

Superintendent's son's plight shows need for group homes



By Janice Brunson
staff writer

Three weeks ago, Brad Garvelink, 24, the son of Birmingham school Superintendent Roger Garvelink, sustained permanent brain damage after being hit by a truck in front of the group home for the mentally ill in Grand Rapids, where he was living.

The accident was the latest tragedy in the life of the young Garvelink, the middle of three sons, a Groves High School graduate whom his father said was "Mr. Personality, very bright, quite athletic and a real leader" until struck with mental illness at the age of 17 in 1982.

In the agonizing years since, nearly half a million dollars has been spent on Brad's medical care and living accommodations, including nearly three years in a private psychiatric hospital for adolescents in Minnesota called the Wilson Center.

Last August, he transferred to the group home in Grand Rapids, a pri-

vate facility called Hope Rehabilitation Network that cost the Garvelinks anywhere from \$1,100 to \$2,500 monthly, depending upon Brad's condition and the services he requires each month.

Located 150 miles from the family home in Birmingham, the facility was selected because similar housing was not available in Oakland County.

"IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE. One of the wealthiest counties in the country and unable to help its mentally ill. We're much more generous to our troubled-well (patients suffering from temporary conditions who are expected to regain mental health) than to our chronically ill. It's really a crime," Roger Garvelink said in frustration.

The only local alternative for Brad was hospitalization at Clinton Valley Center, a public psychiatric hospital in Pontiac, at a cost of \$300 daily.

"It's a ridiculous expenditure, es-

pecially since what he needed cost much less. Michigan is centuries behind in caring for its mentally ill," Garvelink added.

In fact, for every Oakland County resident suffering from mental illness who is adequately housed, it is estimated another two are not.

Last June, for example, there were 2,105 beds in foster and group homes, offering varying levels of supervision, rehabilitation and support services. Another 75 or so beds provide independent living arrangements for those requiring minimal supervision. Of the total number of beds, three-fourths were allocated to the mentally retarded and the elderly.

Based "on the number of phone calls we receive for help, that we can't help, that eventually stop calling for help," Glen Jackson of Oakland County Community Mental Health Services estimates there are

Please turn to Page 9

Needlepoint For You

Distinctive Needlework

3388 Auburn Road • Auburn Hills • 852-0690

Sally M. Roden OPENING MON., JUNE 19

WE MADE OUR MOVE

TO BIRMINGHAM, TO SERVE YOU BETTER

Furs by Robert

SEE OUR NEW, MOST MODERN, FUR STORAGE FACILITY

647-9090

805 EAST MAPLE ROAD • BIRMINGHAM, AL 35209
TWO BLOCKS EAST OF WOODWARD

Task force attacks ills of county system

Short-term crisis housing, respite care for those who provide housing for the mentally ill, both paid and unpaid providers, and development of a home-finder, someone to coordinate all housing efforts, are among the 13 recommendations of a 15-member task force appointed by the Oakland County Mental Health Services Board to study the problem of housing.

Most important, the task force recommended full-management status for the county board, calling for all state money for mental health to be spent through the county.

"Housing is a long-standing unmet need in Oakland County. There is an immediate need for 2,000 additional beds," the report said. Money can come from government grants, emergency money or increased budgets, it said.

"I'm an optimist-pessimist," said Peter Hartman, a 20-year veteran of the mental health field. Hartman chaired the task force.

"Part of the problem is there is no community support. You know, the squeaky-wheel thing. But mental health is not a priority," Hartman said.

FATHERHOOD HAS ITS REWARDS

Ties he'll prize by designers of distinction

Collectible crests by the tastemakers of the world, the essence of personal luxury in heavyweight silk. We show a sampling only, of favorite designers and our exclusive Kensingtons.

Left to right,
Kensington avant-garde graphics, creativity on crepe, 28.50

Kensington paisley palette, in deep, glowing color, 22.50

Countess Mara silk signature print, diamond medallions with the famous cartouche, 32.50

Perry Ellis ring cycle, soft contemporary print, 28.50

Bert Paltzer step-ahead repp, new for stripe types, 20.50

Christian Dior brilliant baroque, sinuous Florentine scrolls, 27.50

Chaps by Ralph Lauren purist print, foulard by a master, 25.00

Liberty of London gourmet paisley, oversprinted to taste, 25.00

The Time Shop
of Birmingham
CLOCK REPAIR
We Repair:
• Music Boxes
• Cuckoo Clocks
• Wall Clocks
• Grandfather Clocks
(Road Service Available)
• Watch Repair
646-7377

Classic BATHS

A showroom of luxurious fixtures in colors & styles for discriminating tastes, featuring...
THE BOLD LOOK OF KOHLER
1137 South Adams at Lincoln in Birmingham
Call 647-BATH



Robert

Your Father's Day American Gift Store

Lord & Taylor, Fairlane—336-3100 Lakeside—247-4500
Twelve Oaks—348-3400 Briarwood Mall—665-4500