Erinne *from page A1*

education," she said.

In fact, to say that the whole past year has been a trying one for Williams is an understatement.

The day before Thanksgiving last year, her husband suffered a closed head injury and severe injuries to his hands during an accident at work at a General Motors plant in Romulus.

He has nearly recovered from the head injury. But he has undergone five surgeries on his severely fractured hands, only to face even more surgery in the future.

He has not recovered enough to return to his former job as an electrician at GM where he often worked 60-hour weeks. He now works two hours a day three days a week as a sort of troubleshooter. He hopes to increase his hours soon.

Suzanne Williams, meanwhile, has somehow maintained an upbeat attitude.

"This has definitely been a test. It's been a very humbling experience," she said.

She credits the Muscular Dystrophy Association, her church and the family-like atmosphere at Botsford for helping her cope.

MDA's help has been emotional and financial. As she has found that her insurance won't cover the cost of many items Erinne needs, MDA has picked up the tab.

Erinne is being fitted with leg braces and wrist splints. She has also been fitted with a type of wheelchair that takes the place of a stroller and car seat.

Later on, she will be fitted for a parapodium or stander, which will help her stand in her leg braces and strengthen her back and leg muscles.

The need to stay upright in her car seat and later while standing is an effort to help her breathing. Children with SMA-2 usually die of respiratory infections in early childhood. Erinne has already had pneumonia twice. Her susceptibility to upper respiratory illnesses makes her vulnerable when parents bring sick kids to child care. So Suzanne is always on guard.

She plans to take a leave later this fall to undergo a hysterectomy, but also to stay with Erinne who will have to stay out of day care during the prime season for upper respiratory ailments.

"They have to treat any illnesses with these kids very aggressively," she said. Some kids end up with special breathing devices and some kids need suctioning.

Meanwhile, the Williamses don't know what Erinne's longterm prognosis is, but Erinne seems to cope. She has excelled in other areas such as with small motor skills, according to Michele Reilly, a co-worker of Suzanne's at the child-care center. "The thing that throw us is that's she's so ahead in other areas," Reilly said.

She will also begin to attend physical and occupational therapy. Erinne's doctor visits have begun to add up, as Williams has taken to charting them out to keep them straight.

And her supervisors at Botsford have been supportive of the need for time off. "Botsford truly is a family organization," she said.

In August, Williams sent out a letter to parents of children at the Botsford Child Care Center explaining her situation.

In it she asks for prayers and has managed to keep her faith despite the problems her family faces. The support of people at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School in Northville have been "phenomenal," she said.

Parents and co-workers are also rallying behind the cause with plans to support the MDA telethon on Labor Day weekend.

Williams has nothing but praise for MDA, which has made all the calls to get help for Erinne, who Suzanne describes as the light of the whole family.

Erinne has also had the effect of raising awareness of muscular dystrophy among the kids at the Botsford Child Care Center. Recently, one little boy who would normally slap other kids on the head, came up and kissed Erinne on the head. The kids there are sensitive to her, Williams said.

Sharp *from page A1*

■ All 10 applicants had their hearts in it. They were all there for the kids, to serve.

Cathy Webb
Board president

[illegible]

Mahmood agreed. Urban is a sophomore at Farmington Harrison High School.

Sharp's election was by Webb and veteran trustee Jack Lucas, who ran with Webb. Sharp, 40, is married to Gillian and has two children, ages 7 and 10, and has been a resident of the district all his life.

Sharp will take the oath of office at the board's next regular meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 15, and will serve until the June 1999 election. At that time, he will be a candidate to serve a full three-year term in 2000.

Paperwork about his appointment will be sent to the county elections office for the board to meet a Sept. 15 appointment deadline. He will be sworn in at the start of the board meeting Tuesday, Sept. 15.

"I don't want to start out just be a Band-Aid," said Sharp. "I'm just stepping in on stop-gap measure," said Sharp. Active in Highmeadow Common Campus parent group, he emphasized that he would probably be interested in serving for more than the nine months. "I intend to pursue the position in the 1999 election," he said.

Sharp said he couldn't run in previous elections because of his crazy travel schedule at work. But when the schedule settled down following his selection as a law firm partner, he saw there was ample time to serve the public.

"I've always been interested in the board," said Sharp. "I'm real passionate about issues concerning kids."

Sharp and his wife, Terrie, have two sons, Andrew, 10, and Ryan, 16, attending Highmeadow.

One factor why Webb said the board chose Sharp over Luse was he seemed more in tune with specific district issues than Luse — who if selected would have become the lone African American representative on the board.

Sharp also told the board he could jump right in, while Luse indicated he needed some time to sort out previous commitments.

"It wasn't a minority or non-minority [illegible] Webb said. "It came down to who was the best fit for the board [illegible] who will be right for the board [illegible] Webb said. "It was Sharp [illegible] Webb said. "He thought [illegible] Webb said. "He would probably be [illegible] Webb said. "He would become an integral part of the team."

Other candidates included Victor Maura, Myra Mary Willey, Kevin Mitchell and Kathryn Brian.

All 10 applicants had their hearts in it, Webb said. "They were all there for the kids, to serve."

Webb voting against Luse was a painful choice, she said. Webb voting against Luse was a painful choice, she said. Frank Said also voted in favor of Sharp.

Sharp's election was duly noted by Webb and veteran trustee Linda Lindenberg. After the decision was reached, the board voted again, in a show of solidarity, to unanimously confirm votes for Sharp, as a show of solidarity.

They met that night and Mahmood applied so soon after being in the election was duly noted by Webb.

"I credit those who came back from the election and then go through an interview once more," she said. "It showed they have a lot of integrity and that when they ran in June, it was not just a whim."

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Given such circumstances, the usual approach by your doctor is to assure you that recovery is likely, but will take a while.

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by Herbert M. Gardner, D.D.S.

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