

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE, Saturday, May 2, 1981

It's your opinion

Group home residents find neighborliness

Dear Linda Fenner:

Thank you so much for the letter you wrote in April 16 edition on group homes for the developmentally disabled.

As a community residence director for a group home I can fully appreciate your sincere and compassionate outlook on this subject. Not all our clients in the community are high functioning or verbal. However they are citizens, human beings and very worthy of our love and understanding.

With pride I write that our community has not opposed our home and many of our neighbors have truly accepted us as their neighbors. Many friends and neighbors come into our home to visit and always greet our boys and talk to them.

It is a comfort to know that there are those who care and look at the positive aspects as opposed to the negative ones.

At times it takes a lot of heart and understanding to accept the fact that we have "special children" on this earth who deserve as normal a life as possible. They should never be looked upon or treated as outcasts of society because they are special or different. People should learn to count their blessings, not waste time and energy being critical.

Thanks again, Linda and neighbors of our community, for understanding and accepting us.

MARIE ORTIZ,

Castleton Corners