

## GRANT FOR PROBATE JUDGE

By DIANE HUBEL

FARMINGTON—Community Living Inc. has taken another step forward in their attempt to get the mentally retarded out of the institutions and into the community as part of a "family" unit.

The non-profit organization recently opened two new homes on Tuck Rd. for mentally retarded adults.

In 1971 the Federal Housing Authority set aside \$5 million to create a new department to aid building programs for the mentally retarded.

Community Living Inc. is the first group in the country to utilize these funds set aside by the FHA.

On Thursday, July 18, the official dedication ceremonies for the two new homes were held.

The program was attended by dignitaries from Washington, and from the state, as well as by the executive director of the National Association for Retarded Citizens, Dr. Philip Roos.

SINCE COMMUNITY Living Center was the first to take advantage of the program, they have been used as a model for other such programs which have been started both in Michigan and throughout the country.

The demand for the homes is high, there are still 168 people on the waiting list.

The organization is just beginning to take people placed on the waiting list in 1972.

Executive director of the organization, Mrs. Mary Wagner said, "We built two separate homes which could each hold 16 people, because we wanted to take them out of institutions and make them part of a smaller group, like a family."

"Actually it would even be better if we could have kept the number down to 10 or 12 but that is just not possible right now."

THE RENT for the new homes is \$10 a day, about one fourth of the price an institution would charge, according to Mrs. Wagner.

The department of social services and social security would cover the cost of room and board for the residents of the home. However most of them have jobs and are paying up to three-fourths of their own way.

Job training and supervision is also provided for the residents of the homes.

Every person who enters the program is first sent to a sheltered workshop, where they are evaluated and placed in a training program.

IF THE SOCIAL worker does not think the person is able to cope with the pressures of being in a competitive field, they remain at the sheltered workshop.

The other students are placed in various programs where they are trained to take on jobs as dishwashers, janitors, busboys, and laundry helpers, among other things.

"Many of our residents just excel at the job they are given to do," Mrs. Wagner said. "Although they require a little more supervision than most people, they are very good employees. They will stick with a job and really excel at it."

"They will do the sort of job that most people find too tedious and boring. While many other employees will become bored with a job and quit, our people will stay on and keep at their jobs."

After the residents are trained, a social worker will find a job for them.

The social worker will go to work with them until they feel secure in their surroundings and in the job itself.

**Farmington girls on their toes**

FARMINGTON — Four Farmington area residents were among the 117 students who attended the annual Cecchetti Ballet Conference and Seminar at Michigan State University.

The girls received instruction from outstanding ballet teachers of two nations, including Richard Englund, director of the Ballet Repertory Company, New York City, and Margaret Marsh of London, England.

The girls attending the seminar were: Kathleen and Winifred Martin, 28270 Wellington Road, Farmington, Lauren Rousseau, 33313 Cloverdale, Farmington, and Joan Wenson, 25079 Chapelweigh Drive, Farmington Hills.

The instruction included the seven classes or grades of ballet with special attention to the Cecchetti method which emphasizes quality of movement and style.

THE HOUSE parents at each of the homes and the aides who assist with the program, help the residents budget and allocate their money.

"We always tell them that whatever they have here they have earned," Mrs. Wagner said. "Those who are working, pay their own rent rather than taking the money from social services."

"There is a certain pride that comes from being able to pay your own way and we try to instill that feeling of pride in them."

"I really resent it when people give them things for free. Wherever we go we like them to pay their own way. We want to take away that welfare feeling."

THE RESIDENTS of the homes are also expected to share in the household chores that may come with maintaining a home.

Although the organization does have domestic help that handles some of the cleaning and cooking the residents are expected to do their share of cooking and cleaning too.

In addition to the two new homes on Tuck Road, Community Living Inc. has five other homes in Michigan, two on 13 Mile in Farmington, one in Rochester, one in Royal Oak, and one in Hazel Park.

Religious services are held at the homes for the residents on Saturdays.

THE MINISTERS in the area are invited to speak, a different religion is represented each week.

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