

Joseph McNulty

Young New Yorker is in need of help

The following was sent to Gov. Mario M. Cuomo:

"I once again wish to bring to your attention the plight of a young New Yorker who is in desperate, urgent need of your help.

"Joseph McNulty was born profoundly deaf and given up for adoption. His deafness went unrecognized and due to a misdiagnosis based on I.Q. tests for hearing children, Joseph was placed in the infamous Willowbrook State School at the age of four.

"When Joseph behaved in a manner inconsistent with a deaf child in this terrible environment, he was given massive dosages of psychotropic drugs, at times receiving Haldol, Valium and Thorazine at the same time. Joseph was a little boy who couldn't 'just say no' to drugs. He had never been taught to speak or sign. Willowbrook did its well known work on this small child, who was there due to a grave diagnostic error.

"When Joseph walked away from the nationally exposed Willowbrook, he reentered the world as a child who was not only deaf, but physically, sexually, and psychologically abused. Unbelievably, the state then placed him in a state supervised foster care home where he was sexually and psychologically abused. Unbelievably, the state then placed him in a state supervised foster care home where he was sexually abused on a regular basis for approximately one year.

"Even though Joseph was reclassified as normal but deaf, by the state in 1980, he still lives in a home for the retarded.

"I am litigating on Joseph's behalf, but you are the only one who can truly help him. The modern day court system may bring jus-

tice into this situation, but if so, it will come very slowly. Joseph cannot wait for help or it may be too late to salvage any of life's potentials.

"I know that you cannot change Joseph McNulty's past, but you are in a unique position to change his future. . . .

"Assemblyman Bragman has called for an investigation of the state's shocking lack of appropriate care for Joseph McNulty. I urge you to support this investigation and hope you will insist that Joseph McNulty be allocated whatever funds are deemed necessary to provide proper rehabilitation..

"Governor, because of your reputation as a caring man, a vast number of Joseph McNulty's fellow citizens anticipate your personal interest and responsiveness to his plight. We can all hope for help, but you, governor, are the one who can give it.

"I sincerely hope that justice can at last prevail."

JOSEPH F.DAVOLI
Syracuse, N.Y.