

St. Jude's administrator honored in 1st class certified nationally

by DAN DILLON

Marilee E. Swarthout, administrator at St. Jude's Home in Sandy, in May became one of the first 12 people in the United States to be awarded Professional Certification in Nursing Home Administration by the Professional Certification Committee of the American College of Nursing Home Administrators.

The goal, she said, is to insure continual professional development of administrators.

"So often when you get a license, that's the end of it," Mrs. Swarthout said.

"This award recognizes a nursing home administrator's achievements in relation to professional competence and continuing professional development as judged by professional peers, employer groups, and representatives of the public," according to Robert V. Siebel, who chairs the committee.

The Professional Certification Committee was established in 1980 through support from the R.W. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Mich. The committee is recognized as an "approved certification agency" through conditional membership in the National Commission for Health Certifying Agencies.

Mrs. Swarthout began work with the Society of St. Paul, which founded St. Jude's Home, in July 1959 working in the Society's day school in Gresham.

In 1964, an administrator at the Society's Gresham nursing home was leaving and the society was closing the day school, so Mrs. Swarthout accepted an invitation to become administrator at the nursing home. At the time, the Society ran three nursing homes, in Sandy, Gresham and Portland. Two were sold in 1969 and Mrs. Swarthout came to work in Sandy.

She became administrator at St. Jude's in 1972 when the Rev. Rene Bozarth retired.

The nursing home was originally intended to be a memorial hospital to the soldiers who lost their lives in World War II, Mrs. Swarthout said.

For a variety of reasons, sufficient funding was never available and the project was abandoned. "For a long time, this was just a



Marilee Swarthout

shell of a building," she said.

Armin Richter, a Medford contractor, bought the building and finished it as a nursing home and the Society purchased it from him.

In the early days with the Society, the second floor served as a monastery with nursing home facilities downstairs. However, when the Society moved the monastery to Southern California, the top floor was opened to residential care making St. Jude's unique.

It is one of the few combination nursing home-residential care facilities around.

"One nice thing about having residential care is there is minimal supervision," Mrs. Swarthout said. "They can come here and have a private room and maintain some independence and they still feel they have some control in their lives, that they are important people."

The residential care is an in-between step from private housing to nursing care. "There are no traumas because they are adjusted to the environment and staff," she said.

Since 1977, the halls of St. Jude's have also been filled with Sandy area school children taking part in a pilot project—the Silver Threads program.

Begun by Judy Sheppard, the program brings children into the nursing home to befriend the residents and bring joy into each others' lives.

"Sometimes we had more than 100 children in the facility in a day," Mrs. Swarthout.

Under a Classroom Adopting Residential Elders (CARE) program, 35 of the 83 residents have become unofficial grandparents and special friends to classrooms at Kelso, Firwood, Sandy and Bull Run schools.

"We're having more children involved and that's wonderful for the residents," she said.

The children's support is just one example of the community support that St. Jude's has enjoyed, Mrs. Swarthout said. "During difficult times the community really pitches in and that's wonderful."

Mrs. Swarthout is past governor of the five-state region of administrators, on the National Residential Care Committee of the American Health Care Association and on the board of the Oregon Health Care Association.

While Mrs. Swarthout receives the recognition because of her position, she feels the focus is sometimes misplaced.

"It's a team effort," she said.

Keeping posted

CPR class scheduled Saturday

Thursday, Nov. 19
A cancer detection clinic, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, will be held at the Adventist Community Center at 7:30 p.m. Cathy Garrett, R.N., will lead the session. For more information, call 668-8152, between 9 a.m. and noon.

The Sandy Elementary School District Board meets at 7:30 p.m. in the library at Cedar Ridge School. Among the topics on the agenda is a discussion of a proposed career education curriculum. "West Side Story," presented by Sandy Union High School, continues its run at 8 p.m. on stage at the Sandy Community Theater.

Friday, Nov. 20
Former Sandy resident Ernie Unger will address the meeting of the Hoodland Chapter of the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship at TJ's Fireside Dining at 7 p.m. Unger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Unger, is the executive director of the Eugene Mission, Inc. For reservations, call 622-4695, 665-0254 or 661-5684.

The SUHS presentation, "West Side Story," will be

a benefit for Mt. Hood Hospice this evening at 8 p.m. A special appearance by actress Ann Sothern is scheduled.

Saturday, Nov. 21
Sandy Fire District is hosting a CPR class today at the main station. The all-day class begins at 8:30 a.m. There is no cost and pre-registration is not required.

The Sandy Optimist Club is sponsoring a free children's health clinic. Examinations will be conducted from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. by more than 20 doctors at the Sandy Community Center, 38348 Pioneer Blvd.

The Sandy Garden Club is decorating the main stage for the "Times of Joy" holiday flower, presented by Clackamas District 15 of the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs. The show is at Lot Whitcomb School, 7400 SE Thompson Road, Milwaukie. Times at 2 to 8 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday.

"West Side Story," presented by the SUHS drama department, concludes its runs at 8 p.m. in the Sandy Community

Theater.

Tuesday, Nov. 24
John Thompson, executive secretary of the Hoodland Chamber of Commerce, will be the guest speaker at the noon luncheon of the Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce at the Tollgate Inn. He will speak on the evolution of chambers as a political

force at national and local levels.

Auditions for "Butterflies Are Free," to be presented in January by Sandy Community Players will be held at 7 p.m. at the Sandy Community Theater. No prepared readings are necessary for auditions.



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Language club plans fruit sale Monday

Sandy residents who need some vitamin C during the long, dark winter days may find some relief.

The Sandy High School Foreign Language Club offers residents a chance to purchase fresh oranges and grapefruit direct from the Rio Grande Valley in Texas.

This Monday, Nov. 23, club members will go door to door in the Sandy area taking orders. Orders will also be accepted by Dian Hutchin or Kathy Thomas at the school, 668-8011.

Twenty pounds of delicious ruby red grapefruit (18-24 grapefruit) will cost \$8.95. For 20 pounds of oranges (40-60 oranges), the cost will be \$9.95.

All orders must be in by next Friday, Nov. 27, for delivery of the fruit on Dec. 13.

Citywide Christmas celebration set

Sandy Area Merchants next weekend will sponsor an open house in local stores, followed by a Santa's Bazaar Dec. 4 and 5 in Heritage Square.

The merchants seek to restore and old-fashioned flavor to the Christmas season, according to SAM organizer Meri Lang.

Many Sandy stores, therefore, will put on their holiday finest Friday and Saturday, Nov. 27 and 28,

and treat window shoppers to hot cider, coffee and snacks.

The city-wide open house precedes a more intensive Christmas celebration the following Friday and Saturday, Dec. 4 and 5.

The merchant group will sponsor a large bazaar in the vacant half of the Cejka Building at Heritage Square with tables of early Christmas gift ideas, bargains, baked goods,

refreshments, slide shows, video tapes and free candy for the kids. Hours will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

Eight Christmas trees with decorations from each of the grades in area elementary schools will be on display. Carolers will also entertain.

Santa Claus makes his appearance at the bazaar site also at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5. Arrival will be by helicopter.

Santa and the merchants' own Mountain Bear will greet the children and hand out candy canes. Pictures with Sandy also will be available.

Child care will be available at the group bazaar.

There will be everything from computers to community theater video tapes and Mountain Festival slides.

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