

## **MEETING THE NEEDS OF ADOLESCENTS**

Laura Buddenberg has co-authored several books on parenting and adolescent behavior published by Boys Town Press. She spoke to club members about her work at the Girls and Boys Town Center for Adolescent and Family Spirituality, Boys Town, NE. Buddenberg noted that there are 33 million teenagers in the U.S., the most ever; and they are the most affluent teenagers ever, spending money on entertainment, personal care, and snack foods. It's no surprise there is so much advertising directed to teens. Furthermore, friends and TV are their major sources of information. These sources of misinformation combined with the undeveloped critical thinking ability of teens contribute to many conflicts between teens and parents. Buddenberg explained that when conflicts get out of hand, adolescents are sometimes placed in a different environment such as that provided by Girls and Boys Town. There they can live in an alternate family setting, attend church and school, and develop living skills. There are about 500 adolescents on the Girls and Boys Town campus, Buddenberg explained, and they have over an eighty percent high school graduation rate. Nationwide there are eighteen sites in fifteen states administered by Girls and Boys Town. While they have an endowment to cover administrative expenses, Buddenbug noted they use individual and corporate contributions to provide programs for youth in need. Any teen can call 1-800-448-3000 anytime to seek help with any problem.