# Hospice Aids Life-Through-Death Needs

### By MARGARET KOCH Sentinel Staff Writer

The hospice can be traced back through almost 2.000 years of history to institutions which offered hospitality to travelers, orphans and "incurables."

Today, the concept of the hospice is that of a way station providing the supportive care offered to those who are making the journey from life through death.

The interest in the hospice concept has grown with the awareness of how lonely and alienating dying tends to make one feel, and a desire to change that," notes Frank Lanou, who heads the local board of directors for the planned Santa Cruz County Hospice.

Julie Pitts and Marilyn Young are board members also for the charitable, tax-exempt corporation. There are no paid officers for the project which was conceived in November 1977, incorporated in April 1978 and recently com-

pleted the first training session for a group of 20 a "good death."

help is available vet." says Al Pedersen, who with his wife. Mickey, has spearheaded the local drive for a hospice.

"They will go out in pairs starting in June." he explained.

This first group of volunteers is trained to go to the terminally ill with a fresh, honest and humane approach to death and dying.

"Eventually we hope for a six-bed hospice in Santa Cruz," Pedersen says. "Right now, our greatest need is for an office where we can receive telephone calls and from which we can dispatch volunteers."

The hospice idea is telling the world that now is the time to help people who cannot get well, to help them die in comfortable and meaningful

It hopes to reduce pain in all its manifestations and to promote personal growth and

her life and death.

Valuable support also is given to the patient's death and after death, for the family. family. They are treated as a unit and the family is cared for in bereavement.

So far, the group has been meeting monthly training and regular discussion meetings. in homes. The next meeting is Wednesday 31 at 7 p.m. at Dominican Hospital.

The hospice has taken three forms through- "People of all ages are needed for the second out the world: the free-standing which offers training period which will start in June," care to terminal patients on both in-patient and home programs; the hospital-based hospice, and the home-centered hospice.

based hospice, with the initial contact to be Cruz' earlyday blacksmith, helping care for him made when a serious or life-threatening illness has been diagnosed; when a family is stricken by a sudden death experience, or a serious great that we became very interested in it," accident has occurred.

The client will then be matched to a pair of is so much need for it."

volunteer workers best able to meet the emo-It also hopes to allow the patient to take tional, social and spiritual needs of the family. "We get 200 and more calls a day, asking if control and have a sense of meaning about his or The workers will be available for talk, listening loving, caring and silent sitting up to the point of

Volunteer workers are trained, then make a one-year commitment to attend continuing

Persons wishing more information may call Pitts at 688-1286 or Young at 688-2721.

comments Pedersen.

So far, they have ranged in age from 20 to 69. Pedersen and his wife became involved after the The Santa Cruz County Hospice is a home-' death of a dear friend, Fred Wagner, Santa during his last years of life.

> "We went to a meeting and it was all so Pedersen said. "It's a wonderful thing and there

Arlyne Lewis and Gabriel Constans, right, who recently completed the Hospice training course, offer help to a bereaved person.

## **Youth Camp Needs Volunteers** To Help Youngsters In Reading

More than one-third of the vere" reading problems. community.

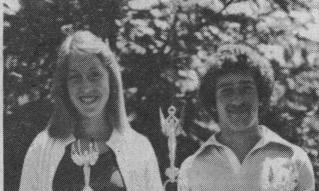
camp teacher John Beresford. on the basic business of dealing

young men at the Ben Lomond The inability to read-or at Youth Conservation Camp are least to read above a sixth-"functionally illiterate," leav- grade level-hampers the ing them in a difficult spot young California Youth Authorwhen they go back into the ity students when they leave the camp and apply for jobs, try The estimate comes from to attend schools, or just carry

men are unable to effectively cope when released into the community.

A new program has been started at the CYC camp, called the "Right to Read"

It needs community volunteers to work with the 16 to 25



## Drafting Winners

Sue Constantini, a Harbor High junior, won this first place in the recent Hartnell College drafting contest, with Dave Perry, also a Harbor High jun-