Homes Needed For Emotional Children

CHICAGO, March 6.—A young woman who came to see me in New York city the other morning brought to my attention a situation of which I think comparatively few people are aware.

She has a child who is strong and healthy physically and quite brilliant mentally, but who is emotionally uncontrolled. No amount of training teaches her self-control, and as a result she can never be trusted where anything might irritate or excite her. She has been in schools, but is now in an insane asylum because the doctors all say it is not safe to allow her to associate with normal young people of her own age.

THE MOTHER feels that such youngsters because they feel they are dangerous. In no state and under no federal program can she find a place where this child can be properly cared for. Therefore, a brilliant youngster, for the most part normal, is learning rebellion behind the bars of an insane asylum.

The mother looked at me pleadingly and said, “something must be done,” and I agreed that it was vitally necessary. But unless doctors put on a full-fledged campaign of information, I could not see how members of the public could set up such institutions themselves.
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She has a child who is strong and healthy physically and quite brilliant mentally, but who is emotionally uncontrollable. No amount of training teaches her self-control, and as a result she can never be trusted where anything might irritate or excite her. She has been in schools, but is now in an insane asylum because the doctors all say it is not safe to allow her to associate with normal young people of her own age.

The mother feels that some state or federal institute should provide the proper kind of environment and supervision for this type of youngster. She insists that much juvenile delinquency occurs through the influence of such young people. She has been told by reform schools that they do not want such youngsters because they feel they are dangerous. In no state and under no federal program can she find a place where this child can be properly cared for. Therefore, a brilliant youngster, for the most part normal, is learning rebellion behind the bars of an insane asylum.

The mother looked at me pleadingly and said, "something must be done," and I agreed that it was vitally necessary. But unless doctors put on a full-fledged campaign of information, I could not see how members of state legislatures or members of Congress would feel justified in appropriating the necessary money. Most of them will have to have it proved to them that there are enough children of this kind to require special schools to house them.
March 12, 1947

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Hyde Park, N.Y.
Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

In your column of March 6, published in the Dayton Daily News, you speak of a child who is well physically and brilliant mentally, but emotionally uncontrolled. You state that "in no state and under no federal program can she find a place where this child can be properly cared for."

While this is a true statement, I believe you will be pleased to know that since 1945 Ohio has had a law which permits distribution of money for the care of the emotionally handicapped child and that a sum of money is allocated which could be used for this purpose.

As a member of the Educational Council of the Ohio Education Association, I made the study on which the law is based. One chief reason I made this study is that the emotionally handicapped child may...
be fully restored to society, whereas the physically and mentally handicapped cannot usually be fully restored, although of course we want to do all we can for them.

The Ohio law allows the State Department of Education to apportion certain funds among the physically, mentally and emotionally handicapped children. To date the Department has increased the amount for the other two groups instead of providing for the emotionally handicapped. I have been disappointed about this and I am expecting to have a conference with some of the Department within the next two or three weeks.

However, the fact that we have a law and an appropriation is a beginning. I think this is the first state to have made this much of a beginning and I thought you would like to know about it.

I was one of the members of the National League of Teacher Associations who had looked forward most eagerly to the summer conference to be held at Chautauqua.
New York and you were to have been one of our speakers. So it was with keen disappointment I learned that due to the war, the conference had to be canceled. The other members shared my disappointment, too. It would have been wonderful to have had you share your knowledge and experiences with me.

For a long time I have admired you and the way you have used your ability to help others. Would that we had hundreds of women like you! Maybe we would have a better world for all.

Sincerely yours,
Kate L. Boyce
To Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt:

In honor of your dearly beloved husband.
The greatest man the world ever produced.
"""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""
May the Blessed Lord Bless and preserve his soul.
Also the soul of his lovely mother.
"""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""
family.
This letter from a man who loved you both.
He was the greatest humanitarian the world has produced.
Every time I think of him it affects me very much.
That good hearted soul.
The only man as President of the United States.
The only one who ever did as much for the common
the blind, the kind, the aged, the orphan, the poor
and the down trodden.
His heart as large as one of the mountains
which surround our home.
Pray for him every time I think of him.
Stir you kindly and send a photo of him.

Your Respectfully,
Andrew J. Bulfin Jr.
15 Broad Street,

Maid.