Area residents fill blind children's reading needs

By Janice Brunson staff writer

What if a child loves to read ... but happens to be blind?
Until recently, most were simply out of luck. Of the few children's books available in Braille, prohibitive, costs of up to \$100 each made them financially out of reach to the majority.

them financially out of reach to the majority.

Bit thanks to the creative brain-storm of a Livonia woman who founded a specialized non-profit publishing company, the situation has changed considerably. In 1985, beher Bonde launched Seedlings Braille Books for Children, he boly company of its kind in the nation. The first year, she produced 215 books, priced at some \$10 each rall the cost of production. The difference was met by public contributions.

difference was met by public contributions.

This year, 6,000 books will be distributed to readers throughout the United States and abroad, including such lavorites as "Charlottes Web," "Super Fudge," and "Ernie's Big Mess." Pleces remain low, still \$10 or less per book, subsidized by fundralsing efforts of active volunteers.

"I have two sighted children who read voraciously, All children, sighted on and, should have the same opportunity," add Bonde, in explanation of Seedlings.

A single mother who describes herself as handicapped by severe shyness, the work little Bonde perfectly, "I can't meet people face to face, but I have mechanical ability."

Her unique idea has touched the lives of many.

"READING IS SUCH a sateway to

"READING IS SUCH a gateway to "READING IS SUCH a gateway to knowledge, information, recreation, inspiration. It's something everyone should have access to. This is my way of dramatizing the value of reading," said Elaine Morse, a Sec-dings volunteer who serves as presi-dent of the board.

An assistant manager for Borders Book Shop in Birmingham, Morse is also active with the Birmingham Li-brary Board.

Senate passes Honigman residency bill

By Tim Richard staff writer

An unlikely alliance of conserva-tive Republicans and city Democrats was unable to defeat state Sen. Da-vid Honigman's bill to end local gov-ernmental residency rules for em-ployees.

ployees.
The Senate last week approved the bill on a 20-16 vote that split both

bill on a 20-16 vote that spit toon parties.

"I think we have to take into accoupt, first and foremost, the personal hardship on police and fire fighters", said Honigman, ReWest Bloomfield. "Government has no right to tell people where to live."

The first-term senator said the residency rules had been used by white communities to keep out blacks and by blacks to keep whites off the payrolls. He likened residency rules to totalitarian policies of cestern Eutalliarian policies of cestern Eutaliarian polic rolls, the likened residency rules to totalitarian policies of eastern Eu-rope and the Soviet Union which 'feel they have to keep their peole there by coercion."

The measure goes to the House Labor Committee where it faces a doubtful future Detroit and Flint have more clout there.

doubtful future. Detroit and Flint have more clout there.

THE BILL was backed by 13 Hepublicans and seven Democrats. GOP backers included Homigman. Mat Dunaskiss of Lake Orion and Robert Geade of Northville Also among supporters were the Senate's two top Democrats — Art Miller of Warren and John Cherry of Cho. Opposed were 10 Democrats and six Republicans. Area Democrats storing no were William Faust of Westland, Jack Faxon of Farmington Hills and George Z Hart of Dearborn. Among GOP opposition of Nationaros.

"My district is all over the board on the issue," said Faust. "My homicity of Westland has, by chartes and fremen can live anywhere. My district is all over the board on the issue," said Faust. "My homicity of Westland has, by chartes and fremen can live anywhere. My district is all over the board in the insue," said that our police and fremen can live anywhere. My district of Taylor, however, through the hill because of a state of the hill because of a said of the said that is a requirement of the plot — that you live within a radius of 20 miles. My engolation, has said that this is a requirement of the plot — that you live within the city."

Patto opposed the bill because of a said of the said because of a said with a says the Legislature may not pass law impairing contracts.

SEVERAL DEMOCRATS.

EVERAL DEMOCRATS, ched bitter attacks on the Honig-SEVERAL man bill.

Please turn to Page 6

A fund-raising bowl-athon benefitting Seedlings Braille Books for Children, a non-profit organization, is scheduled Saturday. May 18, at Merri-Bowl in Livonia. For more information or to pledge money on

bowlers, call 427-8552.

It's at libraries that another board member. Kathy Donagrand: Farmington Illis, is most suckey aware of the six mess books for sightlee chief of the six mess of the six of the

ONCE BONDE LAUNCHED Seedlings, the first order of business was upgrading primitive equipment, according to Mary Cowper of Southfield, one of organization's carifest board members.

Working from the basement of her home, Bonde was using a computer printer adapted for Braille and built by her father.

printer adapted for Braille and built by her father.
"In the beginning, each page had to be transcribed by hand, one dot at a time, on a state and stylus. One mistake, and you had to start the page over," said Cowper, who originally volunteered as a Braille transcriber.

scriber.

In short order, she found herself raising funds essential in purchasing new computer equipment and, perhaps more important, to subsidize the cost of books.

"It's the affordability factor, keeping prices where ebildere can afford them. They have nowhere else to buy hooks."

them. They have nowhere else to buy books."

The success of Seedlings fund-rating, according to Troy accountant Mark Bosscher, can be measured by annual printings, up from 1,900 books in 1987 when he joined the board to 5,000 last year, including 125 different titles. Each book represents a contribution of at least \$10. "This is obviously a very good cause," he said. In March, Seedlings moved into a new office at the site of the former Bentley High School in Livonia.



Birmingham resident Elaine Morse, assistant manager at Border's, is board president of the



Blind children now have greater access to the finest children's



- All Karastan on sale from 14.99, carpet only
- All Bigelow on sale from 12.99, carpet only
- All Lees on sale from 14.99,

DuPont Certified Stainmaster** carpets resist static shock and protect against common food and beverage stains. So your carpet will look new for a long, long time.

SALE 13.99 sq. yd. carpet only Classic Beauty I by Bigelow is an affordable plash in 30 great colors, Reg. \$34, sale 20.99 sq. yd. Installed with pad?*

SALE 16.99 sq. yd. carpet only Maximus by Lees is a footprint-hiding twist in 25 most wanted colors. Reg. 537, sale 23.99 sq. yd. Installed with pad: 3

SALE 16.99 sq. yd. carpet only Tidont by Bigelow is a textured saxony in 30 colors, Reg. \$37, sale 23.99 sq. yd. installed with pad?*

SALE 21.99 sq. yd. carpet only Montarey by Lees is a durable dense twist in 35 line colors. Reg. \$44, sale 28.99 sq. yd. Installed with pad:

SALE 23.99 sq. yd. carpet only Endureau by Karastan is a beautiful textured plush in 30 colors. Reg. \$50, sale 30.99 sq. yd. Installed with pad:

SALE 23.99 sq. yd. carbet erly
Tonnoau by Kurastan sia claratise textured
carbet in 23 splannad colors. Pro-250-sale30.99 sq. yd. Installed with pad t*
Sale ends June 3
3000 total square yards at bloddents stores.
Tollium Contraction that
Tollium Contraction
Tollium Contrac

Call us to request a measurement of your

store nearest you.

Northland: 443-6197 Summit Place: 683-5975 Eastland: 245-2434 Southland: 374-5372 Westland: 458-5439 Lakeside: 566-2751 Oakland: 597-2152 Genesee Valley: 230-5893 Or visit our Interior Design Studio at the

Think of us first when you're considering carpeting. If you're planning to buy something you'll live with for a long, long time it only makes sense to shop at a store that's accustomed to "staying power!" Experience
We truly have earned the trust of over a generation of satisfied customers.
Selection
Tourliffind more styles, colors and prices to choose from.

Every sales consultant and installer on our staff takes pride in their expertise. Also, when you buy from us, you enjoy the convenience of using our credit plans.

Decorating Advice

The experienced designers in our Interior Design Studio are glad to help. They can show you how to put rooms together effectively— right here in our adjacent furniture

HUDSON'S

Charge year purchase to your Option Aurount, and you won Lincewee a bill until August, with no payment due until September, 1991. Minimum \$75 purchase.

Defer billing now on Furniture, Lamps, Mattresses, Carpet, Area Rugs, Oriental Rugs and Electronics.