Group homes

Tuesday morning, Arnold Zenker will stand before a group of state officials at the Institute for Basic Research in Willowbrook and tell why he doesn't want a group home in his community. No, he is not another community resident speaking at a public hearing on group homes for the retarded.

He is a man hired by the state to help teach state officials how to explain what group homes are and how the retarded can fit into the community. Since large institutions such as Willowbrook started being dismanteled, more group homes are needed. It is up to state officials to explain more about the retarded, so that people will be more willing to have them live in their neighborhoods.

The training sessions have been a big help to state officials and now they are sending out letters to community organizations, offering to speak about the retarded and their place in the community.