



WALTER MICHOT / Miami Herald Staff

LOVE AND MAGIC: Alan Friedman, left, and Linda and Richie Pollock perform at Kids in Distress.

Libraries look beyond books to present special programs

By **ANA MENENDEZ**
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Libraries aren't just for books anymore.

A children's art series. A volunteer program for senior citizens. A musical show for poor children.

Peer inside Broward County libraries and you'll find books compete for floor space with yearlong cultural events and video tapes.

"The library is one of the best-kept secrets in Broward," library program coordinator Shelly Turetzky said. "We have so much more than reading to offer the community."

A musical trio called Love and Magic just wrapped up a month-long tour of libraries in December. Their audience: preschool children.

"We spend a lot of time in the library," said Linda Pollock, who performs with husband Richie and her brother Alan Friedman. "Literacy is very important to us. And we get to share the love we have."

After weeks of performing for low-income preschoolers, the duo last week took one of their final chanting, clapping performances out of the library and into Kids in Distress, the Fort Lauderdale center that helps abused and neglected children.

"If you could see the faces of

these kids. Many are wary of new experiences and new people, but the show just brought them out," said Beryl Yahav, coordinator of the Family Learning Center, preschool program at Kids in Distress.

The tour was just one of the programs libraries offer Broward children.

A Children's Quarterly Cultural Series debuts in January at the Mizell Branch in Fort Lauderdale. The first show features Roots and Culture Dance Ensemble, a children's dance troupe of African and Caribbean artists.

After that, the lineup includes:

■ In February, the Fantasy Theater Factory at the Coral Springs branch, a series of mimes and plays based on children's classics.

■ In March, a puppet circus review at the Davie/Cooper City branch.

Last summer, the libraries started what they thought was a temporary program to unite senior citizens and preschoolers.

Called Prime Time, the program supplied a tote bag, books and a lesson plan to volunteer seniors. Seniors took their wares to a local preschool and read to the students.

The program was so successful, libraries will continue it this year.