# Respite home aids families with retarded children

Scotty ambled into the kitchen, clutching his music box. Measmerized by the simple tunes, "Row Row Row Your Boat" and "London Bridges," be showed his favorite toy to the visitor. With a sheepish grin, he clapped his hands, boping ashe would enjoy the music as much as he did.

sic as much as he did.
Leaving the toy in her hands, he
wrapped his arms around her neck,
then walked quietly out of the room.
"That's his way of saying I love you,"
noted his mother, Jane Murphy of W.
Bloomfield Township,
Scotty can't talk, He's not tollet
trained and he can't dress himself. He
performs cognitive tasks at the level of
a 14-month-old.
The 14-washed has been exceeded.

14 themses, and the second of the severely mentally impaired since birth. He suffers from sciences regularly. Sometimes, they're so severe that he fails and hurts himself.

Scotty's neurological disorders have caused a tremendous emotional and financial drain on his family. But his parents chose to keep him at home rather than place him in an institution or fester home.

rather than place aim in an institution or foster home.
"It (sending him away) never was a consideration for us." Murphy said. "Sometimes, I think I'd just play tennis ail day if Scotty weren't home. But he's changed our priorities, He's showed our family how to love and lead a more responsible existence."

sponsine existence. WITH THE help of staffers from the Wing Lake Development Center and her four other children, Murphy has managed to meet Scotty's needs.

But she needs a break to take brief vacations or sleep in on Saturday mornings, she said. Rather than com-plaining, Murphy Joined with other par-ents from the Wing Lake center and the Oakland County Natural Family Sup-port Group to find a solution. The culmination of their live-year

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long effort is a respite home, a temporary care facility for severely retarded children up to 18 years old.

The Macemb-Oakland Regional Center, a state agency, has agreed to set up and monitor Oakland County's first respite bome at Labser, north of 13 Mile in Beverly Hillis Saffer from the Detroit Raphist Children's Home in Royal Oak will provide supervision.

This is a big triumph for us, 'Murphy said, 'Wa till provide supervision.

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This is a big triumph for us, 'Murphy said, 'Wa till some and long time coming, I really thought it would happen faster.'

Murphy's struggle began seven years ago when she moved here from Marin County, Calli. Accustomed to a state financed support system, abe was shocked to find no respite care facilities in Michigan. (The Rose Kennedy Center in Wayne County, which opened nearly four years ago, was among the first.)

There were so many support system in California. It was a way of life. The state would come to your door and ask what services you needed.

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"When I moved here, I (dissevered) the mothers were relicent to ask for help. It was as if they felt guilty aboy it. The attitude seemed to be, God g\*e them this child and they ought to able to manage themselves."

I figured If we say bees this are reduced, we'll be aboling the symmetry of the county of the cause the cost of placement of institutions and foster homes) as o there.

MURPHY CONVINCE other mothers to take action. 78ether, they joined the Oakland Conty Natural be very

STILL DETERMINED to fight, Murphy battled bureaucratic red tape and state budget shortages before win-

and state budget shortages before win-ning her war.

Even in the late 1970s, when the state had money, it was difficult to find a (sympathetic) ear in the legislature, she said. 'Maybe it was because not enough people were asking for the ser-vice.

"People here (in Michigan) seem to be very conservative. It's difficult for

FAMILIES MAY use the money to pay for medical bills, baby-sitters, wheelchairs, renovations to make homes barrier-free and respite care. The state subsidy ends when a child turns 18 and qualifies for federal Supplemental Security Income payments. Although the Murphys area's eligible to receive the state money (families with incomes of more than \$60,000 don't qualify), they still consider it a major victory.

"We can afford the things we need for Scotty, But some families can't. The costs are unreal. Just recently, I priced a potty seat at \$250. Some familiered as the season of the se

iles pay \$1,500 for specially-designed wheelchairs.

Medical bills for severely handicapped children are exorbitant, as moted. 'Scotty sees a pediatrician, neurologist, orthopedist and opthamologist. Everytime something happens, he needs an aneathetic because he won't alt still.

The last time he had his teeth cleaned and fixed, it cost us \$2,000. He cut feed and fixed, it cost us \$2,000. He cut feed and fixed it cost us \$2,000. He cut feed and fixed it cost us \$2,000. He cut feed and had to stay overnight in pediatric intensive care.

Despite the meany trying moments, there are some joyous ones.

When his neighbors mow the lawn, he watches intensity. 'One neighbor tod us Scotty was the only person who gave the cut feed and had to stay overnight in a standing ovation for cutting the same and the same

picture in his book indicating he wants more oyster crackers (one of his favor-ite foods), his mother happily rewards

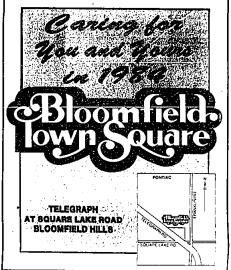
#### CPR session to be offered

A cardiopulmonary resuscitation class will be 7-10 p.m. Monday, Jan. 16, at the Whitman Center, 32235 W. Chi-cago, between Farmington and Merri-

The American Heart Association of

Michigan will provide instruction in the life-saving method at a \$2 cost (checks are preferred). Preregistration is nec-essary, and should be completed as soon as possible.

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