

WSU program will educate Detroit youths about the dangers of AIDS

By Tracy E. Mathews
Contributing Writer

The Wayne State Department of Psychology and the College of Nursing will present the AIDS Education Program For Children and Families beginning in June at Wayne State's Latino Outreach Center.

This program is free and open to fourth, fifth and sixth graders accompanied by their parents. Interested applicants must first register prior to being randomly assigned to experimental and control groups. They must also be a resident of southwest or northwest Detroit. The program will be offered in English and Spanish.

"It's a research project aimed at looking how you affect children's knowledge, attitudes and beliefs about AIDS. We want them to know what puts them at risk for the HIV infection," said Jacqueline Steingold, project director.

THE PROGRAM is a three-hour workshop designed to educate parents and their children about AIDS, said Steingold. She said it will initiate discussions with parents and children regarding drugs, sexual concerns and peer pressure. Theater, dance, art and group discussions are used to stimulate participants' interest and help change their attitudes toward stopping the spread of AIDS.

At the beginning of the workshop, children and their parents are asked to complete a questionnaire. Another questionnaire is completed at the end of the workshop to compare and contrast learned information.

Free child care and transportation will be provided for those in need. Refreshments will also be provided.

"One hundred families have signed up in South-

west Detroit and we just began recruiting in Northwest Detroit," said Steingold. Recruitment on the northwest side began two weeks ago, while recruitment on the southwest side occurred in the winter of 1989.

Steingold said the southwest location has had an advisory council since January. The council has 36 members made up of mostly community leaders, educators and health professionals.

A variety of social agencies, businesses and churches have collaborated with WSU to help the AIDS Education Program serve the community.

"We are doing recruitment through the Detroit Public Schools in areas A and D. The administration has been very helpful and cooperative," said Steingold.

THE AIDS Education For Children and Families Program is under the direction of Dr. Ali Naqvi of the department of psychology and Dr. Fredericka Shea of the College of Nursing at WSU.

Naqvi said the program is funded by the National Institutes of Health on a three-year, \$700,000 grant. Naqvi is the research scientist, director and principal investigator of the program. He holds two doctorate degrees, a degree in astrophysics from Harvard University and the other in psychology from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Shea is the co-principal investigator. She holds a doctorate degree in medical care organization from the University of Michigan.

The AIDS Education For Children and Families Program will take place two-to-three Saturdays a month and runs through August of 1991.

If you wish to volunteer your services or obtain additional information, please phone (313) 577-5731.