



Aila Lehtonen (left) and Beth Ottman (right) give information at the ESCAPE booth in the EMU.

## Work awaits willing volunteers Students' help sought by many groups

By Lisa Millegan  
Emerald Reporter

It seems like every day you read another story about a rape. Every time you turn on the television, newscasters are talking about gang violence and battered women. The world seems to be going down the tubes and there's nothing you can do about it.

Or is there?

You could follow the lead of Ronelle Nelson, a University junior who decided to volunteer with Womenspace, a Eu-

gene program that helps abused women. After getting the chance to staff the center's telephone crisis lines and work directly with the women, Nelson said she felt she really made a difference.

"One day a woman called and her abuser was there and he was yelling at her in the background, she called me and we decided she wanted to leave," Nelson said. "I talked her through what she needed to get her stuff together and get her children ready. Then I sent the staff person to pick her up

and she was taken to the shelter.

"I felt great that she got out of there and we were able to intervene and tell her she had a safe place to go."

Womenspace is not the only program that uses student help. In fact, an organization exists in Eugene with a sole purpose of matching volunteers with community groups that need them.

"At any given time, there are about 500 to 1,000 openings out there," said Theresa Laks of the Voluntary Action Center, a department of the United Way. Located at 123 Oakway Center, the organization receives requests for volunteers of all ages and skill levels.

One week the center's openings included positions as a child care teacher's aide, a companion for retarded citizens and an artist for Parent Information Network promotional materials.

The week before, the center placed volunteers in jobs working as a "play pal" for Easter Seals children, a kitchen helper for a senior nutrition program and a repairer for Womenspace.

"You can do anything," Laks said. "You can work one day for one hour on an event like the Eugene Celebration or you can work on an ongoing basis up to 40 hours a week or more if you like."

Laks said the most common volunteer openings the center receives are for clerical help and drivers. Another popular request is for companions for the disabled and elderly, she said.

To hook up with one of these jobs, students can call 683-9000.

Laks said a placement counselor will interview them on the phone about the amount of time they have available, the issues they are interested and the type of people (e.g. children, women) with whom they would like to work. Then the counselor will offer the options.

Students may not be able to earn money for their efforts, but the University's ESCAPE program offers one upper-division credit for every 30 hours volunteered.

The reasoning is that students can get experience volunteering that will help them with their careers.

"(Volunteering) is an alternative to sitting on your butt in the classroom," said Amber Brand, who works with ESCAPE. "You can get a reality check on what the world is about."

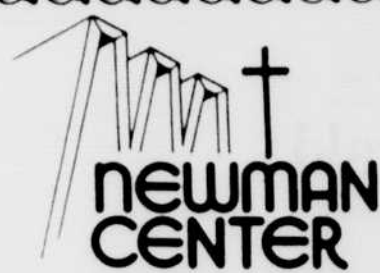
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SPECIAL HOURS:  
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TUES Sept. 24, 7:30-9pm  
WED Sept. 25, 7:30-7pm

13TH & KINCAID M-F 7:30-6 SAT 10-6 346-4331



### ST. THOMAS MORE UNIVERSITY PARISH CATHOLIC NEWMAN CENTER

1850 Emerald Street  
Eugene, Oregon 97403  
343-7021

#### MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.  
Monday - Friday: 5:10 p.m. Evening Prayer followed by Mass  
EVERY WEDNESDAY: STUDENT MASS AT 9:00 P.M.  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Monday, Wednesday & Friday - 4:30 to 5:00 p.m.  
Saturday at 4:30 p.m. or by appointment.

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday: 9:30 - Noon & 1:00 - 4:30 p.m.

#### STAFF:

Fr. Albert Felice-Pace, O.P., Pastor  
Fr. Jose Pimentel, O.P.  
Sr. Janet Ryan, SNJM  
Gene Obersinner & Chris Fery, Peer Ministers  
Nancy Nelson, Secretary  
Gene Obersinner, Chelsea House Mgr.

#### SPECIAL HAPPENINGS:

- A BIBLE STUDY is held on every Monday, September 30 at 7:30 p.m.
- An Inquiry Class is held every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
- A STUDENT MASS is celebrated every Wednesday at 9:00 p.m.
- A MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP will meet every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- WELCOMING DINNER - at Chelsea House on Friday, September 27 at 7:00 p.m. Come to meet new people and renew your friendships.
- The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults for those who are seriously interested to become a Catholic Christian is held every Sunday at 6:15 p.m. starting Sunday, September 29.
- Get-away weekend - PARABLE WEEKEND RETREAT will be on October 18-20 at St. Benedict's Lodge, McKenzie Bridge. Sign up now. Open to all students. Cost \$30.00.

Students are invited to come and study, read or just relax in the center's lounge. It is open from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

#### GET INVOLVED IN THE CATHOLIC NEWMAN COMMUNITY

NOTE: Students' activities, classes and workshops are planned throughout the year. Check Newman Center's Sunday Bulletin and the Et al (EMERALD) for what's happening at the Center.

For more information call the Center at 343-7021/346-4468

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