashtabula Star Beacon photo by Bill Gilmore.



“Just because a child starts with the program doesn’t mean it will be a long-term situation,” says Russell S. Grippi, Program Coordinator. He said some children have gone into the program immobile, unable to do anything for themselves. After being in the program for a while, the children started acting similar to other children at their age level.

September 30, 1979

The birth of a baby can become an emotional struggle when the new parents learn their child has handicaps. The infant stimulation program not only helps the child develop, but shows the parents how to help too.

Happy Hearts program aids developmentally delayed kids, their parents

by Joni Kozesky, Sunday paper reporter

Kingsville. A baby's cry at the moment of birth can mean joy beyond compare for a mother and father.

But for parents of developmentally delayed children, the cry can also mean the beginning of an emotional struggle. "It puts an end to the term it will never happen to us."

Seven parents of developmentally delayed children in Ashtabula County told the Sunday Paper they felt completely alone when learning of their children's problem. "I thought it was the end of the world said Marie Harley of Ashtabula.

However, the Infant Stimulation Program of Happy Hearts School assists the parents in their struggle while providing training for their children. Instructor Diane Keep and assistant instructor Bev Skarlinski, work with the children three hours a week helping them achieve to their full potential.

The developmentally delayed are those children who are not acting like youngsters at their age level. Children could be lagging in certain areas such as motor development and eye and hand coordination. "It does not necessarily mean they are mentally handicapped," said Happy Hearts Superintendent Douglas Burkhardt who added it is hard to determine intelligence at such a young age.

"It is important to get to these children when they are young before school age, because that's when they need the help. If you don't, it could affect their learning later on in life," said Burkhardt.

Through use of equipment, therapy, and training, some of the children once thought to be "floppy babies," "vegetables" have learned to function equivalent to their age groups.

The free program involves the parents by teaching them techniques to train their children in their homes; therefore, the program can continue throughout the week. Parents can also become involved in activities such as social gatherings, field trips, workshops and counseling sessions.

"Every day is precious and if you lose a day it hurts" said Cecilia Erdman of North Kingsville, a mother involved in the program. "The attitudes of parents should be that of acceptance because the sooner you discover the problem the sooner something can be done."

The parents have become a closely-knit group according to Russell S. Grippi, program coordinator. "People here are friends," said June Lindgren of Ashtabula. "Nobody else knows what we're going through, but here we all share the same feelings."

A special room at Happy Hearts is set aside for the parents. This allows them to meet while the children are in the classroom.

A total of 12 children are involved in the program which was developed in February of 1976 and funded by Title I. Its purpose is to help developmentally delayed children reach their full potential by creating a stimulating environmental and guiding their interaction with the environment.

Developmentally delayed county children from birth to 18 months are eligible for the program. Three sessions two days a week are held in a brightly decorated Happy Hearts classroom complete with toys, stuffed animals and training equipment. Much of the equipment was donated by the Kingsville Area Lions Club, said Grippi.

Some "toys" can be misleading to persons, especially an oversized beach ball which is actually a neuro developmental training ball. This ball is used to train children to hold up their heads.

A child is placed on top of the ball by an instructor. The instructor uses her other hand to slightly roll the ball causing the child to lift up his head. Other equipment includes a standing prone board and table, special adaptive walkers, chairs, crawlers, and wedges.

The importance of training in the early years was a reason for the program. "Just because a child starts with the program doesn't mean it will be a long-term situation," Grippi said. He added that some children have gone into the program immobile, unable to do anything for themselves. After being in the program for a while, the children started acting similarly to other children at their age level.

"An early start could mean a child's ability to attend public schools," said William T. Hall, former Happy Hearts Superintendent. "And I've seen that happen."

Before children are enrolled, they must have a comprehensive medical examination. The examinations are given usually at Rainbow Babies and Children Hospital in Cleveland or Cleveland Metropolitan Hospital. After the data is compiled, they are assessed to determine how severe the developmental delay is and reasons why it has occurred.

An individualized program is designed for a child using input from the parents, a doctor, the program's instructors, Grippi, a physical therapy consultant, a language development therapist and a registered nurse. After a child is in the program, they are assessed on a regular basis to determine their improvement.

Dr. Robert Blinker, director of the Comprehensive Care Program at Cleveland Metropolitan Hospital, and his staff conduct a special monthly clinic for the children at the school. Grippi said this saves the parents, money, time, and effort.

Dr. Seung C. Karl, a pediatrician in Conneaut, has made many referrals to the program. He said when he discovers a Down Syndrome case at Brown Memorial Hospital he, always suggests the program to the infant's parents.

Dr. Karl acts as the physician for the majority of children involved in the classes. "It's a fantastic facility," said Dr. Karl who had previously worked in research at the New York State Institute for the Mentally Retarded.

He credits the program's success to the "occupational dedication" of the persons involved with it. "Before, there wasn't any training for these children and many would stay at low levels of development."

Right after Cory was born, Dr. Karl told me had had Downs Syndrome," said Mrs. Erdman. She entered her son in the program when he was 27 days old. Cory has since developed similar to a child at his age. "He makes messes like any other child and he can even swim," said Mrs. Erdman.

Parents of six other developmentally delayed children involved in the program said they have noticed definite improvements in their children. Their children are Michael Courtney and Elizabeth Harley, both with Downs Syndrome; Jennifer Drew with a developmental delay; Linda Atkins, developmentally slow with traits of cerebral palsy; Trevor Lundgren, cerebral palsy; and Charlie Smith, Sotos Syndrome.

According to Michael's mother Barbara Courtney of Jefferson, a heart problem was a factor in holding up Michael's development. In addition to Down's Syndrome, Michael was a floppy baby, having severely weak muscles. After heart surgery, Michael was enrolled in the school and he's improved tremendously," she said. The instructors have taught Mrs. Courtney ways to exercise Michael's muscles. The program not only stimulates the kids, but it also teaches parents how to work at home."

Mrs. Harley, Elizabeth's mother, said doctors informed her Elizabeth would not be sitting up until she was eight months old, but at six months Elizabeth was doing everything a six-month-old baby would do including sitting up, Mrs. Harley said.

"She also rolls over, crawls, reaches for objects, and can say dada, Mrs. Harley said. She doesn't believe Elizabeth could do these things without the program or the training she received from the instructors which enabled her to work with Elizabeth at home.

Jennifer's hearing and vision problems are factors in her developmental delay, said her mother Elaine Drew, of Geneva. But since the program Mrs. Drew said she's noticed a "500 percent improvement from when I had her at home."

Beth Atkins has noticed many changes in her daughter since taking her to the classes. She couldn't chew at all and now she's holding a cup and can feed herself said Mrs. Atkins. "Her temper tantrums have subsided since she came here and she responds to everything."

Mrs. Atkins realized Linda had a problem when she wasn't responding well. She also bases Linda's improvement on the training given to the parents to help their children at home. "I don't know what I would have done if I hadn't brought her here," she said.

Trevor is known as the miracle baby at the school. Trevor's mother June Lundgren of Ashtabula said when Trevor was five hours old he was transferred to Akron Children's Hospital and "we were told we'd never bring him home. He would die there."

However, Trevor did live and he was brought home at seven weeks. At five months Mrs. Lundgren said he was a floppy baby, like a rag doll. He couldn't lift his head or move his arms. He'd just lay there." Now Trevor can walk using furniture for support, sit up, hold up his head and "he refuses to let anybody feed him," she said. "This proves the point that the children have progressed by coming into the program," Mrs. Lundgren added.

Charles has Sotos Syndrome, which means he will be extremely large all of his life. Charlie's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Smith of Ashtabula said before entering into the program, he was a vegetable."

"Now Charles can talk, he's learning how to walk, he sits up and has good head control, said his parents. "Doctors we've spoken to are floored with his progress," said his parents. "We're not sympathetic towards Charlie. We treat him like our other two children to help him learn."

"Now when people ask why Charlie's head is so big we're proud to tell everyone about his progress, even in the grocery store," said Mrs. Smith.

"When many children start this program, they were passive and had little personality, she said. But each has developed their own personality and even though they can't talk yet they seem aware of what goes on around them."

The following goals were set up by Happy Hearts for the program designed to make the program successful for the child and parents," said Russ Grippi.

They include expanding the child's awareness and interaction with the animate and inanimate environment, enabling the family to become involved with professionals in the child's emotional planning and the program's implementation, providing families with emotional support, and acting as a resource for information about the child's handicap.

The final goal is educating the community of the importance of early intervention and helping them to understand the mentally retarded and developmentally delayed child and his family.

For further information on the program contact Russ Grippi at Happy Hearts. Parents of the children will also be available to discuss the program with interested persons.



Following through is a major part of the total development of the child in “infant stimulation.” Bev Skarlinski, infant stimulation program aide at Happy Hearts School, follows through with Jacob Peterson to enhance his range of motion through continuing physical therapy. Photo by Sue Loomis. June 3, 1984.

Director Russell Grippi Explains the Infant Stimulation and Early Childhood Programs

In his December 15, 1986 Manual, Russell Grippi, Program Director of Infant Stimulation and the Early Childhood Program at Happy Hearts, explained the program and its goals. He wrote that the Happy Hearts School Early Childhood Center had two programs: One, Infant Stimulation, which was designed to provide services to parents and their infants, birth to age two years. The other, Preschool, was designed for young children between the ages of about two to six and their families.

The Infant Stimulation Program sought to identify and serve infants who had developmental lags or who were at risk for later disabilities. Many developmental disabilities are not diagnosed until the child is older and yet, many early indicators of developmental problems may be present and observed by both parents and physicians. The Infant Stimulation Program, in recognizing the need for early assistance to parents and infants, and yet realizing the detrimental effects of early labeling, aims at identifying infants with clearly identified and/or diagnosed developmental

problems such as Down's Syndrome, and where the risk is established for infants at risk for later developmental disabilities, who often have histories of prenatal, perinatal, neonatal and early developmental risks.

Happy Hearts Early Intervention Program, 2000



Kevin Kolman works with his Happy Hearts primary school teacher, Michelle Bentley. Ashtabula Star Beacon photo by Warren Dillaway.

Happy Hearts Day Care Effort Called Success

June 17, 1990

Ashtabula Star Beacon reporter Carl E. Feather wrote that both participants in the two-year pilot program between the Ashtabula County Day Care Center and Happy Hearts School considered the experiment a success and that they were anticipating expanding the program in the next year.

According to Richard J. Cozza, Jr., Superintendent of the Ashtabula County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, two preschool classes relocated from Happy Hearts to Ashtabula County Day Care Center, located in the former Lincoln Elementary School building in Ashtabula Township. He said that seven out of ten students finishing Happy Hearts pre-school are eligible to enter some type of public school program, but they often lack social skills needed to interact with public school students. Happy Hearts staff and administrators hoped that combining the two groups of students would ease the transition to public school for the children.

He added that combining the two groups also eased space problems at Happy Hearts and in Ashtabula County Schools as many districts have consolidated and closed school buildings. The Ashtabula County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities leased two rooms in the Lincoln building owned by Buckeye Local Schools for \$250 per month. Transporting the students from Happy Hearts to Lincoln each day only resulted in minor transportation costs because the runs were made as part of the regular paid time of the drivers.

Tammy McTrusty, administrator of Ashtabula County Day Care Center, said that for the first year the groups interacted in sing-a-longs and other special events, but the next year “we hope to schedule two to three days a week of combined classes. Mainstreaming isn’t happening if they are down at the other end of the hall.”

Superintendent Cozza believes the program is beneficial because it provides the resources of two certified teachers in the building. He said that Happy Hearts didn’t want to intrude on the Day Care Center the first year, but wanted to “let people know our staff is willing and able to work with them as they need us. It’s good for our kids in that they mix with normally developing kids, but it’s also good for the day care kids too.”

Speech Therapy, 1995

In 1995, the speech team at Happy Hearts consisted of Rhonda Marcinko, Joan Sisk, Leslie Skidmore, and Tracey Cory. Helping each student develop effective communication skills was their goal and they enjoyed discovering the strengths and abilities of their students as they learned and grew.

Rhonda Marcinko chose infants and young children as her specialty. She was part of an evaluation team that assessed children under three to determine their eligibility for the Happy Hearts program. She also worked with the families of Happy Hearts students to help them learn about speech and language development and how to work with their children at home. She used a variety of therapy methods to address the unique needs of each of the children.

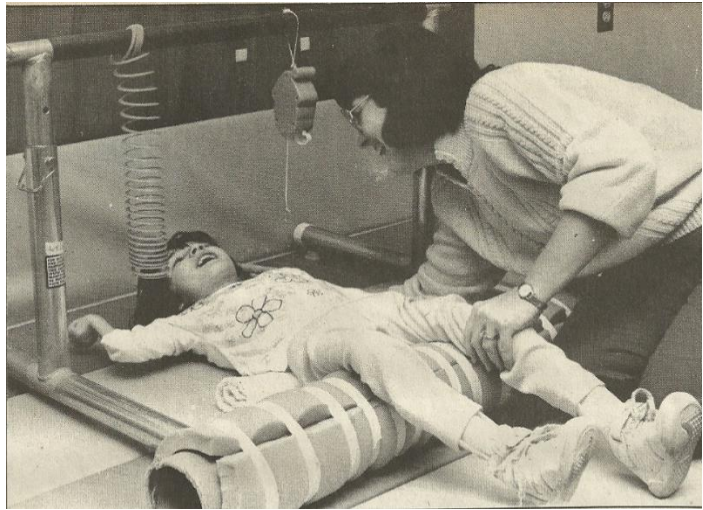
Joan Sisk focused especially on articulation, language development and lunch (not her own, but developing eating and feeding skills of the children). She challenged her students to verbalize with exciting and fun language activities. “Tell me with your words” was her trademark expression. She worked closely with teachers tracking student progress.

Leslie Skidmore liked devices ranging from adapted toys to computerized talking machines and other augmentative communication. She enjoyed searching for the perfect devices to expand children’s abilities to play, interact, control their environment, make choices and communicate with others.

Tracey Cory assisted all three therapists in many areas. She helped with the mountains of paperwork, produced many of the daily therapy materials, and worked with the students and therapists. The speech department functioned as an effective team and the enthusiasm and capabilities of the four therapists and the classroom staff working for the students.

Physical Therapy

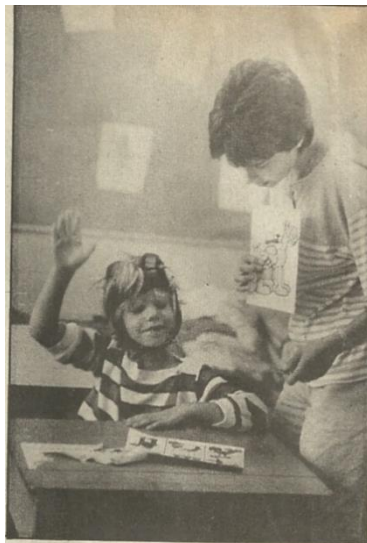
Physical therapy takes many forms at Happy Hearts, but the common thread of caring and concern for the individual needs of the students is present in each case. Here, Debbie Hills, a physical therapist, assists Stephanie DeCaro with exercises. Photo by Carl E. Feather, Ashtabula Star Beacon



Happy Hearts Summer Program, August 22 1988



Benjamin Sullivan of Ashtabula successfully catches a water balloon during a water balloon toss.



Stephanie Workman raises her hand to answer a question during class.



Leslie Skidmore presents a show-and-tell card game to help teach students at the Happy Hearts Summer Program.



Kathy Solarek answers a question during an arts and crafts class.

Summer Enrichment helps in development of children's skills

August 22, 1988

The Happy Hearts Summer Enrichment Program has come to a close but the effects of the activities are expected to help the children continue steady development during the upcoming school year.

The federally funded program is intended to supplement the normal educational plan carried out during the school year. A total of 103 students were involved in this year's program out of about 150 students enrolled during the normal school year, said program director Jennifer Urch.

According to Jennifer, education goals are developed for each child during the course of the school year. Then the summer program is used to maintain the skills developed or in some cases help the child reach more difficult goals.

"It helps maintain what they already have learned and helps others attain goals they have not yet achieved," she said.

The staff of the summer program includes nine teachers, nine teacher's assistants and one leisure time staff member and they strive for a more relaxed, fun, atmosphere in the summer program while offering activities that many of the kids might not otherwise get. Special activities of the summer program included roller skating, swimming, movies, and even a trip to the Erie Zoo.

Happy Hearts Camping



Watching their friends dance the hula at Camp Rainbow, (left to right) Jenny Drew, Michelle Hicks, Cory Erdman, and Doug Dragon enjoy the dance and the food at Camp Rainbow. As part of Hawaiian Day at camp, the children wore leis and hula skirts and ate pineapple. Star Beacon photo by Pat Brink.

July 18, 1982- Camp Rainbow

A handmade flag flying overhead at Camp Rainbow is testimony to caring and closeness of day camp for disabled students for four weeks in summer.

“It develops into a family here,” Early Childhood Coordinator Russ Grippi said on one of the final days of the camp. “It builds and builds and builds until now there is a closeness here that is something very special.”

He said Camp Rainbow, which had a general theme of “Color Your World” for the four weeks provided many educational as well as colorful experiences for the nearly 90 campers participating.

“We call it a day camp, but it’s actually very educationally sound. It takes the goals of the curriculum and transfers them from the classroom to the outdoors,” Grippi said. “In so doing, the kids are learning, but having a lot of fun” he added.

The camp staff was divided into seven groups and each group had its own counselor aide and volunteers. The volunteers who range in age from 14 to 72, are newcomers to the camp this year and according to Director Grippi, “they made it possible for the camp activities to be much more versatile.”

He said that because of the volunteers, campers were able to take some field trips and more could be done with the special days at camp.

Happy Hearts Day Camp Offers Equestrian Classes

July 6, 1983



Relaxed and waiting her turn to demonstrate her new riding skills is Kim Drozd (on horse), one of 12 students taking equestrian classes during the Happy Hearts School summer camp, while Silvertawn Stables instructor Lisa Piagyi stands by. Ashtabula Star Beacon, July 6, 1983.

Toni Wright of Silvertawn Stables, Jefferson and other riding instructors are giving horseback riding lessons to 12 of the campers at the Happy Hearts School.

A dozen of the more than 100 students attending the four-week day camp participate in the equestrian course, according to Russell Grippi, camp director. The riding class is one of several mini courses offered to campers.

To Camp Director Grippi's knowledge, no other school for the mentally handicapped and developmentally disabled in Ohio offers equestrian classes. He said that earlier educators didn't attempt an equestrian program because they feared that handicapped children were not capable of riding and that the children would be afraid of large animals.

Toni Wright said the secret to the children's successful riding is that they stay relaxed and show no fear. Horse are sensitive animals and know their riders' feelings, she said.

The main goal is for the children to have fun, but everything is well structured and geared for learning experiences including horseback riding, Director Grippi said. Horseback riding holds several benefits such as improving balance and coordination and it allows the students to experience the things other students do. In order to take the class, the campers had to weigh their options and make a decision -something many of them had not done before, he said.

The camp is divided into four main groups, but campers had the option of missing one of the main groups a couple days a week to participate in mini-courses such as photography, ceramics or horseback riding he said. The school hopes to continue with the equestrian classes during future camps.

Happy Hearts Scouts



Happy Hearts school teachers Mrs. Robert Louys and Mrs. Vincent Bishop receive gifts for the school from Mrs. Orville Wright and Mrs. Orrie Ellis and members Toni Dixon and Mary Jo Potter. Troop 5054 of Geneva presented a program for the children prior to the gift presentation.

Boy Scouts

Boy Scout Executive, Philip Kramer

Institutional Representative, Stephen Woitovich

Chairman, Harry Summers

Committeeman, Gust Zetlaw

Scout Master, Joseph Urban

Assistant Scout Master, Robert Bowers

Flaming Arrow Patrol

Paul Conners, Patrol Leader

Orville Pickett, Assistant Patrol Leader

Danny Brunell

John Pickett

Larry Moroski

Eagle Patrol

Larry Phelps, Patrol Leader

Richard Bowers, Assistant Patrol Leader

James Kessler

Jerry Russell

Indian Patrol

Arthur Brunner, Patrol Leader

Danny Custead, Assistant Patrol Leader

Larry Zetlaw

Richard Campbell

Girl Scouts

Mrs. Dorothy Bishop, Institutional Representative

District Advisor, Mrs. Abby Talcott

Leader, Mrs. Dorothy Covert

Assistant Leader, Mrs. Myron Hudson

Donna Zeller

Rebecca DiNickle

Rose Mauro

June Ana Cichy

Patricia Kapen

Faith Spry

Elizabeth Fogle

Mary Daviss

Mary Kehoe

Diane Dickson

Rena Hudson

Cub Scouts

Institutional Representative, Stephen Woitovich

Chairman, Henry Roux

Committeeman, Joseph Matrisciano

Unit Leader, Harry Summers

Den Mother, Mrs. Elva Roux

Assistant Den Mother, Mrs. Dorothy Covert

William Roux, Denner

Kim Covert, Assistant Denner

Timmy Summers

Kenneth Arndt

Claude Gaumer

Joseph Matrisciano

Happy Hearts Scouting Groups Achievement Awards Program

Introduction- G. Thomas Graf, Director Happy Hearts School

Parade-Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts & Cub Scouts enter auditorium
(audience stands)

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag-Audience and Scout Troops

Summary of Boy Scouting – Phillip Kramer

Candle Lighting Ceremony-Joseph Urban, Robert Bowers, Harry
Summers & Boy Scouts

Boy Scout Awards

Summary of Girl Scouting- Mrs. Abby Talcott

Girl Scout Awards

Summary of Cub Scouting- Harry Summers

Cub Scout Awards

Flag Bearers Retire the Flag

Refreshments



Happy Hearts Scouts Receive Awards

Scouts receiving awards at Topky Memorial Chapel were Donna Zeller; Becky Di Nickle; Rose Mauro; Faith Spry; and Beth Fogle.

Happy Hearts Girl Scout Troop 99 celebrated its first anniversary with a dinner and court of awards Tuesday night at Topky Memorial Chapel. Each girl received three badges which she earned during the past year. These include homemaker, good citizenship and toymaker badges.

Recipients were Beth Fogle, Faith Spry; Carol Horn; Rose Mauro; Donna Zeller; Mary Keho; Mary Davis; June Cichy; Diana Dickson; Rena Hudson; Patty Kapen; and Becky DiNickle.

The Scouts also received one-year stars and troop crests. The crests are in the form of a wild rose. The girls are now working toward sign of the star.

Mothers of Boy Scout Troop 24 and Cub Scout Den 1 helped in the kitchen. Den mother Mrs. Elva Roux was assisted by Mrs. Betty Brunell; Mrs. Inez Gaumer and Mrs. Irene Summers.

Leader is Mrs. Harold Covert. Assistants are Mrs. George Spry and Mrs. Ronald Fogle. The girls were reported to be "very excited" about receiving their hard-earned badges.

Happy Hearts Receives a New Flag

Monday, June 8, 1970.
Presentation of a new nylon American flag was made to Happy Hearts School Friday morning by Ashtabula County American Legion Commander James McBride, Jefferson, on behalf of the seven Legion posts in the county. Mrs. Vincent (Dorothy) Bishop, school supervisor, accepted the



flag. Commander McBride is seen as he instructs on correct procedure in raising the flag. From left are Commander McBride; Mrs. Bishop; Kim Covert, Geneva Boy Scout; Tom McElroy, New Lyme, and Robert Hunter, North Kingsville, both Cub Scouts and Mrs. Lee (Helen) Cook, representing the Conneaut Mothers Club and American Legion Cowle Post 151.



1971. Happy Faces reflect the mood Tuesday night as Mrs. Francis Talcott (left) presents the roster for Troop 99 to Mrs. Harold Covert, leader of the new troop from Happy Hearts School. At right is Mrs. Myron Hudson, assistant leader.

Happy Hearts Council Sees Boy and Girl Scout Rites

A candlelight ceremony for Boy Scouts, Investiture service for Girl Scouts, and pinning of Cub Scouts preceded last night's Happy Hearts School Council meeting at Topky Memorial Chapel.

Thirteen Boy Scouts participated in the ceremony conducted by Scoutmaster Joseph Urban; Assistant Scoutmaster Robert Bowers; and chairman Harry Summers. The boys were addressed by district chairman Jack Ziegler and welcomed by Gust Zetlaw and Stephen Woitovich, institutional consultant.

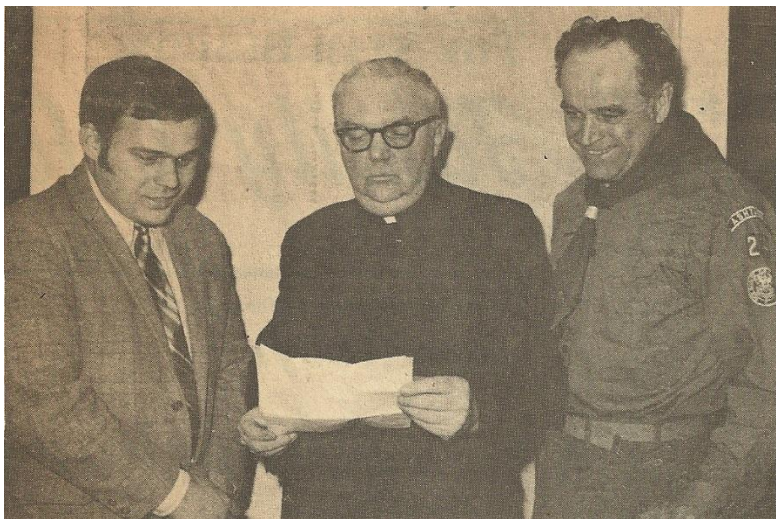
Eleven Girl Scouts were invested by their leader, Mrs. Harold Covert and assistant leader Mrs. Myron Hudson.

Mrs. Francis Talcott, District adviser of the Massasauga Council addressed the girls. They were greeted by Mrs. George Spry and Mrs. Vincent Bishop, institutional consultant.

Eight Cub Scouts were pinned by their den mother, Mrs. Eva Raux, and her assistant, Mrs. Covert. They were greeted by Mr. Sommers, unit leader, Joseph Matrisciano, Henry Raux, and Mr. Woitovich.

A charter was presented to Mr. Urban and a troop roster to Mrs. Covert.

Thomas Graf, director of Happy Hearts School, welcomed the Scouts. Refreshment were served by the Happy Hearts Council. The regular meeting followed with Mrs. Myron Hudson presiding.



February 6, 1971. Plans for Happy Hearts School Scouts to note the 61st anniversary of Boy Scouts of American are made by Ron Siebeneck, grand knight of Knights of Columbus Council 4212, the Rev, George M. Waggett OMI, pastor of St. Joseph Church, Jefferson, and Joseph Urban, scoutmaster for Happy Hearts School.

Happy Hearts Scouts to Note 61st Anniversary

Happy Hearts School scouts will celebrate the 61st anniversary of Boy Scouts of America with a Happy Hearts Scout oriented celebration of Mass at St. Joseph's Church Jefferson, tonight at 7.

Happy Hearts School Scouts will attend Mass in uniform and will serve as ushers and assist in collecting the offering. They will take the gifts for the Mass to the altar and the Catholic Scouts will receive Communion Mass.

After Mass the Knights of Columbus will provide refreshments for the Scouts and their families. Lastly, the scouts will recite in unison the Scout Oath and Law and have blessing of the Happy Hearts Scout flag.

Sunday at 10:45 a.m. the scouts have been invited to attend services at First Presbyterian Church in Ashtabula where six of the scouts are enrolled in a Retarded Children's Sunday School Class.

200 Scouts at Camp

Thursday July 8, 1971

Scouts of Northeast Ohio Council, Boy Scouts of America, are once again taking advantage of the opportunities for fun and adventure offered by Camp Stigwandish.

Nearly 200 scouts and scouters from the tri-county area are participating in the third week of camping.

As a result of four years planning by Ashtabula Happy Hearts Troop 24 and local scout officials, the troop has nine boys at camp. Joe Urban is scoutmaster. The boys are taking part in all camp activities along with the other scouts. The camp staff expressed delight at the interest proficiency in skills of the Happy Hearts troop, according to Don Lucha, scout executive.

Wednesday was observed as open house at the camp. Persons who have contributed their funds and labors were invited to visit the site to view the improvements. The improvements include a newly constructed Webelos area, boat and canoe storage building, improved handicraft area and the new chapel area which is still under construction.

Scout officials noted that next Wednesday the camp will be inspected by a team of regional experts. For the past five years the camp has received an A Plus 100 rating, which is the top rating.

From the First Presbyterian Church News-1972

Reverend George Arthur Johnson and the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church in Ashtabula welcomed members of Happy Hearts Troop 24 Scout Troop on Boy Scout Sunday, February 13, 1972. Joseph Urban of Jefferson was Scoutmaster, and Stanley Gaumer the Chairman of the Troop Committee. The Church sponsored the Retarded Children's Class and eleven Happy Hearts scouts were members.

First Presbyterian also sponsored Boy Scout Troop 12, since the fall of 1958. The 1972 Scoutmasters were Lawson Stevenson who served from 1958 to the spring of 1968 and Don Taft who led Troop 12 from 1968 to the present. (1972).

There were 20 Boy Scouts in Troop 12:

Paul Conner, Life Scout and Jr. Assistant Scout Master

Ernest Van Allen, Life Scout and Jr. Assistant Scout Master

Todd Anderson, Star, Senior Patrol leader

Tom Wiese, Star, Scribe

Don Hill, Star, Quartermaster

Tim Rockwell, 2nd Class Patrol Leader

Dave Hamb, 2nd Class Patrol Leader

Bill Gallagher, First Class Scout

Mark Kirk, Second Class Scout

Ken Plants, Second Class Scout

Bill Woodworth, Second Class Scout

Chris Ernst, Tenderfoot

Teak Hemphill, Tenderfoot

Marty Kirk, Tenderfoot

Dave Spangler, Tenderfoot

Marty Vettel, Tenderfoot

Brad Doyle

Scott Farman

Mark Hoplight

Jeff Perry

Troop 12 has some exciting plans for 1972 including Troop swims and campouts as well as a Campout to Defiance Ohio, and a four-day trip to Washington, DC.

They will also spend a week at Camp Stigwandish starting June 25th. Hiking the Johnny Appleseed Trail will be a 17-mile experience from Mansfield.

This month the Troop has a window display on Main Avenue in the former Sherwin-Williams Store next to Newberrys. Sixteen boys attended the Klondike Derby January 29-30 doing different skills in the snow on the trail. It went down to 10 degrees. The Eagle Patrol won the Derby Race against all other Patrols on Sunday morning.

In 1971, 12 members went to the first Klondike in January, 12 to the Spring Camporee; 16 to Summer Camp; and 9 to the Fall Council Jamboree, where the Troop had a display on wildlife shelters and received a first-place ribbon. Tom Jesse was a member of the Junior Fair Board along with Mr. Taft, Scoutmaster, who was a Junior Fair Board Advisor.

Cub Scout Pack 12

Pack 12 has been sponsored by our church since 1959, with Joe Micksch as first Cubmaster. Cubmaster at the present time is Richard Heiser with Robert Moore as Committee Chairman. There are two dens and a Webelos unit as follows:

Den I. Mrs. Richard Heiser (Sandy) and Mrs. William Maxwell (Jeanne). Den Mothers with Cub Scouts Scot Heiser, James and Stephen Gidus, Randy Joy, Michael Loadman, and William Maxwell, III.

Den 2. Robert Wilcom, Leader, and Cub Scouts Kenneth Childs, Ward Howe,

Aaron Rodabaugh, Paul Ruffe, Brian Scott, Scott Torok, and Brian Wilcom.

Webelos, Lloyd Rockwell, Leader, and Cub Scouts Bruce Anderson, David Arvidson, Jerry Callibarri, Richard Collins, Bill Gallagher, Chad Heiser, Tim McCarthy, Mark Reese, Jerry Rockwell and David Rodabaugh.

Cub Pack 12's Blue and Gold Banquet will be February 24. In March they plan a Hobby and pet show and in April. feats of skill.

White Motor Corporation Hosts Happy Hearts Scouts



The Happy Hearts Boy Scout Troop made a tomahawk and presented it to White Motor Corporation officials when they visited the company on June 24. Adults pictured in the photo include W.L. Peterson (left), president of White Motors; A.C. Schliewen, (third from left), vice president of manufacturing; Joseph Urban, Scoutmaster; Frank Barrett, Assistant Scoutmaster; and Don Lucha, executive, Northeast Council.

“Someday in the not too far future, the White Motor Corporation will be employing men like you,” A.C. Schliewen, vice president of manufacturing promised the Happy Hearts Boy Scouts as they sat in the executive conference room near the end of the special Happy Hearts Boy Scout Day at White Motor in Cleveland June 24.

The special all-day tour was arranged by the executive management team of the company when they were informed that a White employee, Joseph Urban, Jefferson, was the Scoutmaster for the group of boys from Happy Hearts School for six years.

Mr. Urban’s position was originally pointed out in the United Auto Workers newspaper, the Right Angle, as a human interest item.

The Scouts arrived at the plant at 9:30 a.m., traveling in a motor pool made up of Don Lucha, district scout executive, Northeast Council; Frank Barrett, Assistant Scout Master; and Mr. Urban who was given the day off by the company to be with the Scouts.

Front office executives greeted the Scouts on their arrival and gave each Scout a chance to sit in the driver’s seat of a new truck. They then took the Scouts to the cafeteria for refreshments.

Although White Motors does not allow anyone under the age of 18 to tour the plant while it is full production, special permission was granted to the Scouts, with a ratio of one executive to three Scouts, and the tour was completed. After the tour, a picnic style lunch was served to the Scouts and the executives in the conference room. During lunch, slides of the early history of White Motors was shown. Other highlights of the trip included the presentation of a scale model of White’s heavy duty tractor truck and a semi-trailer to each scout and driver by the company. The Scouts presented White officials with a tomahawk they made. The Scouts also viewed a promotional film on the construction and testing of White trucks. Mr. Urban has been employed by White for 31 years as a layout sheet metal tool and pattern maker.

Anniversary of Scouting Noted at ACCRC Meeting

February 28, 1973

In observance of the 63 Anniversary month of Boy Scouts of America, Happy Hearts School Troop 24 conducted the opening flag ceremony when the Ashtabula County Council for Retarded Children met Tuesday at Happy Hearts School.

Devotions were led by the group with each scout taking part.

The Scouts were also in charge of the program following the business agenda. Films of past activities and displays were shown. Joseph Urban is Scoutmaster. Dixon Greenwood from the District Scout movement was welcomed as a guest.

Special refreshments in the scouting theme were provided by Mrs. Harry Church and Mrs. Joseph Nappi.

Mrs. Joseph Hunter, president, announced three appointments to the Council Board of Directors. Serving two year terms will be Mrs. Nadine Moroski and Donald Zeller. Mr. Urban was appointed for an unexpired term of one year.

Chairmen of the committees for the year were also announced. They are as follows: Mrs. Stanley Giddings and Mrs. James Theiss, ways and means; Mrs. Moroski, membership; Mrs. Hunter and Mrs. Charles Thomas, publicity; Mrs. Church, program; Frank Barrett, residential care; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hinkle, legal and governmental affairs; Mrs. Vincent Bishop and Miss Betty Hartley, education.

Mrs. William Licate headed the research committee; Mrs. Stanley Gaumer, religious education and youth group; Mrs. Nappi, social; and Mrs. Helen Millspaugh, sunshine.

Heading the boy, girl, and cub scout committees will be Mr. Urban; Mrs. Harold Covert; and Mrs. Henry Roux, respectively.

Plans for fund-raising projects for the year were revealed by Mrs. Theiss. Currently, support will be given to the statewide project of the Ohio Association for Retarded Children.

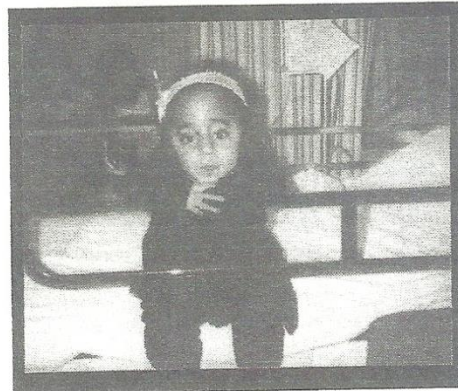
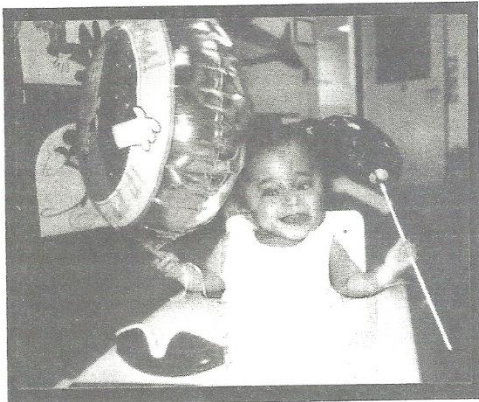
The February dance for Happy Hearts upper level students and Ash/Craft clients was held Friday at the school with arrangements handled by the Youth Group. Live music was provided by Steve Candela and band. The dances held each month, are one of the many Council sponsored projects.

Special Story: Potential in Pictures

New Directions 2000

by Will Peadon, Case Manager

Early Intervention



Over the past couple of months, a little girl, 5 years old has been grabbing the headlines in our local newspaper. Ashtabula County has been watching and reading about her recent journey to New York City with her Mom and Dad, to appear on the Maury Povich Show. On the show, she was recognized for her amazing courage and spirit in facing unbelievable adversity. Her name is Tiffany Manning and her proud parents are Samantha and Walter. Tiffany's story is wonderfully uplifting and her smile beaming from the front page of the Star Beacon has given us all good reason to smile with her!

What many don't know is that Tiffany received Early Intervention services through the Ashtabula County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities for the first three years of her life. As you may be aware from the news, Tiffany was born with 30 bone fractures and a number of other serious medical problems. Her fragile bones were broken in the birth process because Tiffany was born with Osteogenesis Imperfect – “the brittle bone” disease. Her doctors were unaware of this condition prior to delivery.

Tiffany's numerous medical problems kept her in the hospital for the first three months of her life. The doctors did not expect her to survive and instructed Samantha and Walter to take her home and give her lots of love. Tiffany arrived home with a referral to Hospice.

But Tiffany and her parents weren't about to give up. After a few very difficult weeks of waiting, watching, and expecting the worst, Tiffany's parents called our program and asked for help. When I first met with the family at their home, Samantha brought Tiffany into the living room on a big, overstuffed pillow. She was flat on her back and could not be placed in an inclined position for fear of breaking her spine. Tiffany's parents did everything they could to ensure her safety, but they didn't know how to help her begin to learn how to do the things a baby her age should be doing. Samantha remembers that she felt “overwhelmed and lost in the beginning.” She said, “I kind of took the doctor's side, initially, and thought there wasn't much we could do.”

Developing appropriate interventions for Tiffany required a great deal of teamwork, creativity, brainstorming, trust and searching. The Early Intervention team (mom, dad, PT, OT,SLT, social worker, and EI Specialist) all worked together to ensure that Tiffany could overcome the obstacles to reach developmental milestones. Samantha said, “There were lots of hugs and tears” at each momentous achievement.

Bonnie Bashaw, E.I. specialist, remembers when Tiffany was six months old, she no longer wanted to stay on her back. To aid her movement and protect her spine, a sling was created to hold Tiffany on a wedge to be more upright. The team found rattles light and small enough for Tiffany to safely hold and for the first time in her life, she began to learn to play. Bonnie stated, “We attached a helium balloon to her wrist or ankle so she could learn cause and effect while exercising her muscles at the same time.”

Physical therapist Sally Flash recalls the innovative adaptations that were made to allow Tiffany the opportunity to lay on her tummy, roll, and sit. Sally remembers Tiffany’s courage, even though she faced recurring bone fractures and excruciating pain. Tiffany “worked through her motion and strengthening sessions with enthusiasm.” By the fall of 1996, Tiffany could sit by herself, do push-ups from her knees, and keep herself on her hands and knees with little assistance. She was able to ride the school bus and drive her motorized Cooper Car around her own neighborhood. Today she is standing with a support for balance and, best of all, Tiffany is attending kindergarten classes!

Although Tiffany’s story is extraordinary, hers is not unlike the stories of many “E.I.” kids and their families. It is the story of persistence and hope. Samantha says she remembers the good (Tiffany’s accomplishments) and puts the painful past in the back of her mind. She says that she gained a lot of support, direction and encouragement through the Early Intervention Services. But most importantly, she feels that “Tiffany’s limitations were not actual limitations. We tapped into the potential that was always there!”