

Teen Outreach: A Helping Hand

April Watson
Staff Writer

There's a new teen outreach starting downtown on Second Avenue. Although Pastor Brad Matuzak of Beaver Lake Community Church will run this, he says, this will be different from a church youth group. You do not have to be affiliated with a church to go

From my generation through this generation, teens always say there's nothing to do in this town, says Matuzak. Teens are encouraged to remain active in their own youth groups as well. This will be a place where teens can be themselves. This is a youth ministry with the purpose of

reaching out. It will be a place of hope, vision, and encouragement for teens to be all they can be, explains Matuzak. They want to cross community and denominational lines.

At this outreach there will be services that will be similar to the Powerhouse services at Beaver Lake Community Church with live music. There will also be video games and a cafe serving hot dogs, pizza, chips, nachos, and pop.

Funding for this outreach has come from local businesses, community churches, and a few individuals; 90% of the donations have come from Beaver Lake Community Church. While confident that all the financial needs will be

met, Matuzak has applied for various grants; one of them being from The Mustard Seed Foundation who help new outreaches get off the ground. There are still some needs such as musical and video equipment and monthly expenses.

"I hear teens say they love God but hate church," states Matuzak, Too many times if a teen looks, acts, or especially dresses different the church has shunned them.

This outreach has a staff made up of 49 volunteers who are married couples and teens. The

teenage staff are from a variety of churches while the adults are from Beaver Lake Community Church. The teen staff are crucial to bringing other teens in because it gives them a sense of ownership and belonging. It has also been proved that more teens become involved if they feel welcomed. Anyone who loves kids can be involved with this outreach. Included in the staff are two law enforcement officers who lead the ushering team in order to reassure parents of a safe environment for these teenagers.

With an expected attendance of 250 per night, Matuzak feels the biggest hurdle he will face here is younger kids wanting to attend. He stresses that this is not an after school program and is not geared for kids under 13. Opening day is tentatively set for mid October. The name for this

outreach has not yet been decided on; however the name "116" is being considered. The Powerhouse Youth Ministry's life-verse is Romans 1:16.

United Way Not Just Another Charity

RONDA SOMMERFELD
Staff Writer

The area's local United Way has kicked off their annual fall campaign, titled, Chose to Care. Executive Director, Germaine Stoppa and Campaign Chairman, Bill Spear, have been working together to reach the campaign's goal of \$310,000. The money that is raised during this campaign is used to fund local agencies.

The campaign started September seventh and will end November seventh. The campaign might look finished after 10 weeks to the public eye, but not to the United Way. "This is not a part time job," Stoppa mentioned. The United Way is an organization that works all year round, helping local agencies. Agencies that can't raise enough money on their own, turn to United Way for funding. A committee then determines how much money

cover the counties of Alpena, Alcona, and Montmorency. The Youth Center, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, D.A.R.E. Program, Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Hospice are just a few local agencies it provides funding for.

The United Way is building partnerships with other major companies. Recently, the Ford Motor Company teamed up with United Way. It donated booster seats to local agencies dealing with children. The Youth Center and Salvation Army are local agencies that received booster seats. Stoppa confirmed that this partnership shows a step into solving community problems. She stated, "United Way lays that foundation to building a better community." The organization has been helping the nation recover from the recent disaster. The 9/11 Relief Fund is the program designed for the national disaster.

will be used from United Way to help reach these agencies budget. This money is then totaled into a final amount, which establishes the goal.

Some of the areas major business contributors are Besser and Lafarge. Besser is the organizations largest corporate contributor and Lafarge is the largest employee contributor.

What is the United Way? Stoppa mentioned, "This is a common question that she is asked. The United Way is a volunteer organization that raises funds to help people." Stoppa simply added, "People helping people." This organization helps the community in a variety of ways. It offers counseling for adoption, pregnancy, and families. The organization Provides youth services such as daycare and mentoring programs. The United Way also provides care for the elderly. The organization funds 19 local agencies that

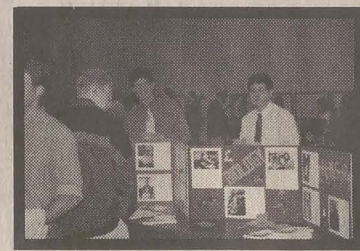
Our area's United Way is working with the United Way of America to raise cash donations. All the proceeds will go directly to the United Way of New York. Model Printing is also working with United Way designing bumper stickers. These stickers will sell for one dollar and all cash proceeds will go to the Red Cross and Salvation Army of New York.

"It just gets into your blood. Mostly your heart and soul, you just want the best for the community." Was how Stoppa replied about working with United Way. A way to help the United Way is by filling out a pledge card, seen at many local businesses. Through a pledge card, money that is donated is automatically deducted from a person's payroll. Or you can give a cash donation. "The United way does not belong to one person, this organization belongs to the community, it is here to help them," Stoppa concludes.

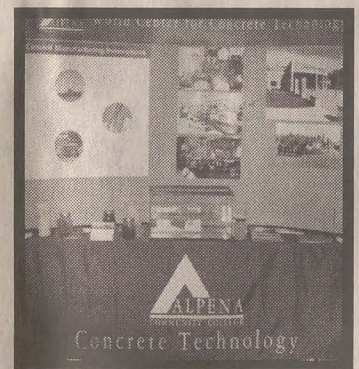
AHS College Night: Which study sparks you?

Alpena High School's annual College Night was held September 26, 2001. Several colleges throughout the state and all branches of the United States military had recruiters

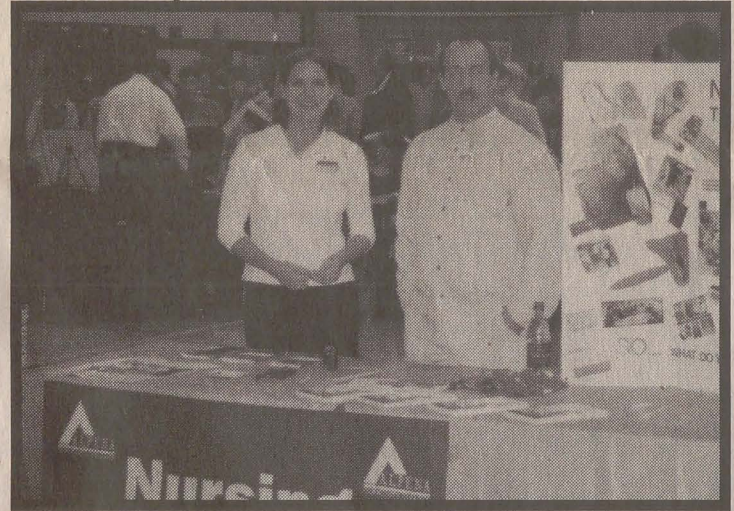
present at the event. ACC representatives were available at the event to answer any questions that many perspective students might have had. Concrete Technology,



Nursing, Science, Social Sciences, Manufacturing Technology, and CAD Design programs were there to promote their areas of study with colorful and attractive booths.



Photos by Joshua Brege



IS HOUSING SHORTAGE AN ACC PROBLEM?

ERIC PARKER
Staff Writer

Due to an overwhelming amount of students attending ACC this year, there has been a shortage of housing at the College Park Apartments.

To find out why there was a shortage, I sat down to talk with Max Lindsay and he said: "The housing, supplied by the school, has been there for four years and this year was the first time it's had a shortage."

Lindsay also stated, "part of the problem was, people did not fill out proper paper work to get housing and many students were told no paper work needed to be filled out." I asked Mr. Lindsay, since there isn't any campus housing available, what are students instructed to do in order to have a place to stay? Lindsay replied, "We have a central housing list, which is a list of housing facilities for students who

have to live off campus." I also asked him how do you get one of these housing lists. He said, "We run a newspaper ad about students needing housing, asking if anyone has space to rent out. If they do, the renter is asked to fill out a questionnaire about the facilities they are renting out." Lindsay also said, "No outside housing was needed last year, but due to the popularity of programs, like Concrete Tech and Utility Tech, the population of students rose 14%." Lindsay also said that, "For students that were expecting housing, but didn't, it was probably no fun.

To get more information on the shortage of housing, I also talked to men's basketball coach Frank McCourt. I felt that he would provide answers to the shortage of housing. I asked Coach McCourt why was there a shortage of apartments this year and not in the school year of 2000-2001. He stated, "ACC has a record of more full time

students than part time students, which is unusual because there aren't many job opportunities for high school grads in Alpena, so if they can't find jobs then they come to school at ACC or elsewhere."

Frank also mentioned, that due to the shortage of housing, he had to make arrangements for five to six of his players to stay at the Fletcher Motel. He added, "The manger Doug Cain at the Fletcher Motel has been very generous to ACC, in allowing a few athletes to stay at the motel for the same rate as the College Park Apartments." In Coach McCourt's opinion, he thinks more apartments should be built for students. I also asked him, does not having enough housing effect his recruiting. He replied, "No, it doesn't because if there is no housing for them on campus it's my job to find housing."

Last, but not least, I had a chance to catch up with Dr. Newport, School President, to ask him a couple of questions. One question

was, what is being done to provide more housing for students? Newport said, "There is a long range plan for building more complexes. They will be built on campus space if needed, and the master plan is to have two more housing structures built."

I also asked, what will be done if more students decide to attend ACC next semester? Dr. Newport replied "We will maintain local housing in the Alpena area that have space available to rent and to get that information they would have to contact Mr. Lindsay. The reason being, renters want students to rent out the available space because the renters are aware that the students need housing."

Well, all in all, we can say that everyone has a place to stay. Even though some places may not be where the student wanted to stay, at least they have a roof over their heads.