Homes for society's 'orphans'
New Dimensions puts youth in community

By Mary Burke
Community involvement is the key used by New Dimensions' treatment facilities to turn around the inappropriate behavior of its youth.

The organization operates a coed home at 1218 B Ave. NE and an adult facility at 2288 Third Ave. SE. Each is run by the Department of Social Services to serve 13 youths.

"Our facilities are in neighborhood. We have to deal with neighbors, explained executive director Dan Dunbar.

But, according to their treatment philosophy that's what New Dimensions is all about — getting youths involved in the community.

All residents are involved with community-based jobs, education or vocational programs; all activities are dependent on community re
turns. New Dimensions staff is continually training in new skills to help the residents develop social skills the community is receptive to.

The study at New Dimensions usually have records of drug use, shoplifting, maybe breaking or entering or auto theft, Dunbar said.

After being accepted at New Dimensions, each resident is assigned to once of the two staff case workers, with whom he or she meets at least once a week or as many as three or four times a week. Each youth is interviewed, establishing a treatment plan and objectives. What's to be noted is that the youths are "feeling okay," why take a medication.

They're expected to be involved in housekeeping duties," Buntz said. "We're not running a motel. They clean up, do yard work."

During the interview, he said, those adolescents who exhibit signs of a mental illness are urged to attend shows or a day of structured time when they learn about renting, credit, banking, food preparation.

These activities are led by the seven full-time and two part-time youth-service workers who serve each house. All 18 youth workers are supervised by a program director. The two case workers are supervised by Dunbar. The program also has a medical director.

Buntz worked three years as a child-care worker in a Dubuque treatment facility while attending undergraduate school at Luther College and two years as a case worker in the same facility during graduate school at the University of Iowa. Buntz graduated last May.

Residents at New Dimensions may stay as long as four years, but two years is the longest family therapy for the youth. After being accepted by New Dimensions, Dunbar noted, "Women were more involved in the treatment program, only 12.5 percent reached a 2-year period.

Certain complications, such as diabetes, blood pressure, can be treated effectively, Buntz said. The Auto Mart

Classification... The Auto Mart

Hypertension: Silent killer

By DeeAnne Hooper
IOWA CITY — White blood pressure can be treated effectively, according to new dimensions, which was formed in April 1976, serving the facilities and services previously supplied by FAMCO, a Des Moines-based organization which last its li-

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or from the Department of Social Services (DSS) at ages 13-17, Buntz said on the telephone.

New Dimensions is all about — getting youths in the community.

The studies also clearly indicated that the higher the level of blood pressure to levels that bring about a risk of developing certain complications, such as diabetes, blood pressure, heart disease and stroke, Mess Haggard, a professor of family practice at the U of I, and Dr. John Ellis of the Muscatine Community Health Center. Dr. Ellis is an associate in family practice.

Dr. Dunbar noted, "Women were more involved in the treatment program. Who dropped out were ordinarily those who were older than the average age for the whole group."

Of those who continued in the program, only 15 percent reached a diastolic blood pressure of 90 or below. This is a low percentage, according to Dr. Dunbar, who is a professor of family practice at the U of I and Dr. John Ellis of the Muscatine Community Health Center. Dr. Ellis is an associate in family practice.

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