

Group counsels distressed youngsters

The Eugene community needs to know more about Looking Glass, according to its coordinator, Jim Forbes.

Forbes talked with visitors Sunday at an open house held at Looking Glass, 1960 Willamette St.

Forbes said the open house marked the beginning of a campaign to get more people informed. The young people especially have to know what it offers and where it is located, he said.

Looking Glass is a state-licensed project incorporated as a nonprofit organization and it is a member of the Lane County Department of Mental Health.

It is presently partially funded by a Drug Education Grant through the White Bird Clinic. Some donations also come from parents.

Looking Glass offers an alternative to intervention

by the juvenile court system for non-criminal juveniles who have run away or who are undergoing crises at home, according to Chris Holstrum, one of the Looking Glass co-directors. The primary goal, Holstrum said, is to achieve family reconciliation whenever possible.

Temporary housing provides the person a place to gather his thoughts, consider his or her alternatives and their consequences, and to face the problem instead of running away from it. It serves as a neutral meeting ground for the family and housing is only offered when it facilitates the counseling program.

The house is staffed 24 hours a day by either the counseling staff or professionally trained houseparents. Twenty persons make up the all-volunteer staff, four of which are on call at all times.

Holstrum cited a drastic need for foster parents. Single persons over 21 years of age can be certified as

foster parents, she said. Looking Glass desperately needs couples also, but many do not apply because they feel that they might not qualify. Persons interested and who have questions about qualifying can call Looking Glass, she said. Holstrum said "There is a need for people who can communicate with these children."

One staff member at the open house also cited a great need for people to volunteer to help establish a recreational component. Staff members said they are interested in materials and people to teach crafts to the Looking Glass clients. These services would be on a voluntary basis and would not be on any regularly scheduled timetable.

Looking Glass offers these services free of charge so that they may be accessible to all children and adults regardless of their ability to pay. Community assistance is sought in the attainment of jobs for their clients and the funding for the varied programs.

Chinese New

Year to be

'traditional'

Although the year of the water buffalo, 4671, will not be brought in with firecrackers because of local ordinances, the Chinese Student Union's (CSU) celebration of the Chinese New Year will remain traditional in the spirit of the holiday.

"On new year's eve in China, the whole family gets together to worship their ancestors. Our families in China are celebrating that way and we want to worship the new year with our Chinese and American friends," said Chung Tsai, president of the CSU.

The group is observing their new year, which is based on a lunar calendar with the first new moon starting the year Feb. 3, with a mandarin Chinese dinner and entertainment. The dinner will include sweet and sour pork, spring roll, fried rice, roast egg and roast chicken wing. The entire meal will be prepared by members of the CSU.

After dinner, there will be Chinese folk songs, dancing and a costume fashion show showing how traditional Chinese garb has changed in the last 4000 years.

There will also be a demonstration of Kung-Fu, a form of self-defense and the Year or lion dance.

The holiday lasts for approximately 15 days. During that time children collect "lucky money" from parents and relatives of the parents. "It's a lot like your Christmas. We get lots of money and presents from our parents and relatives," said Hing-tac Chen, member of the CSU. "Before the holiday starts, the house is cleaned all over and lucky words are put on the door posts (peace, prosperity, love). A pot of rice is placed on the table and it is always kept full. There are flowers all over to symbolize wealth and a good new year. It's like your Christmas tree," said Tsai.

The holiday is also a time of freedom for the children. "We were able to do what ever we wanted," King reminisced. "On the holidays people could only talk well of others and wish everyone a happy new year. No matter what you had done, your parents couldn't punish you," Tsai added.

"You could never be too sure that your parents wouldn't remember what you had done after the celebration, though," Chen warned.

The dinner and festivities will be on Feb. 11 with the dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the entertainment at 8:30 p.m. Both take place at the EMU Ballroom and tickets can be bought at the main desk for \$2.50.

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