

# 'They're more than nurses...'

By CHRISTINA GULEWITSCH  
Times Staff Writer

"If not for them, I'd probably not be here."

That's what Pamela Cruickshank has to say about the St. Elizabeth Visiting Nurses who have been dropping in on her for the past nine years. The association, a United Way agency, provides professional nursing care at home.

When she was 32, Pamela was married and had five children, all under six years of age. The accident



happened in the winter of 1963. The car in which Pamela was a passenger was struck from behind and went up in flames, putting her in hospital for six months. She was unconscious for six weeks, her legs badly burned.

The accident and the coma which followed left her with brain damage and partial paralysis.

"I can't remember anything now," she says. "The nurses keep me on schedule so I don't forget my medication."

Nurses visit Pamela once a week. It used to be more often, but now she can get around with the help of a walking stick.

"But they're much more than nurses," says Pamela. "They are real friends. They care. People often get impatient with me because I'm so slow now and I forget easily. The nurses always understand."

Although she will never fully recover, Pamela is able to cook all the meals for her family, do light housekeeping, work at some crafts, and spend evenings with her children — Mary, Anna, Cathy, Barney Jr., Martin and Elizabeth, who was born several years after the accident.

Pamela has resumed her former passion — writing. Her book, *Answers Unlimited*, is aimed at showing others how to get through a crisis.

"It's just a book that I hope will help people," she says. "I've received so much help, I want to share it. Maybe my experiences will light the way for others."

The Peel United Way campaign begins Oct. 10. This year's target is \$1,150,000. This is the first in a series of Times articles about participating agencies in the United Way.



Pamela Cruickshank

# Block Parents are friends

By JO ANN STEVENSON  
Times Staff Writer

They'd been pulling her hair all through recess and on the long walk home were taunting her, threatening to hurt her. As she runs, their jibes blur with the pounding of her heart. At last, a block parent sign.

A mailman slips on ice. Who can help him? A block parent.

October is Block Parents Month and the Mississauga chapter needs more parents.

"Our aim is to have at least one block parent on every block," says block parent, Terry Louen.

"Block parents are over 16, single, married, working or senior citizens. These block parents don't change their lifestyles. They place their block parent sign inside a window only when they are available to give help and they remove the sign at other times."

Block parents help with emergency situations. They are not there to provide toilet facilities or drinks of water. "I've only had a few calls in three years," says Louen, "people worry that they will be interrupted constantly once they display their sign."

Block parents provide an organized method of protecting children and others in need. "By far the most common need filled is protection from bullies," said Carol Porter, traffic safety, Peel Regional Police.

For more information call the school in your neighborhood for your block parent captain's name and phone number, or call Carol Porter at 453-3311.

# You won't have to commute to grave

By JOHN STEWART  
Times Staff Writer

The shortage of cemetery space anticipated in Mississauga may be partially resolved by the purchase of 100 acres of land on the Oakville - Mississauga boundary by Memorial Gardens Incorporated.

The property is in the provincial parkway belt on the western boundary of the city. It is actually just across the boundary in Oakville, stretching south

from Burnhamthorpe Road to Dundas Street, just west of the Ninth Line.

Philip Wilson, president of Memorial Gardens, says that "for all practical purposes" the new cemetery will serve the Mississauga market. The non-denominational public

company is the largest in Canada, with 36 cemeteries located coast to coast.

Memorial officials would not estimate how long the new cemetery would satisfy the city's burial requirements. A report prepared by the city in 1976 estimated that

without additional grave sites, Protestants would have to be buried outside

the city by 1984. Catholic sites are available until the year 2044.

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