

S. C. E. C.

Front Row: M. Keller, S. Blasberg, A. Erceg, M. Webb, J. Spugnardi. **Middle Row:** Robin Wells, S. Galli, L. Monton, M. Sudman, E. Miles, M. Harmon, D. Tetrick. **Back Row:** D. Brock, A. Scalcucci, D. Hull, A. Lucke, K. Foster, B. Beers, J. Hignite, S. Vollmer, Judy Wells, Dottie Wassem.



Key Club

Front Row: D. Perlmutter, D. Mason, S. Miller, B. Levine. **2nd Row:** H. Tillipman, M. Donovan, N. Bajwa, D. Silverman, J. Spacarelli, H. Sunkara, L. Gibberman, A. Teitelman. **3rd Row:** C. Johnson, E. Weng, L. Vedder, T. Wemicke, C. Elawn, T. Williams, M. Better, T. Nakazawa. **4th Row:** Mrs. Abbot, A. Mills, G. Huber, L. Niehaus, M. Goodman, H. Mori, M. Michimi, A. Mason, S. Goldhagen, A. Appleton, J. Meeker, C. Juneja, R. Mayes, M. Varna, L. Reinert, P. Rao. **Back Row:** P. Bardone, G. Massengale, C. Moody, M. Payne, T. Vamvas.



Person First

"Person first." That was the motto of one of the most exciting new organizations at Sycamore High School in 1991.

The Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC), directed by Ms. Robin Wells, was primarily concerned with providing various services to members of both the Developmentally Handicapped and Learning Disabled classes.

"Person First" was not only the motto of SCEC, but also outlined the goals of the club. Wells wanted people to learn that a person with a disability should be looked at primarily as a person, not a disability.

Shannon Galli, President of SCEC, explained, "This motto simply means that no matter what a person may look like, act like, or how much a person can do, the key word is Person. Everyone has feelings that need to be respected."

Students had a variety of reasons for becoming involved in this organization. Some were interested in becoming special education teachers. Others simply had a desire to donate some of their free time to this worthy service organization.

Galli commented, "I volunteered at Stepping Stones and the Children's Hospital, working with children who were physically and mentally disabled. This was something in which

I developed an interest and seemed to do well at."

Members of the club obtained service hours by working in school, such as being office and classroom helpers or by being a job tutor. Another option students had was to be a big brother/sister to a member of one of the classes; this involved eating lunch at school with the students, phone calls, or occasional outings on the weekends.

The club also participated in many things outside of school, including attending Red's games, a visit to St. Rita's Haunted House, and a skiing trip. Members of the club had numerous options to expand their knowledge by attending the November CEC convention in Cincinnati, the National CEC convention in Baltimore in April, and a week seminar over the summer in Cleveland.

Wells explained the structure of the club, "There are clubs affiliated with colleges; the headquarters of the Council are in Cuyahoga, Ohio. There are 32 clubs in Ohio. We are student members of the adult Council for Exceptional children—an organization for educators in all areas of special education."

This new club made all kinds of special things happen at Sycamore.

by Courtney Shackelford

