

Behind the scenes men indispensable

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By Virginia Battiste
for Neighbors

While both men tend to downplay their contribution, according to Betty Cheavins, co-chair for Special Olympics, '94 scheduled for Yorkton next weekend, Joe Megyesi and Jim Fahlman are an indispensable duo when it comes to doing the behind the scenes work on behalf of the organizing committee.

Representing St. Gerard's Knights of Columbus council #2031, they have devoted time and energy to be the "go-fors" on behalf of the committee and respond promptly to any call for help, Cheavins says.

Megyesi, who has been in Yorkton for nearly 20 years and is currently employed with the Catholic School Board as maintenance superintendent, is originally from Endeavour. A family man, he has two children in their 20s. He has been active in the K of C for nearly 25 years and became involved with the students at the Lions School when the local council was looking for a representative to act as a liaison with the Special Olympics

committee. The students had a special appeal for him.

"I've always had a special place in my heart for the unfortunate and the handicapped I counted it as a blessing that I didn't have a child with a problem like that myself and wanted to give something of myself to them," says Megyesi.

Fahlman, originally from Francis, has been in Yorkton since 1968 and works part-time at the hospital as a stationery steam engineer. He is the father of three adult children and echoes Megyesi's sentiments about involvement with the young people with a mental handicap.

"It was Joe who invited me to a Christmas concert at Lion's School. I found a relationship with the students. They are unpretentious people and so genuine. My involvement is a way of saying thank you for what I have received," Fahlman says.

The Knights of Columbus throughout North America have special focus on helping the handicapped, according to Fahlman. Megyesi says that the K of C were one of the two major sponsoring organizations of Special Olympics

in Saskatchewan along with the Sask. Association for the Mentally Retarded, now known as the Sask. Association for Community Living.

They both interact with the athletes as drivers and will be running errands between the Special

"O" action center and the various sports venues next weekend. They are familiar with the local participants from previous outings sponsored by the K of C.

Both are also on the board of

Camp O'Neill where they have been instrumental in establishing a camp session for the handicapped. Typical of the men, it then meant pitching in to help build the ramps needed to make the camp wheelchair accessible.



Joe Megyesi (left) and Jim Fahlman devote their time to help make the Special Olympics a success.