

CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

" WOMEN OF THE YEAR 1982 "

Barbara Condo Knows One Way To Help Troubled Youths Change

Barbara Condo just returned from a vacation in Florida. She couldn't wait to get back.

"My family sent me off to get a rest. But I'm not used to all the peace and quiet. I had to turn on the TV every night just to get to sleep. I needed the noise."

The noise that Mrs. Condo loves is the activity at One Way Farm, of which she is the founding mother and spiritual bedrock. The family that sent her to Florida is the 11 teen-agers who live there with her.

Only three of them are hers, three of seven children who still remain at home. The rest are from broken homes, alcoholic or abusive parents, drug addictions, lives of crime, worlds they can't cope with. For helping them to cope with it anyway, Mrs. Condo has been named one of 10 *Enquirer* Women of the Year for 1982.

It is not the first time she has been named a woman of the year. A few years ago she was Fairfield's Woman of the Year.

Mrs. Condo and her husband, Jerry, formed One Way Farm about six years ago as a place for "trouble kids," where they could find refuge, either from their own families, jail or sometimes even from themselves. Since then, it has become something of a haven, not only for the youths, but for Butler County Juvenile Court authorities who need to find some tough-love for their young offenders.

Tough-love is what the Condos specialize in. "You can teach kids who are full of hate," Mrs. Condo says. "I teach them some responsibility, and don't let them get by with things. If they're cons at 13, they'll be cons their whole lives,



Woman of the Year

unless something changes. Here, they're productive. And loved. I'm blessed to be able to put that philosophy to use. It's my gift to the world."

That philosophy comes from direct experience. "I had such a rough childhood myself—cold, hungry, lonely and humiliated. But I just couldn't let it go to waste. I know what it is to want to be wanted so bad.

"Here, we recreate the extended family. We all live together, just like a family, and deal with everyday problems. If a kid comes home with a D, he's going to study harder. Even my own kids live here, and they've been raised with ex-offenders, drug addicts, even murderers. They're exceptional kids.

They've had a million-dollar education without the cost."

Over the years, the Condos have been family to more than 200 youths. "My husband never knows what his family's going to consist of when he gets home from work (as a truck driver). He just comes in and introduces himself. A lot of people couldn't do that. I certainly couldn't do all this if he couldn't."

Mrs. Condo's work with the youths isn't a sometime thing, because the youths are not a sometime thing. They live right there. So does she. She works from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., and then some. "You never know when you're going to get a phone call."

Mrs. Condo measures her success in the tangible ways of the heart. "When one of the kids I've had calls me over Christmas, and maybe he's not even employed, and maybe she's got kids by then, and says 'I'm making it!'—that's success"

FRIDA: Barbara Fitch

The 1982 Women of the Year honorees will be recognized Feb. 25 during a noon luncheon in the Grand Ballroom of Stouffer's Cincinnati Towers, Sixth and Elm Sts., downtown.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$7 each. They may be purchased by mailing a check or money order and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Women of the Year Tickets, The Enquirer, 617 Vine St., Cincinnati 45201. Requests should indicate a preference for a meat or fish entree. Tickets may also be purchased in the Circulation Department on the third floor of The Enquirer. No tickets will be sold at the luncheon.