

Postal alert plan keeps eye on seniors



Postman Dan Reed delivers postal alert card to Streetsville seniors Anna Bittner and Mildred MacMillan.

By ALANA PERKINS

Times staff writer

Streetsville seniors and disabled people will be the first residents in Peel to benefit from a postal security alert program sponsored by the United Way of Peel and the Department of Social Services.

The Streetsville post office will distribute 12,000 pamphlets today asking seniors to complete an information form. The form, which includes the names and phone numbers of people to contact in case of emergency, will be kept on file at the Department of Social Services. Letter carriers will be notified of the seniors on the routes.

"I'm aware that there are many seniors all alone who are concerned that if something did happen no



one would know, and I've been thinking of a program like this for years but money has been a problem," said Dan Reed, a letter carrier in Streetsville and a representative on the postal security alert program committee.

Mr. Reed said letter carriers will be alert for signs indicating a senior or handicapped person may be in trouble — such as mail or newspapers piling up in the mailbox. The letter carrier will then go to the nearest phone and

call the department of social services, which will contact a person named on the senior's registration form.

The organization of a postal security program in Peel comes at a good time, said Cindy Gault during a discussion of a Social Planning Council

study called "Servicing Seniors in Peel."

Ms. Gault said 11 nursing homes polled reported there is a shortage of over 100 chronic beds in Peel and the shortage will double in the next 10 years if a chronic care facility is not built.

Campaign passes

\$1 million mark

The United Way of Peel has passed the million dollar mark in its six-week drive to raise \$1.3 million. Funds gathered to date total \$1,105,263.

"We are closer now than we've ever been at attaining the goal," said Diana Borowski, director of communications and allocations. The last year the United Way attained its goal was in 1970.

"We tightened up areas and expanded others

Companies who have proven to be good supporters in the past were canvassed earlier, some in June. If there were problems with an individual company, one year where a company did not understand what our agency was we'd go in and talk to several company people."

The United Way of Peel will announce the total of all donations Nov. 17.

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