

# First lady to visit drug center

By Nancy Berlier

Post Staff Reporter

First lady Nancy Reagan will visit a drug rehabilitation center in Clermont County Monday night.

Straight Inc., near Milford in the Clermont County village of Mt. Repose, will be one of five stops in as many states for Mrs. Reagan during a two-day trip.

Jerry Rushing, director of Straight's Clermont County center, said: "She's coming into Cincinnati especially to see Straight, and we're pleased to have her."

Mrs. Reagan has been using her posi-



tion as first lady to promote awareness of adolescent drug abuse problems, said Sheila Tate, Mrs. Reagan's press secretary.

"She has felt since the '60s when she herself was raising children ... that most parents are unprepared to deal with it and most children don't have enough information about how harmful drugs are," Mrs. Tate said.

Straight is a structured rehabilitation program that uses peer pressure and peer counseling to turn youngsters away from drugs. Upon entering the program, "newcomers" lose such rights as living at home, going to school, working, using the telephone or watching television.

Initially, they live in foster homes provided by the parents of youngsters who have advanced to higher stages of the program. Youngsters progressing through the

program earn back their privileges by changing their attitudes about drugs.

Mrs. Reagan, who will arrive at Greater Cincinnati International Airport late Monday afternoon, will attend a meeting between Straight children and their parents.

The Clermont County center now has about 160 clients ranging from 13 to 22 years in age, Rushing said.

After her visit to Straight, Mrs. Reagan will spend the night at the Westin Hotel in downtown Cincinnati. Tuesday morning, she will fly to Indianapolis where she will be the 1984-85 kickoff speaker for Harshman Junior High School.

Tuesday night, she will receive the "Distinguished American Award" from the Golden Slipper Club in Philadelphia, Pa., for her efforts in helping adolescents combat drug and alcohol abuse.