

1970 - 1980

Ten Years of Trying  
To Get Financial Aid

A SUMMARY OF JUDY SNOW'S ATTEMPTS TO  
LIVE

## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Who is Judy Snow?

Judy Snow is a thirty year old woman who is presently the Co-ordinator of the Centre for Special Services for Handicapped Students at York University. She received a B.A. and M.A. in Psychology at York University.

Judy is quadriplegic. This means she requires 4 - 5 hours a day of physical assistance to maintain life. She is a dynamic and courageous human being.

STATEMENT FROM JUDY SNOW

FEBRUARY 1980

Nobody can say I haven't tried to get assistance (see file of letters and telephone calls made). I am now at the point where there are not more "regular channels!" I can't afford more years of being polite. In desperation and frustration, I have finally decided it is time to let people know how unjust and cruel the system is and how willing some people are to let me die.

Ken Ashbee\*died because everyone "passed the buck". His death barely made a ripple. I refuse to die because a wealthy system can't work out some "administrative difficulties". I've waited ten years and will now do what I have to do to make sure that I can live fully and completely. I am a human being and I have a right to live.

\* Note: Ken Ashbee, age 39, died January 2, 1980 of heart failure.

## TEN YEARS OF STRUGGLE - THE JUDY SNOW CHRONOLOGY

- 1970 - 2      Worked on the "John Kellerman House Committee" to set up a group home for disabled adults.  
The group's funding came from Metro Toronto.  
The Committee discovered that there was no legislation at the federal, provincial or city level to meet their needs for housing and support care outside a hospital setting.  
The group eventually disintegrated in frustration.
- 1972    Sept.    Mrs. Rita Snow (Judy's mother) and Judy initiated Clarendon Foundation, formed the first Board of Directors, incorporated the Foundation and raised the first funds.  
↓  
1975      The Foundation:  
- tried to purchase a house to be rented to disabled people.  
- Metro fire regulations would not allow this.  
- finally, Clarendon Foundation received a pilot project subsidy from the Ministry of Community and Social Services.  
- 21A Vaughan Road was leased and went into operation.  
- Clarendon refused to give Judy assistance because she had support care from Vocational Rehabilitation while she was a full time student at York University.  
- later in 1975, Judy stepped down from the Board of Clarendon over a disagreement on policy.
- 1976      Judy's "support care" from Vocational Rehabilitation was discontinued because  
Spring      - Judy's income from the Family Benefits Act then totalled \$246.00/month (substantially less than support care costs alone).  
- Judy approached Welfare, Homemaker's Act, Home Care and a private arrangement but no assistance was available.  
Judy ended up in a Nursing Home, Oak Ridge Nursing Villa until early 1978.
- 1977      Arranged for comparative cost analysis of various support care options (by Tracy Carpenter).
- Oct.      Judy wrote Dr. Bette Stephenson, then Minister of Labour. Judy applied to the Ontario Federation of the Cerebral Palsied as attendant care in a housing project was speculated.  
(It never materialized.)  
Judy wrote Dennis Timbrell, Minister of Health, and Dr. Johnson, Administrator of West Park Hospital suggesting that a part of West Park be set up for free use of disabled adults.
- Nov.      Maureen Vasey, then of the Ontario Crippled Children's Society wrote outlining Judy's dilemma to  
- Fred Young, N.D.P. M.P.P.  
- Dr. Bette Stephenson, Minister of Labour  
- Lynne Gordon, CKEY.

- 1978 Jan. Judy was pressured out of Oak Ridge Nursing Home because they said she needed too much care.  
 Judy tried a private arrangement which broke down due to lack of funds.  
 Judy approached Homemakers and Home Care, but no assistance available.  
 Judy moved into Grace Hospital after 3 weeks of attempts.
- Feb. Transferred to West Park Hospital where she shared a room with a woman of 101 years.
- Feb. 7 - reapplied to Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsied.
- Mar. 2 Judy wrote letter explaining that "Disabled persons are not sick" to:
- Minister of Housing
  - Ministry of Community and Social Services
  - Minister of Labour
  - Minister of Health
  - Commissioner of Social Services, Metro Toronto.
- Everyone passed the buck!
- Aug. 14 Judy refused admission to Clarendon again, for not enough staff time.
- 1979 Jan. 29 Judy wrote letters to Donald McDonald, N.D.P. M.P.P. and Dennis Timbrell, Minister of Health, to complain of care in chronic care hospital and inability to get accepted at Clarendon - no results.
- Early 1979 Joined G.O.A.L. (Get Out and Live).
- April 17 Wrote letter to Margaret Birch, Secretariat of the province to yet again define housing needs of the severely disabled adult.
- May Margaret Birch and Bob Waterhouse verbally promised that G.O.A.L. members would be assisted by being housed at Morrison.
- Sept. Reapplied to Clarendon and applied to Morrison House.
- Oct. 5 Left West Park Hospital.
- Oct. Wrote Bob Waterhouse to make sure of promises of accommodation.
- \* Nov. 2 Received letter with promise in writing that would receive services.
- Dec. 1979 and Jan. 1980 Refused from Clarendon, Morrison and Clarendon II
- 1980 Jan. 2 Judy wrote to Paula McCarthy, Manager of Adult Group Homes and Halfway Houses, Ministry of Community and Social Services, pointing out that subsidization of her living accommodation at York was the cheapest and best around.  
 David Pitt took over her position and said he could do nothing

and referred her to Homemakers.

Belinda Morin, Metro Toronto Department of Elderly and Disabled, representing Homemakers, said they could do nothing.

- Feb. 20 Judy got out of Toronto General Hospital and applied for Home Care through the hospital system.
- Feb. 27 Mrs. Leebe, Co-ordinator of Home Care Services for Metro Toronto, refused all services on grounds that they could not provide night care.
- Dec. 1979 - Feb. 1980 Advertised for a live-in attendant among the mildly retarded, refugees, students, church groups, etc.
  - no answer
- Oct. 1979 - March 1980 March of Dimes partially subsidizes attendant care, and volunteer students do the rest.

#### PROPOSAL

- a) That full support care be provided at York University.  
Approximate cost \$15,000.00  
Rationale: Judy works at York; therefore no transportation costs are incurred.
- b) Full care at Morrison House, 341 Bloor St. West

LETTERS IN THE SNOW FILE FROM AND TO SUCH PEOPLE AS:

Oct. 1977	
Nov. 1977	Bette Stephenson, Minister of Labour (now Education)
Mar. 1978	
	Fred Young, N.D.P. M.P.P.
Nov. 1977	Maureen Vasey, Ontario Society for Crippled Children
Feb. 1978	Lyle Kersey, Coordinator of the Ontario Federation for the Cerebral Palsied
Mar. 1978	John G. Anderson, Assistant Deputy Minister of Social Resources
Apr. 1978	Anne Johnston, Alderman of Ward 11
May 1978	
Apr. 1978	Claude Bennett, Minister of Housing
Apr. 1978	Dennis Timbrell, Minister of Health
May 1979	
June 1978	Keith Norton, Minister of Community and Social Services
Aug. 1978	J.A. Rodger, Foundation Co-ordinator of the Clarendon Foundation
Sept. 1979	
Jan. 1979	Donald McDonald, M.P.P. for York South, N.D.P.
Mar. 1979	
Apr. 1979	David Pitt, Manager Adult Group Homes and Halfway Houses
Apr. 1979	
Oct. 1979	Robert Waterhouse, Co-ordinator of Rehabilitation Services
Nov. 1979	
May 1979	Margaret Birch, Provincial Secretary for Social Development
Oct. 1979	Carol Eisenberg, Admissions Committee, Morrison Residence
Dec. 1979	Jane Szilvasy, Ontario March of Dimes
Dec. 1979	N. Jane Corbett, Residence Manager, York University
Jan. 1980	Paula McCarthy, Manager Adult Group Homes and Halfway Houses
Jan. 1980	D. Buggie, Project Manager Clarendon Foundation

After ten years, the problem is very simple. Judy needs a place to live - not a hospital - where support care is available.

There are two obvious alternatives.

- 1) Provide 'support care' for Judy in existing housing at York University where Judy works.

Approximate cost \$15,000.00/ year.

Advantage: no transportation required.

- 2) Arrange accommodation for Judy in Morrison House, where support care is provided.

This is not a time to look for scapegoats or excuses. Many good people have been frustrated in their attempts to assist.

A solution is needed immediately. It can be done.

SOME OF JUDY SNOW'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

1977 - present

Co-ordinator of the Centre for Special Services for Handicapped Students. The Centre is a direct result of efforts by Judy to put York University at the forefront of services for handicapped students in Canada. Now part of Student Services at York University, we provide specialized counselling and services designated to integrate the disabled student into the mainstream of academic life of the university. The programme has assisted approximately 90 students to take full advantage of their academic careers.

1980      Incorporator and President of R.A.M.P. Opportunities, Inc., a non-profit organization whose mandate is to set up small businesses which are run, owned and managed by disabled people.

Co-ordinator of the Citizen's Committee for Metropolitan Toronto 1981 Year of the Disabled, set up to plan activities for 1981.

1979      Consultant to Frontier College on Frontier Options project to establish small businesses by the severely disabled.

Consultant to OPTIONS, York University on research project, funded by National Health and Welfare to elucidate practical issues for the severely disabled.

Summer 1980 Instructor, Core I, Introduction to the Education of Exceptional Students



We, as staff of the Canadian Association for the Mentally Retarded, hereby believe firmly in the right of individuals to live in the community of their choice rather than in institutional environments and thereby support our colleague, Ms. Judith Snow, in her efforts to obtain the necessary supportive services and assistance from the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada.

- |                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Bernard J. Graney, Ph.D. |                   |
| 2. G. Hall, Ph.D.           | 20 Macdutton      |
| 3. Larry R. Hunt            | 21 Sharon Clark   |
| 4. O.R. Indicow             | 22 [unclear]      |
| 5. Mary Hain-Liffey         | 23, M.C. Cerwon   |
| 6. Bob [unclear]            | 24. Jessie Howsam |
| 7. Shirley Katchke          | 25. [unclear]     |
| 8. [unclear]                |                   |
| 9. [unclear]                |                   |
| 10. [unclear]               |                   |
| 11. [unclear]               |                   |
| 12. [unclear]               |                   |
| 13. [unclear]               |                   |
| 14. [unclear]               |                   |
| 15. [unclear]               |                   |
| 16. [unclear]               |                   |
| 17. [unclear]               |                   |
| 18. [unclear]               |                   |
| 19. [unclear]               |                   |

We, the undersigned faculty at York University, are shocked and angered at the denial of financial support for Judy Snow. Judy is an active and important member of our academic community. It is criminal that she is being denied the human right to maintain control of her life and destiny as a full citizen.

We support Judy's demand for full support care at York University or residence at Morrison House.

We will do everything we can to put pressure on public officials to "stop passing the buck" and provide immediate financial aid for Judy to carry on with her life.