

Retarded deserve a place to live too

This is in reply to Marie Fagiano and her so-called concerned citizens. As the mother of a retarded child, I was deeply hurt by her letter and her lack of understanding. If you are so concerned, why don't you look at our side of it too? It's plain to see you or your followers have not been hit with a retarded child. God help these kids if everyone thought as you do.

I'm very grateful to the children and parents of Eltingville who have accepted Billy and made his life much happier. Thank God for neighbors like John and Little Joe and all the rest.

As for you, Staten Island could have gotten along much better without you. Billy was born here. He was here before you, and I hope he will be here long after you have gone. All they need is a kind word and a little understanding. You should get down on your knees and thank God you don't have their problem and ask Him to put a little compassion in your heart.

So the next time you see a retarded child, just smile and say "Hello." The smile you get back will be worth more than a thousand words. Just try. It won't hurt a bit and he won't bite.

**MRS. BEVERLY MORRIS,
Eltingville**