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She said Jacob is realizing "how good he truly has it," with both parents together and siblings who "care about and love him."

"It's really sad something like this has to happen for that to occur," Ruth Dillard added.

The Dillards spent some time earlier Monday at Farmington High School, where Jacob attends 11th grade.

Jacob, who won't return to school for an indefinite time, visited principal John Barrett, counselors, teachers and classmates. Jerry Dillard, meanwhile, videotaped the parking lot shed, which was decorated by students wishing for Jacob's speedy recovery.

That recovery still has a ways to go. But the teen is "progressing very nicely," said Barrett Monday.

Jacob landed in Botsford with knife wounds to the heart and lung, and with severe blood loss. The knife wound punctured Jacob's heart in two places, requiring a total of 10 stitches. His lung also was punctured.

Meanwhile, Ruth Dillard said she is hopeful that her son learned a valuable lesson that night.

"The one positive thing we're trying to take out of this," she said, "... is (for teenagers) to learn that they're not invincible and that this stuff can happen almost in your own

back yard. We're hoping it wises them all up.

"You have to watch what you say and what you do to strangers."

For other young adults, including students from Farmington High and the Farmington Alternative Academy, were also on hand when the altercation took place outside the Clark gas station at Nine Mile-Farmington roads. Barrett said the FHS students subsequently were talked to by counselors.

The alleged assailant, William Marshall Ford, 24, of Farmington Hills, is scheduled to be arraigned at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1, in Oakland County Circuit Court on one count of assault with intent to murder. Ford, who is in jail without bond, will make his appearance before Oakland Circuit Judge Steven Andrews.



Thankful: Ruth Dillard is happy son Jacob, 16, is healthy enough to be home from the hospital for Thanksgiving.

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Get well soon: The shed in the student parking lot at Farmington High School is decorated with well wishes to fellow student Jacob Dillard, who continues to recuperate from serious injuries sustained in a Nov. 7 stabbing incident.

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