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 **McNEIL
PHARMACEUTICAL (CANADA) LTD.**

Care, Share Shoppe wares come from 14 countries

The Care and Share Shoppe, a non-profit organization owned by the Mennonite Central Committee and run by over 80 local volunteers, sells self-help giftware and second hand items.

Thousands of people, in over 14 countries, take part in the Mennonite self-help giftware program. First introduced in 1946, the program was set up to enable very poor people to earn money by selling their native products.

"Instead of giving monetary support to these poor

people, the Mennonites give them work," explained co-manager Carol Koch. "While these people often incorporate native woods and reed in what they make, the women also send the supplies they might not have access to. They pay for the products, ship the goods and sell the wares without a middle man."

Mennonite women in the Stouffville area started selling self-help giftware from vans and at ladies groups in the 1970s. When demand be-

came too great, the Care and Share Shoppe was opened on Main Street in 1981.

Care and Share sells baskets from the Philippines, brassware from India, wood carvings from Kenya, Christmas ornaments from Taiwan, Children's toys from Sri Lanka and lacquerware from Viet Nam, to name a few items. A large section of the store is designated to house Stouffville's only thrift shop selling used clothing and household goods donated by people in the area.

Headquartered in Kitchener, the Mennonite Central Committee owns the building that houses Care and Share. In 1987, after expenses were accounted for, \$56,000 was sent to MCC from Stouffville's operation.

"MCC distributes the money raised in the 16 similar operations throughout Ontario to educate people overseas, help with cow husbandry, drilling for wells, farming and earthquake relief," Koch said.

Koch explained that members from eight churches in the area volunteer to staff Care and Share, as well as other residents from Stouffville.

Care and Share is open Tuesday through Saturday.



Carol Koch displays one of the many baskets Care and Share Shoppe sells.



Care and Share's thrift shop is filled with fashions and household goods.