

9/23/79

Family Service There To Serve

Some 150 troubled citizens a month are given professional help by Family Service Association in the northern part of the county.

United Way is a vital contributor to its continuing existence.

A well established and proven organization, some 16 counselors work in several categories of human breakdown.

"We see more individuals than families, but there are family sessions and general group sessions," said Liz Thayer, executive director. The counselors are licensed in the field of marriage, family and child problems and fees are charged on sliding scale.

There are several special areas within Family Service.

Art therapy is one. Honey Rawlinson, an art therapist, and counselor Marry Orr-Cyr, work in a playroom setup, using art to draw out personal problems which youngsters are unable to express.

Adults can also be drawn out through art. It is a way of getting to feelings in a non-verbal way.

There is a team that works with domestic violence.

Ron Sommerville and Brian Rosenthal work with the couples involved, but they have put an emphasis on dealing with the human failures who do the battering.

Suzanne Herbert heads a psychomotor therapy group.

The object of this group gathering is to re-do the past, thereby leaving the mind freer to pursue the future.

Herb Cohen is heading a single parent support group.

On the horizon is a group of step-parents, specifically for men and women who come into an already established family.

Family Service depends upon United Way and your support of it for about 25 percent of its budget.

It receives further funding from sliding scale fees, Revenue Sharing, memberships, The Daisy, a resale shop and the annual Holidaisy, presented each year in the civic auditorium by the auxiliary.

Revenue Sharing funds are used for another program called senior lay counselor outreach.

Thayer said that Family Service is the only agency in the county dealing with these sad men who beat up their wives.

It works in cooperation with the Mariposa House and Women's Crisis group.

Headquarters for Family Service is at 1521½ Pacific Avenue. Its phone number is 423-9444.

United Way plays an important role in this organization.



Liz Thayer of Family Service with a client

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