

P-CEP Robotic team girds for competitions – Local news, A3

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SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 23, 2003
75 cents

CANTON Observer

World famous

Young pianist to perform with DSO. Arts, D1



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Memo

Go RV-ing

HW Motor Homes, Inc. of Canton will be one of 20 dealers at a camper and RV show at Ford Field next week.

The dealers will bring 400 different motor homes into the show, which opens Feb. 26 and closes March 2. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$3 for children. Hours Feb. 26-28 are 3 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. March 1 the shows opens at 10 a.m. and closes at 9:30 p.m.; Sunday's hours are 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.

HW is on Belleville Road south of Michigan Avenue. The dealer will have a Gulfstream, a Dolphin, a Rage-In sports utility vehicle, a Shadow Cruiser, a Skyline Nomad and a Prowler at the Ford Field event. Dealer's phone is (734) 397-0101.

Act Up – for fun

Students in grades 6-12 are invited to take part in something new and exciting over this mid-winter break. For those interested in acting but aren't quite sure how to get started, this is the perfect opportunity. Leisure Services is sponsoring an "Act Up" youth and teen drama workshop at the Summit on Tuesday, Feb. 25, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Award-winning instructor Yvonne Healy jam-packs this fun-filled class with improvisation, theater games and scene work. Some activities are similar to television's popular show, *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*

Cost to register is \$17 for residents and \$20 for non-residents. Registration is happening now at the Summit, and those under age 18 must be registered by a parent or guardian. Space is limited.

Junior Miss

Laura Koslosky, daughter of Greg and Marla Koslosky of Canton, will be our representative at the state pageant Sunday, March 8, in Alpena. She will be vying for scholarship money and a shot at the state title along with 22 other girls. She will arrive March 2 in Alpena for a week of rehearsals and learning opportunities.

Exchange Club

The Canton Exchange Club will hear travel expert Maribeth Pettys at its meeting at Palermo's at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24. She will talk about traveling safely and efficiently. The newly formed club focuses on child abuse as its charity. Palermo's is at 44938 Ford Road in Canton (behind Murray's Auto). New members welcome.

Dreaded deadline

Last-minute tax tips will be offered by the Canton Public Library at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 6. Guest speaker Ken Bloom has timely ideas for the 2002 returns and suggestions for 2003 returns.

Bloom is an attorney specializing in estate, corporate, real estate and small business law, with an emphasis on tax issues.

Best thing about this tax seminar is it's free. Register by calling the library, (734) 397-0999.

Ryan: Shortfall closer to \$9 million

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Just one day after finding out Plymouth-Canton schools will lose \$920,000 this school year as a result of an executive order budget cut by Gov.

Jennifer Granholm, Superintendent Jim Ryan said Thursday the district's budget outlook for the 2003-04 school year has become more bleak.

Ryan, who earlier predicted the district would face a \$6 million budget deficit next school year, now says PCCS is faced

with a \$9 million shortfall.

"With the \$920,000 cut announced by the governor, combined with a zero foundation grant increase next year and what we figure will be another 11-percent reduction in the grant, that adds up to \$9 million in expenses over revenues," said

Ryan. "We're hoping the Board of Education will let us use some of the fund balance, and we'll get more than the projected 175 new kids next year. But, even with those scenarios, I still believe

PLEASE SEE **SHORTFALL, A5**

Doctors team to help a child

Surgery gives Dominican a chance at a better life

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Eighteen-month-old Imanol Duran races around the lobby at the Oakwood Medical Center in Canton, apparently unfazed and scarcely slowed by his twisted feet, the condition of which brought him there in the first place.

He's had a nap, so his energy seems boundless, as it does for just about any toddler. His temporary foster mother, Alta Brown, chases him down with help from her daughters, trying in vain to contain him. He's a youngster at play, not understanding how much his life is about to change.

When Imanol's pediatrician, Dr. Nutan Saxena, enters, Alta Brown scoops Imanol into her arms. At the sight of one of his doctors, Imanol puckers his lips and leans toward her, offering her the love contained in a child's kiss.

"All you have to do is say hello to him, and you get the big kiss," Saxena said. "He's a very happy kid."

Standing in the hallway, watching with a smile nearly as large as Imanol's, is Dr. Frank Patino of Plymouth, a researcher for pharmaceutical giant Pfizer Inc. who made Imanol's visit to the United States possible.

It's a scene that's been playing out at



Imanol Duran tosses a ball as his host father, Clay Brown, looks on in their Chelsea home. Imanol came from his home in the Dominican Republic to have surgery to correct his clubfeet.

Coming Thursday: The Surgery

Oakwood for several weeks now, since Patino's nonprofit group, Health Help Project Inc., brought Imanol from his home in the Dominican Republic to have surgery to repair his clubfeet.

Imanol will have surgery Tuesday. The operation is scheduled to be performed by Dr. Lawrence Fallat at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis in Wayne.

FAMILY AFFAIR

It's not an unfamiliar situation for Patino, since Imanol is the third child to have the corrective surgery thanks to Health Help. But familiarity, at least in

PLEASE SEE **SURGERY, A7**



PHOTOS BY PAUL HURSCHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Brown family, from left, Jessica, Elena and mom Alta, wait to see doctors treating 18-month-old Imanol at Oakwood Healthcare System's Canton center. The Browns are hosting Imanol, who is here to have surgery to repair his clubfeet.

Chamber expo a hit with participants

BY DOUG JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

The Canton chamber's second business expo in the last 12 months went off smoothly Thursday night.

Most of the 48 businesses at the expo were happy with the turnout at the Summit.

Diane Cojei, chamber executive director, said the crowd was not huge, but that gave those who came time to spend with each vendor.

"Most people were very responsive. We gave everyone a chance to introduce themselves. It was a great networking opportunity," she said.

Each business donated a small prize and then each business had a representative take the microphone,

introduce themselves, and help with the drawing for their prize.

The drawings bring people to all the booths; the booths are only \$35 and the township picks up a portion of the costs. In return the chamber helps host the Home Improvement Expo coming March 8-9.

Cojei said she had hoped for an even better turnout. "I would like to see more of the general public," she said. "We will do this again next September."

Among the comments from the participants:

■ Frank Iannetta, a Canton resident who operates Comfort Keepers from his home, liked the expo. Keepers offers in-home care and help to seniors and even new

mothers overwhelmed with work.

"We are not expecting to get a great big turnout for new business. But we want the referrals from others, we want the chance to network. We want people to know that there are people out there who can help you."

■ Mark Sondergaard, a Canton resident, was on hand representing TDS Metrocom.

"This is a very successful event for us," he said. "It helps get brand recognition and we do get a lot of referrals." Not surprisingly, Sondergaard heard a lot of complaints about phone service from certain other companies.

PLEASE SEE **EXPO, A7**

Canton businessman remembered fondly for community work



McMurray

BY JACK GLADDEN
STAFF WRITER

Frank McMurray's friends remember him as a tireless man who could get things done. His family remembers him as a learner and an activist – a man whose philosophy was to give something back to the community.

McMurray, 64, died Feb. 21 while vacationing in Acapulco, Mexico. He and his wife, Janet, were in Acapulco to celebrate their 42nd wedding anniversary. Services were held Saturday in Uht Funeral Home in

PLEASE SEE **MCMURRAY, A5**

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LOOKING AHEAD

Change in venue
In Thursday's At Home section: The Michigan Design Center is the venue for this year's Orchestrations for the Home: A Design Showcase.



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School team eyes robotic transformation

Competition partners preps with Visteon in engineering contest

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

The Robotics Club at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park is hoping a box of "spare parts" will transform itself into a championship-performing robot.

Team Lightning, comprised of nearly 50 Plymouth-Canton high school students, competes next month at Eastern Michigan University in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition, a multinational contest that teams professionals and young people in solving an engineering design problem.

In this case, Plymouth-Canton students partner with Visteon engineers from Plymouth Township to take a box filled with motors, shafts, fuses, relays, nuts and bolts and make a robot that will, on command, pick up and stack storage tubs.

"We have a lot of people who can design it, but the building part has been a problem," said Jay Obsniuk, who teaches robotics and electronics at Salem High School. "We need to put in a lot of extra work."

Students and their professional partners worked nightly on the project, and put in 12-hour days on the weekend.

"We finally got it working, but we broke a drill motor," said Mike Marantis, 17, of Canton Township, who is president of the Robotics Club. "Right now, our drivetrain doesn't work, and we're getting another motor."

The teams received their boxes of robot parts the first week of January, and had to have the robot assembled and ready to run by today, as it has to be shipped for inspection before competition on March 20-22.

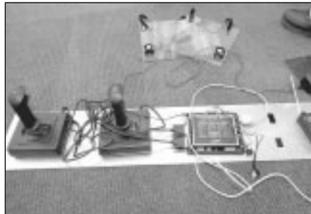
Walter Graf, 15, a sophomore from Canton, was working on repairing wires to the electronic robot.

"I thought robotics was pretty cool, so I joined the club," he said. "They tell us what the game is and we start building from scratch."

The game is working with a partner team to have the robots move and lift storage boxes. The two teams compete against another pair of teams,



Stephen Collins of Canton, left, and fellow team members work on attempting to get the flashing blue light to work in the cafeteria at Visteon following school Monday.



PHOTOS BY PAUL HURSCHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The remote control panel and controls are laid out on the floor.



Ryan Shutes, far right, a product development engineer at Visteon, shows the robot's design on his laptop using a CAD software program, as the students work on the actual robot during the 11th hour before shipping it off to the competition.

interested in computers, so he joined the software part of the robotics team.

"We write the program to make it move and knock over or pick up boxes for the game," he said. "We have a bunch of programs already set out, and at the beginning of the match we'll decide which ones we want to use, depending on what our opponents or partners will be using."

Visteon product design engineer Ryan Shutes said the computer assisted design (CAD) program helped get the project started.

"But it has changed quite a bit," he said. "We originally were going to use wheelchair wheels on the front, but they didn't turn well on carpet. So, we had to use castors. It's called running design changes."

While students from almost a thousand teams compete for top prizes and \$3 million in scholarships, the idea, said Shutes, is to prepare them for the real world.

"We're giving these kids machining experience now, so when they become engineers they have some experience," he said. "They'll be a little ahead of the class, and be faster and better."

Obsniuk said he's hoping to teach students in the field what he can't give them in the classroom.

"So many of these kids in drafting class think they're going to design a super car and build it and go," he said. "Here, they go through the whole design process, they build it, and then they run into the same problems they run into at the factory. They learn what goes on in the real world, build within a budget and team work."

Visteon has donated \$9,000 to support the robotics team, with another \$1,000 from Ilmore Engineering, a thousand dollars from the Rotary Club, and \$1,500 earned via fund-raising. Obsniuk said he is looking for additional sponsors to pay for future competitions and additional machinery at the high school, as well as mechanical engineering help. He can be reached at Salem High School, at (734) 416-2847.

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Mary and Steve Traynoff welcome visitors to their new Scoopy's Ice Cream Hanford Road location in Canton.

PAUL HURSCHMANN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Here's scoop on Scoopy's

Deli, ice cream bring Canton man back into retail

BY DOUG JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

For Steve Traynoff, opening the Canton ice cream store with the cute name was the start of a third career in retail.

He began working for his father after high school in 1977. The family operated Northville Meats in Northville, and then Tedd's Butcher Block in Canton near Joy and Hix roads.

Then he turned to cars after his father retired, and worked for Hines Park Lincoln Mercury in Plymouth for 13 years.

This past summer, he opened Scoopy's Ice Cream and Deli on the northeast corner of Canton Center and Hanford.

"I had always dreamed of owning my own store again,"

Traynoff said.

He, his wife, Mary, and about 10 students from Plymouth-Canton Educational Park keep the store running. His wife also has a full-time job with a Canton firm that specializes in "clean rooms" for technology.

The couple live fairly close to the store, and their son attends Discovery Middle School across the street.

"We picked Scoopy's because it sounds like a friendly name to the kids," Mary Traynoff said. "We didn't just want to say deli."

The store features a contemporary look with clean graphics on the wall, and a few tables and a bar counter.

Traynoff carries Guernsey Ice Cream which is made in Northville; they both enjoyed

the locally made dessert as kids.

He also offers a deli menu of sandwiches and subs, soups by StockPot, salads, hot dogs, coffee and cappuccino, and pie from the Grand Traverse Pie Company.

The kids from Discovery come in for these items as well as for slushes, fruit smoothies and a favorite, the Avalanche Flurry.

He also has Sanders cream puffs and Sanders cakes.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday; Friday and Saturday they start at 11 a.m. but stay open an hour later. In the summer, they will stay open later for the ice cream crowd - 10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, and 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The store is at 45300 Hanford next to the drug store; phone (734) 451-7980.



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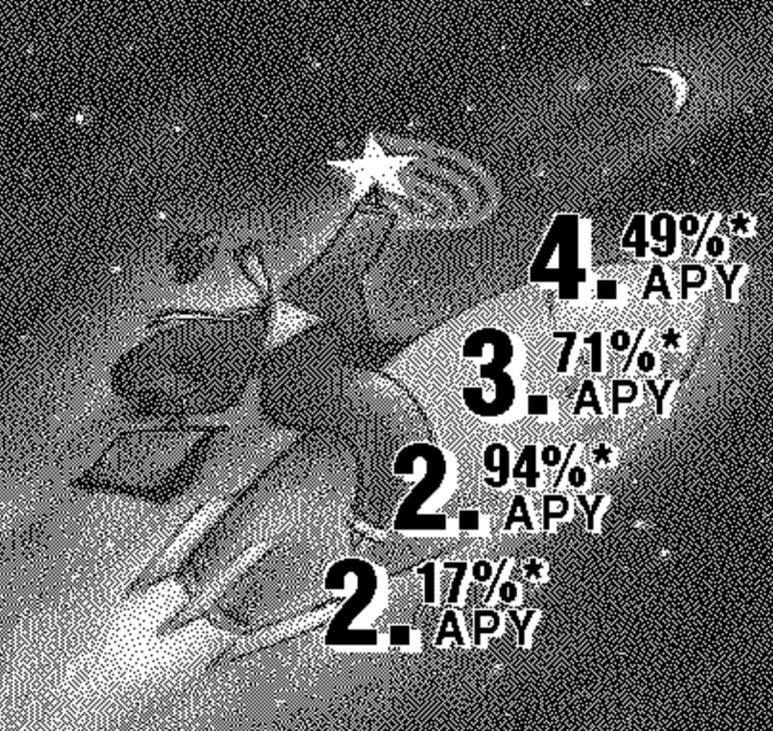
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Dean, who oversees presentation, is HomeTown's top journalist

Dan Dean, assistant managing editor of the Presentation Desk at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, has been named Journalist of the Year 2002 for HomeTown Communications Network Corp.



Dean

Dean received the recognition - a \$1,000 prize and award - last month at the corporation's third annual Editorial Achievement Dinner.

Dean was among seven nominees for the award. Judges cited his "leadership in making changes that are reflected in the visual strength of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers."

"The O&E papers have a newer, brighter and newsier design that draws the readers' attention and yet avoids the cookie-cutter look of so many newspaper pages today," the

judges wrote. "Dean's job of making sure the visual presentation of the newspapers is consistently excellent is one that is little appreciated, but crucial to the future success of community journalism."

REDESIGN PROJECT

Dean worked on the redesign project with a committee composed of O&E staff members and design consultant Edward Henninger.

Judges for this year's award included Ben Burns, director of the journalism program at Wayne State University; Jack Lessenberry, a writing coach,

newspaper columnist and professor in the journalism program at WSU; and Sandra Birdiott, director of the Journalism Institute for Minorities at Wayne State.

Dean, 40, manages the presentation desk at the O&E. The desk is responsible for page design and story editing for all 15 O&E editions. Dean has held the position since October 2002. He previously was the Presentation editor for the Eccentric Newspaper Group.

Dean was nominated for the HCN Journalist of the Year Award by his manager, Susan Rosiek, executive editor of the O&E, and colleagues Joe Bauman, managing editor of the Eccentric Newspaper Group, and Hugh Gallagher, managing editor of the Observer Newspaper Group. Dean holds a bachelor's

degree in communications from Oakland University. He lives in Ortonville with his wife, Cathy, sons, Kevin, 13, Josh, 3, and infant daughter, Heather.

"It is nice to be singled out by your peers for work you have done. Certainly, redesigning the O&E took many long hours. There were many mornings that I headed home seeing the sun start to rise over Troy as I made my way onto northbound I-75 from Square Lake Road.

"The award is a reflection of the support and understanding of my wife, Cathy, who encouraged me through the redesign project. But mostly it is a tribute to the talent and hard work of the entire presentation desk staff and the redesign committee of Jeanne Towar, Sue Rosiek, Joe Bauman and, of course, Ed Henninger," said Dean.

O&E CAREER

Dean's role as AME of Presentation is one of many positions he's held throughout his 20 years at the O&E.

He started his career as a photographer for the Wayne and Oakland editions. He was promoted to Troy community editor in 1998 and in May 2000 he launched the *Waterford Eccentric*. In December 2001, he was named Presentation editor for the Eccentric Newspaper Group.

Dean has won many awards at the O&E. In 1990, he was named O&E Journalist of Year. As Waterford community editor, his newspaper took first place for Best Editorial Page in the 2000 Suburban Newspapers of American Editorial contest. In that same contest, the *Waterford*

Eccentric took first place in its category for Best Graphic Artwork.

While working as a community editor, Dean was honored in the picture story category for 2002 from the Michigan Press Association. Dean's photographer had the day off and he wanted to get photographs of an historic home being moved. He grabbed his camera gear and shot the picture story himself.

HCN is the parent company of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. HCN publishes 57 newspapers in Oakland and western Wayne counties, Cincinnati, Kentucky, Lansing metropolitan area and a daily newspaper in Livingston County. HCN also publishes 21 local telephone directories and a variety of specialty publications and shopping guides.



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OBITUARIES

Barney L. Finnerty
Services for Barney Finnerty, 91, of Canton were held Feb. 19 at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Canton with burial at St. Joseph Cemetery in Lansing.
Mr. Finnerty was born Feb. 13, 1912, in Grand Rapids and died Feb. 16 in Westland. He worked in construction as a supervisor.
Mr. Finnerty was preceded in death by his wife, Betty L. Finnerty.
Survivors include son, Kevin (Denise) Finnerty; step-daughter, Maxine; three brothers; two sisters; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.
Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at griffinfuneralhome.com.
Arrangements made by L.J. Griffin Funeral Home Canton Chapel.

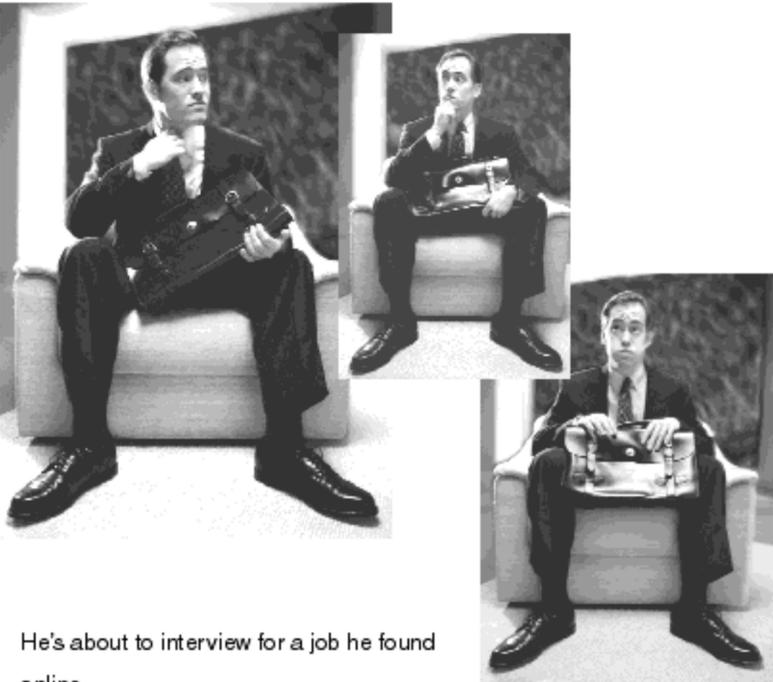
Michael Sergio Kavalhuna
Michael Kavalhuna, 33, passed away Feb. 13. He was born Dec. 28, 1969. He lived in Plymouth since childhood until 1988. He had been living in New York City. He was a professional opera singer.
Mr. Kavalhuna was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth from 1975-

Kavalhuna
1998, member of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York from 1998 until his death. He was a 1988 graduate of Plymouth Canton High School, graduate of Temple University with a bachelor's degree in music, majoring in voice performance from 1988-1992; graduate of the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music with a master's degree in voice performance and Artist Diploma in Opera Performance from 1992-1996; and attended Manhattan School of Music for one year, working toward another Artist Diploma.
Mr. Kavalhuna debuted with the Michigan Opera Theater in a production of Carmen in 1997, and with the New York City Opera at Lincoln Center in 1999. He had just become a district winner in the Metropolitan Opera Auditions on Friday, Feb. 14.
Mr. Kavalhuna was preceded in death by brother, David, in 1993; and by all grandparents.
Survivors include parents, Sergio (Carol) Kavalhuna;

brother, John; four aunts and uncles; and several cousins.
Memorial contributions may be made to First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church of New York City-Homeless Program, and Michael S. Kavalhuna Music Scholarship Fund to be established through Ester Boyer College of Music at Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa. Contact Vermeulen Funeral Home for further information.
Arrangements made by Vermeulen Funeral Home.

Glenn Joseph Tripp
Glenn Tripp, 50, died Feb. 10 in Plymouth. He was born March 27, 1952, in Ann Arbor.
Mr. Tripp lived most of his life in Plymouth. He was a laborer. One of the true free spirits from the 1960s, Glenn led his own life, living it day to day. His family and friends will miss him very much.
Mr. Tripp was preceded in death by his mother and father.
Survivors include his brothers, Dan (Kim), John (Debbie) and Douglas (Nancy), and his sister, Teresa. He also leaves his dogs, Bandit and Bear, his constant companions.
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SURGERY

FROM PAGE A1

this case, breeds nothing but happiness.

"It's very rewarding," Patino acknowledged with a smile.

It's a reward Patino has been getting since the mid-1990s, when he started helping his father, who had retired to Miami, Fla., get medicine and other medical supplies into Cuba.

After enlisting the aid of his friends in the medical field up here, Patino would load the supplies into a 26-foot rental truck and drive it to Miami. As their legend began to grow, and stories of their success began to spread, the calls started coming from other Latin American countries.

Eventually, the relief effort outgrew the rental truck, and Health Help Project, Inc., was born, incorporated as a nonprofit nearly three years ago. After so much early success, the Patinos were invited to the Dominican Republic to accept a humanitarian award.

MEDICINE MEN

While there, Patino took a tour of

area hospitals, jotting down specific needs and wants. While walking around a town called Cnastica, Patino saw for himself the horrible conditions - open sewage, flies all over the place, carrying filth from sewage to food. Nearly every child in the town was ill.

He noticed the crowd around them growing, increasing in size until literally hundreds of people - many of whom had never seen a doctor - were pushing their way near the visitors.

"As soon as they heard a doctor was there, they all wanted a consult," said Patino, who also works in the emergency room at Oakwood. "Who can blame them? They don't have access to medical care."

It was in Cnastica Patino found what would be Health Help's first clubfoot patient, a young boy named Hector. Patino thought of a surgeon he knew - Dr. Lawrence Fallat - and an idea began germinating.

It would take a team effort, Patino thought, to fill hospital, anesthesia and surgical needs. There would have to be donations, because Health Help couldn't afford it.

But it could be done, and Patino got it done. Oakwood agreed to donate its facilities, and doctors like

Saxena and Fallat offered their services.

"I'll do as much as they can push my way," said Fallat, who also works with Healing the Children. "There's joy in helping a kid who would be crippled, and it's fun to do. You feel good after you do it."

MONEY MATTERS

Health Help screened some 60 children in Santo Domingo, and arranges for a couple of surgeries each year. Budget constraints make it difficult to do more, as much as everyone connected with the project would like to.

Like most nonprofits, there isn't always enough money. And, right from the start, the Patinos had to be careful how they spent their money. Operating in many Third World countries, the men encountered their share of crime.

"You run into a lot of problems ... with robberies, etc.," Patino said. "You can't just throw (money) out there, or it ends up on the black market. We've run into some scoundrels, but we smell it out pretty quick."

No amounts of money made any difference with those who are

involved with the project, because money isn't why anyone gets involved, anyway.

"We work on a shoestring budget," Patino said. "We don't want to encourage anyone who thinks there's money in this, because there isn't. But if you give people an avenue, they'll usually get involved."

Patino unwittingly gave just such an avenue to Connie Hall-Burke, a contract nurse for Pfizer who overheard Patino on the phone trying to arrange a host family for one of the children.

"As I was on the phone, she volunteered," Patino recalled.

Patino's group has continually expanded its sphere of influence, and now also reaches into the Philippines, Haiti and Nigeria. He's got lots of help now, including Oakwood and several of its doctors, all of whom put so much into the program without taking anything - except the joy of helping - out of it.

"Nobody takes a salary in this project," Patino said. "The money that comes in gets used for the project. Everyone (helps) because they want to help."

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EXPO

FROM PAGE A1

■ Keith Paul, also of Canton, operates HandyPro handyman service in Plymouth (995 S. Main, (734) 254-9160). "Anytime you can get your business and your face in front of the public it's a good thing. I came last fall and saw the booths and that convinced me."

■ Dodi Piotrowski, a Westland resident, was representing Waltonwood, a senior assisted living facility that has been open about 11 months in Canton. "It's been an excellent event. I've run out of business cards." She said the facility is currently about 55 percent full.

■ Tom Stahl, who lives in Plymouth and operates a State Farm dealership on Canton Center Road (at Sheldon Center Road, (734) 416-9770) in Canton said he would "absolutely" return for the next expo.

"It's definitely a good experience. We get our name out in the community, meet new customers. That's important," Stahl said. "I am looking forward to more chamber events."

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