

# Teen earns Scouts' highest honor for his community involvement

Michael J. Brady Jr. isn't the kind of teenager who sits still. Student-athlete, debater, drama stage-crow member and singer in the choir during his freshman year in high school last year, Brady also has volunteered at the Farmington Community Library, at his church (Our Lady of Sorrows) and at a downtown soup kitchen.

"Being active in my surroundings," says this 16-year-old Brady bunch of energy, "has been one of my greatest goals."

And thanks to this high level of involvement, the Farmington Hills youth was able last summer to correct a drainage problem for the cloistered nuns at the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament—and earn, in the process, the rank of Eagle Scout, which is the highest in Scouting.

Brady, of Our Lady of Sorrows-sponsored Troop 110, was awarded Eagle Scout status during a recent Court of Honor. His father, Mike Brady, Sr., is the troop's Scoutmaster; his mother is Ann Brady.

Correcting the drainage problem wasn't merely the digging of two long trenches, although that was

the ultimate solution.

Brady, a student at University of Detroit High School, had to consult with engineers and others to learn what was needed to be done, then had to solicit funds to buy the supplies and round up the necessary muscle-power to get it done.

Not only that, but he only had a "window" of June 6, when school ended, to June 22, when Boy Scout summer camp began, to do the job. That's because the clay soil upon which the monastery sits can be dug-up in June, but tends to dry rock-hard by July.

After meeting with the maintenance supervisor at the Monastery, Brady pinpointed a date to begin the project and invited other scouts to join him. Those scouts extended the invitation to parents and other family members, leading to a crew of about 15. Brady supervised the project from there.

He assigned various tasks such as marking the soil to be excavated, cutting sod, rolling and preserving the sod and digging trenches.

A big part of his role was keeping everybody in a positive frame of mind.

"At the end of each day, I made sure everyone knew how important his work had been, because they actually put in the hard labor," wrote Brady in his Eagle project report. "It made them feel better. Those words of encouragement, and service hour credit, were the only rewards that many of them got."

That encouragement enabled the crew to finish the project as strongly as they began it.

"The crew on the last day was working as hard as, if not harder than, the crew had worked on the first day. It was a good feeling to get it done," Brady continued.

His community service extends beyond scouting. He was involved with the Focus: Hope Walk for Justice; Habitat for Humanity; Our Lady of Sorrows Youth Group; and on a youth advisory board for the Farmington Hills Public Library.

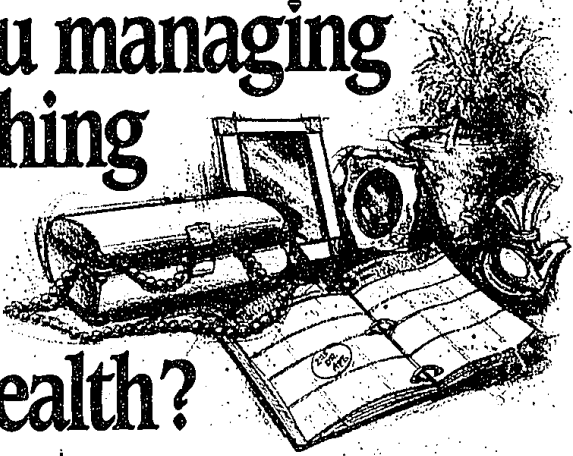
On the library advisory board, he worked in the "Battle of the Books" program, an activity sponsored and run by the library which targets kids in an attempt to promote reading.



**Local twist**

Dickens' of a time: Farmington and Farmington Hills residents taking part in University of Detroit Jesuit High School's production of "Oliver" include David Zohrab as "Mr. Bumble" and Jonathan Jorissen as "Noah Claypole." Julie Baumgartner, Mike Brady, Catherine Docherty, Peter Jacques, Susan Neal, Maureen Fauley and Matt Williams appear as part of the chorus. Performances are Friday through Sunday, April 3-5. Call (313) 862-5400, Ext. 280, for ticket information.

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## Commission appoints 2 new members

Dr. Anwar Mahmood and Stephen Diebert have been appointed to the Farmington Hills Commission on Children, Youth & Families.

The Farmington Hills City Council approved their appointments at Monday's regular meeting. The two men's terms run until Feb. 1, 2001.

The commission meets 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 2, at Farmington Hills City Council Chambers.




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