Project Care supports, guides traumatized people

Jamie Pope

ily Emerald

For people feeling overwhelmed by the down-side of life, an organization called Project Care is available in Eugene to provide support and guidance.

Project Care founded in 1986, helps individuals with problems of all kinds including grief and terminal illnesses. The group also helps people who are feeling suicidal.

"Project Care is a group of interfaith care givers," said Bobbie Spiedel, Project Care's administrative assistant. What that means is that Project Care is made up of members of different church congregations. We work together to provide crisis intervention.

Such intervention would include taking someone to the doctor or helping someone deal with a death in the family

Spiedel also said Project Care provides short-term care for people who have experienced traumas such as an sexual abuse, Alzheimer's disease, AIDS or cancer.

"We refer people to other volunteer organizations in the community," Speidel said. "We get people to where they are able to sort things out. After that, we get them in

touch with other organizations."

Spiedel stressed confidentiality is always maintained between Project Care clients and Project Care volunteers.

"Many of the people who come to us often do so with a sense of shame," Speidel said. "They feel ashamed of the fact that they were unable to deal with their situations by themselves.

They would not seek help from us or any other organization if they did not know they their cases would be kept in the strictest confidence.

Volunteers at Project Care are from the Eugene/Springfield area and go through an intense 60hour training course.

This course gives new volunteers a working knowledge of the various resources in the community," said Project Care director Sakre Edson.

Like many non-profit organizations, Project Care has had limited financial resources to train new volunteers and to pay staff personnel.

Because of a need to reach out to a greater number of crisis-sufferers in the area, Project Care applied for a grant this year.

The organization recently received a \$5,000 grant from

the Oregon Community Foundation, which is a collection of charity funds and resources used to enhance the quality of life in Oregon communities.

According to Edson, the grant also helps Project Care reorganize its functions and further awareness in the community.

The grant has provided us with the resources to train 19 new volunteers who are currently in training," Edson said."The grant also allowed us to have the office open on three mornings per week and to hire two part-time staff people."

Edson and Spiedel were hired after the grant along with five new volunteer board members

Board member Judy Mosley, who has worked with Project Care as a social worker with Sacred Heart Home Health Services, said she believes that Project Care's role in the community is an important one.

'I have referred people to Project Care in the past," Mosley said. "I always thought they were a good organization and I am proud to be a member of the board; I'm also proud to be a part of an organization that does so much good for the community.

Activists say Proposition 187 racist, violates civil rights

LOS ANGELES (AP) -Immigration activists swept into court Wednesday, charging that a new law brought by Proposition 187, which denies education and most health care to illegal immigrants, also violates basic civil rights.

Proposition 187 passed in Tuesday's election with 99 percent of precincts reporting. Fifty-nine percent of voters, or 4,588,772 approved the measure and 41 percent, or 3,179,548 opposed it. The ballot measure cuts off education and most health care to illegal immigrants and requires teachers and doctors to turn them in.

One judge immediately barred enforcement of the sections of Proposition 187 that would expel undocumented immigrants from California public secondary schools and its public colleges and universities.

San Francisco Superior Court Judge Stuart Pollak noted that the ballot measure conflicts with a 1982 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that requires states to provide a public education to all residents.

Voters' endorsement of Proposition 187. closely watched from Washington to Mexico City, touched off small protests in northern California and focused a glaring spotlight on

the center stage immigration now commands in America. The United States, a beacon to migrants for more than a century, now shares the struggles of other nations faced with mass migrations across borders.

Proposition 187 supporters hope to take their successful campaign to other states, including Texas. But Hispanic activists insist the racial and economic fears that motivated California voters are unique to this recession-hit state.

'It's opened up enormous wounds that are going to take a long time to heal," said Cecilia Munoz of the National Council of La Raza, a moderate Hispanic advocacy group in Washington. "Clearly, there are people out there who find the growth of the Latino population in America and in California very threatening.

But, Munoz added, "Texas and other states don't have the same type of recession. and the same type of backlash, that California has seen.

Gary Mounce, a University of Texas-Pan American political scientist, agreed it will be less of an issue there: "Those politics of hate or immigrant bashing, you find it here, but I don't think the major politicians are lending

any credence to it.

In this city shaken by racial rioting just three years ago over verdicts in the Rodney King beating case, police braced for student protests. High school and middle school students briefly shut down highways in three northern California spots early Wednesday.

Proposition 187 supporters insist their agenda is not racist, but economic, bearing a message that Californians are fed up with spending scarce state tax dollars on people who don't belong here.

Republican U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher lashed out at opponents of Proposition 187 who complained about the measure's purported racism and called him "a racist skin head." He said the measure should send a message to poor people worldwide that the United States cannot help everyone.

I think the word's going to get out that we will turn this tide in a very kind way, but a very forceful way," Rohrabacher said.

Gov. Pete Wilson ordered state departments to begin drawing up emergency guidelines to implement Proposition 187, but cautioned health care and other social service providers to wait for the guidelines before turning people away.

ET ALS

MEETINGS

MEETINGS Vietnamese Student Association will meet tonight at 6:30 in the Multicultural Center, EMU Room 33. For more infor-mation, call 346-9487. Outdoor Program will sponsor "Back to Your Roots," a forest issues meeting, tonight at 7 p.m. in EMU Room 37. For more information, call 346-0638. Mortar Board officers and committee chairmen and chairwomen will meet tonight at 6 p.m. in EMU Cedar Room F. Micronesia and South Pacific Program will sponsor an informational meeting on how graduate students can apply for a three-month paid internship in Microne-sia next year. The meeting will take place today at 5 p.m. in Room 332 Gilbert. For more information, call 346-1425 or 346-3815. 3815.

MISCELLANEOUS

Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Alliance will have a coffee/social hour today at 4 p.m. in EMU Suite 319. For more information, all 346-3360

Outdoor Program will meet tonight at 20 in EMU Room 37. A ski trip will be slanned. For more information, call 348-

ASUO Women's Center will sponsor a ampus/community coffee hour tonight at 6 p.m. outside EMU Suite 3. For more

Information, call 346-4095. Academic Advising and Student Ser-vices will sponsor a workshop. Practicum Opportunities in Physical and Occupational Therapy for Winter Term," today at 3:30 p.m. in Room 164 Oregon Hall.

Hillel will sponsor a "Jewish Dating ame" tonight at 7 in the Koinonia Cen-r basement. For more information, call 343-8920

Career Center will sponsor a workshop on effective interviewing today from 2 to 4 p.m. in Room 221 Hendricks. For more information, call 346-3235.



