

Tim Bobosky Photographer

Encamacion Perez, 22, and Jessica Villafana, 21, help their son Steven get his shoes on at the First Place Family Center on Nov. 13. They have been receiving day care and laundry help from the center since September. Perez works at the Road House Grill and Villafana is working at Nacho's Restaurant.

## First Place gives hope, smiles to local families

The shelter provides families with a safe haven and resources to help local parents and their children

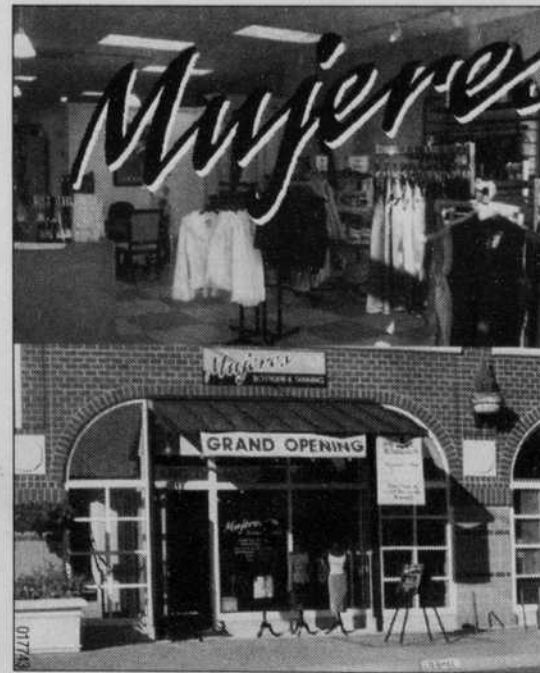
By Omie Drawhorn  
Freelance Reporter

Facing hunger and homelessness is one of the hardest tasks any individual may ever have to deal with. The idea of sleeping on the street and foraging for food seems unappealing at its least and deadly at its worst.

When parents don't have enough money to put food on the table or a roof over the heads of their children, they are often forced to make the choice between living on the street as a family or going to a shelter and being divided into separate living quarters.

In Eugene, First Place Family Center provides a safe place where families can remain together while getting the help they need. The center provides services including shelter and meals to low-income and homeless families.

Turn to **SHELTER**, page 8C



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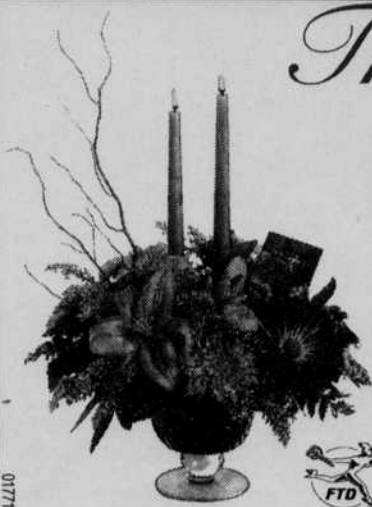
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