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The University of Dayton

UD MIME TROUPE INDUCTED INTO MONTGOMERY COUNTY HALL OF FAME

DAYTON, Ohio, April 3, 1989--The mime troupe sponsored by the University of Dayton's Office for Ministry and Religious Education Services (MORES) was recently inducted into the Montgomery County Hall of Fame for People With Developmental Disabilities. The induction is in recognition of the troupe's accomplishments and achievements in bridging the gap of communication between those who are disabled and those who are not disabled.

The MORES mime troupe performed "The Giving Tree," a story of unconditional love by Shel Silverstein, in March before the Montgomery County Commissioners at the Wegerzyn Garden Center. The performance was part of the kick-off ceremonies for Ohio's Mental Retardation and Developmental Disability Month. Later in the ceremonies, the commissioners announced the troupe's induction into the newly formed Hall of Fame and presented the group with a commemorative plaque, a recognition document from the Ohio Senate and a copy of the congratulatory telegram from George and Barbara Bush.

The five performers in the mime troupe are all residents of Kettering and all have mental retardation. The performers are Cathy Corpstein, Vicki Russell, Jeff House, Martin Miller and Frank Zink. The narrator, Lynn Berlon, is the coordinator of the group and works with MORES Ministry with Handicapped People at UD.

"The group was overwhelmed and really honored," said Berlon. "They had accepted the fact that they had a gift to offer the community."

Berlon said MORES Ministry with Handicapped People has been successful in enabling people with developmental disabilities to work together to dispel the fears of the community toward people with retardation.

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