



Photographer: MELVIN GIBER

Workers install a sanitary sewer line as renovation continues on a building for Straight's drug rehabilitation center at Mt. Repose in Clermont County.

## Parents involved before enrollment

Parents must follow a three-step process to enroll their children in either the Kids Helping Kids or the Straight program to remedy drug abuse.

For the three-months-old Kids Helping Kids program, Tim Powell, its admissions coordinator, said parents first attend a pre-intake session, where they fill out a questionnaire and receive program details. Then they must visit a group open meeting and attend a final interview with Powell.

The one-time fee at Kids Helping Kids, based on a sliding scale according to the parents' ability to pay, averages about \$1200 to \$1500. The top fee would be about \$3000, and the minimum would be nothing, according to Ruth Thomas, clinical director.

Neither Straight nor Kids Helping Kids generally accepts youths who are physically addicted to drugs and need detoxification. Those cases, Ms. Thomas said, are directed to a hospital.

A \$60 MONTHLY food allowance is charged, along with a one-time fee of \$200 for a medical examination and psychological tests.

Ms. Thomas said the average stay in the program is expected

to be 10 months, although a youth could complete it faster with hard work.

Thomas Markham, co-chairman of the campaign to bring the Straight program here, said parents must meet with a group of parents who are experienced in the program. They also must attend an open meeting and have a second visit with other Straight parents before their son or daughter joins the program.

STRAIGHT STILL is accepting Cincinnati youths in its St. Petersburg, Fla., program, according to Markham. New clients will not be accepted immediately into the Cincinnati program when it opens in late December, he said.

Information about Straight is available through Markham at 232-4918, through a temporary local office at 531-1798 or through Thomas Fleming at 321-2731.

At Straight in St. Petersburg, the one-time fee is about \$1700, also determined by a sliding scale based on a client's ability to pay, according to Markham. The monthly food allowance is \$30. A doctor's examination fee of \$20 is charged. Markham said the average stay in the program is 12 to 14 months.