



Grass-Roots Health Care

An SU nursing professor and her students reach out to the community.

Through the side door, up a flight of stairs, and to the left is a cramped corridor with four chairs and two card tables. Sunshine sparkles through the stained glass window, brightening up the otherwise dimly lit space in the University United Methodist Church. Groceries from the neighborhood food pantry are distributed from one table, medical advice from the other, behind which Carol Brooks and

"When was your last cigarette?"

"This morning."

"Drinking water helps you quit," says Brooks. "It'll wash out your system and then you won't want to smoke so much."

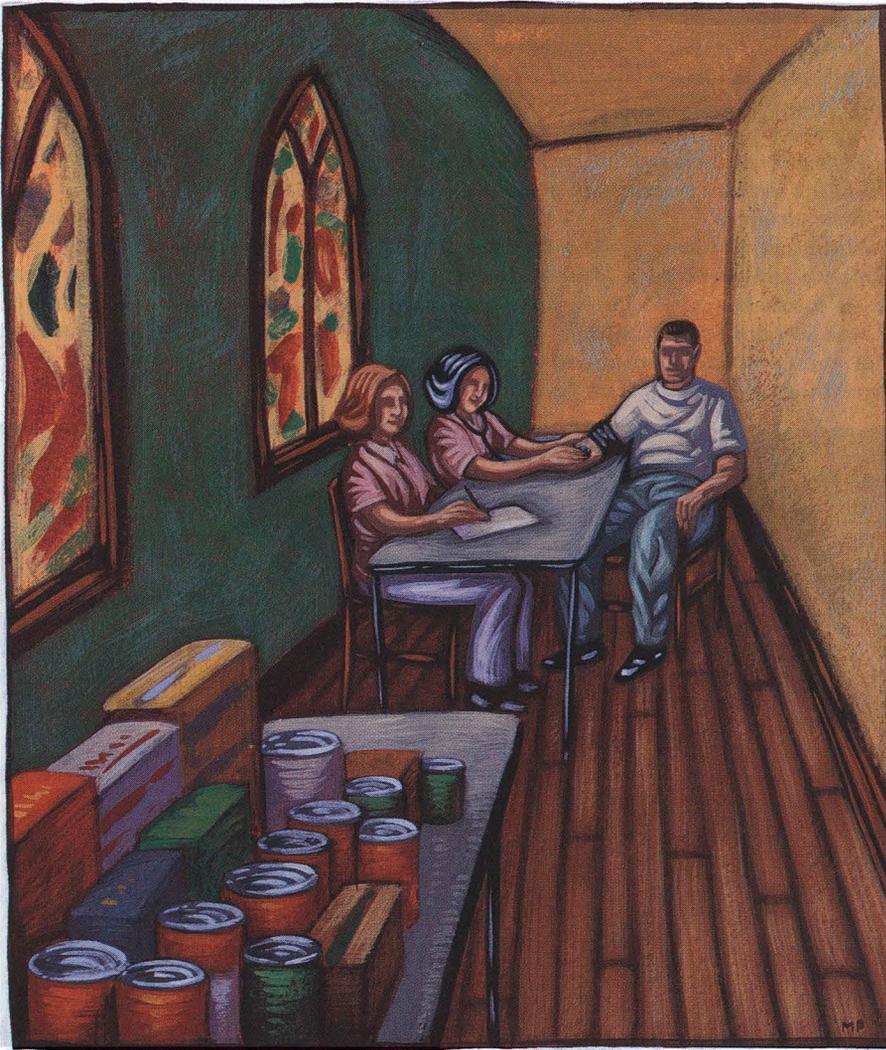
The advice comes courtesy of the East Side Genesee Neighborhood Nursing Center, an outreach health program launched two years ago by Brooks, an associate professor in the College of Nursing. She spends most Friday mornings taking blood pressure, providing counseling, and doing periodic vision screenings. A nursing student such as Hobbick typically accompanies Brooks to the off-campus site. The services are free and sorely needed, says Brooks.

"As nurses and faculty of the College of Nursing, we have an interest in serving people at all levels of income," she says. "We did extensive research throughout the country on many different community nursing centers to prepare for this. We found a big need for a nursing center in this community because of the high number of chronically ill and elderly people who lack the support to optimize their health. We have great medical facilities in Syracuse. We don't want to duplicate high-tech medical services, yet we need to offer community nursing care."

For nursing students, the center provides something else—invaluable experience. Each semester, one graduate student is assigned to the center to help fulfill clinical requirements. Undergraduates occasionally volunteer to gain experience measuring blood pressure. "The center allows students to understand the health needs of the community and to see the difficulties people encounter in gaining access to health care," says Grace Chickadonz, dean of the College of Nursing.

"It's important for students to see that nursing isn't all like the emergency room," says Brooks. "This is an opportunity for them to get a taste of a multicultural community, and it provides them with a more realistic situation."

The center operates in conjunction with a neighborhood consortium of religious congregations and the University United Methodist Church's



Linda Hobbick are seated.

They greet a man in his thirties.

"Would you like to have your blood pressure checked?" Hobbick asks.

"Sure," he replies. He rolls up a shirt sleeve and says he's trying to quit smoking.

"How are you doing?" Hobbick asks.

Neighborhood Linking Program. "It puts the church in the position of helping people with more than just food and emergency social services," says the Rev. Hal Gorman. "It puts us in the position to help people with their basic health needs, and this brings us closer to being able to minister to the whole person."

On a typical Friday, more than a dozen patients will visit the center during its two hours of once-a-week operation. Today is less hectic. Only six people stop by, including a man clearly familiar with this operation. After submitting his name for the food pantry pickup, he waits his turn at the nursing table. He says his arthritis and rheumatism are acting up.

"People usually have something on their mind when they come in to see us," says Brooks. "Often they want to talk to us about recent visits to their doctor. They talk over the results of the visit and ask questions to confirm or clarify certain things and ask us what they should look for."

Hobbick, a graduate student, asks patients to list their top three medical concerns and the date they last visited a health care provider. Advice is offered on problems ranging from substance abuse to hypertension. Information is filed on all patients, many of whom find visiting large medical practices uncomfortable. "We're trying to build up trust so they'll feel comfortable with us and return," says Brooks.

This fall, the center moved into a new home, a larger space in the armory behind the University United Methodist Church. Brooks has expanded the center's range of services and hours as well. She has set up a network linking those who need health care to those who provide it, and established information workshops and support group sessions. Already, a referral system is being developed with two local hospitals.

"The opportunities here are exciting, but our resources are limited," Brooks says. "Our vision is to provide as many services as possible to help as many people as possible." —ANDREA C. MARSH

HONOR ROLL

- **Hard Hats Off.** Anne Munly, an assistant professor in the School of Architecture, received the Founders Fellowship in Architecture for 1995-96 from the American Academy in Rome. Munly, who arrived at the Academy last fall, is working on an architectural research project, "Rome: City of Monuments, City of Domesticity."



St. Peter's Basilica, one of Rome's architectural wonders.

MARLENE ORAZIETTI

Other faculty members from the School of Architecture have also received national and international attention for their work:

- Patricia Waddy was named 1994-95 Samuel H. Kress Senior Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.
- In a competition to create a Korean American Museum of Art and Cultural Center in Los Angeles, Timothy Swischuk placed fourth; and Anne Munly, John Reed, and Rene Tan received honorable mentions.
- Werner Seligmann and Mark Shapiro received honorable mentions in the Cardiff Bay Opera House Competition in Wales.
- Kristen Schaffer was a contributing essayist to *Modernism at Mid-Century: The Architecture of the United States Air Force Academy*, which received a 1995 Presidential Design Award from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Federal Design Achievement Award.

- **Sharp Mind.** James Roger Sharp, professor of history in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, has received the 1995 University Scholar/Teacher of the Year Award, sponsored by the Division of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church. The award is Sharp's second recent University honor; last spring, he received a Chancellor's Citation for Exceptional Academic Achievement.

"Roger Sharp has been my friend and colleague for more than a quarter of a century," says Robert Jensen, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "It is a well-deserved honor for a fine teacher and scholar."

- **Smart Politics.** Professor Stephen Macedo, an expert in American constitutionalism and political theory, is the first person to hold the Michael O. Sawyer Endowed Chair in Constitutional Law and Politics in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. He was selected for the position from more than 100 candidates.

Macedo comes to SU from Harvard University, where he has taught courses in the Department of Government for eight years. He spent the 1994-95 academic year as Visiting Fellow in Ethics and Public Affairs at the Princeton University Center for Human Values. Macedo is a founding board member of the Committee on the Political Economy of the Good Society at the University of Maryland; served as a consultant on an ethics manual for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and was asked to testify at the Senate confirmation hearings of U.S. Supreme Court nominee Robert H. Bork.