



DOROTHY BUTCHER, HOLDING SON, BRYANT, ADMIRES PAINTING, FIRST DONATION TO CENTER

—Staff Photo by TOM SHAW

Pregnancy counseling predominates

Business brisk at new Life Center

By JOE SEGURA
Staff Writer

Cake and punch were provided by the coordinators of Torrance's new South Bay Life Center, but the supporters brought the special items to Monday's ceremonies, their children.

With abortions but a signature away, the children had survived despite pressures under which countless parents succumb: medical expenses, social or peer pressure and financial problems.

To check the ever-climbing abortion statistics, the new South Bay center, 1311 Crenshaw Blvd., officially opened its doors to pro-

vide professional social and psychiatric counseling, pregnancy testing, financial, medical and legal assistance, natural childbirth classes and group counseling.

"Unwanted pregnancy is a common expression used today, but abortion as a solution is an even more common expression," explains Mrs. Sally Cvitanich, co-chairman of the program. "But the decision to abort is often hastily made without consideration of fetal development and frequent complications.

"We want each pregnant girl, in a relaxed and supporting atmosphere, to be fully informed about

all choices and to make a decision she will always be comfortable with," Mrs. Cvitanich adds. "Our center provides specific information about abortion procedures and their dangers."

Para-professionals staff the center from noon to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, providing initial counseling and information, making appointments with appropriate professionals and delivering lectures to schools, clubs and organizations.

The center also provides educational services, including books, reprints and brochures about the life issues (abortion,

euthanasia, genetic engineering, etc.), film and slide presentations for classes, seminars or meetings.

The center is an extension of the LifeLine project, a 24-hour hotline that has been in operation since 1971. The hotline number, 831-LIFE, is manned by more than 50 volunteers. And, according to their report, business has been brisk.

"Many women hesitate to have an abortion because they feel they're destroying a life, and they can't do it," says Dorothy Butcher, program coordinator. "They simply don't feel abortion is a proper solution."