

REMARKS OF SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
HOMEWARD BOUND GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

New Hope, Minnesota

December 20, 1975

Today is a very special moment in the history of Homeward Bound.

Today marks the culmination of three years' work and many thousands of hours of planning by concerned parents, dedicated professionals, community leaders, government officials and hundreds of others to find a way to provide the best possible care for their exceptional children and, at the same time, keep them near home.

Homeward Bound will be the only facility in this area for the treatment of severely retarded and physically handicapped children. It is a community facility, supported by the community to meet the needs of the community.

It is fitting that the town of New Hope, with inspiration in its very name, is the location of Homeward Bound's first permanent facility.

I want to thank all of you who have made this day possible, particularly Don Hatz, President of Homeward Bound; Wayne Larson, its Director, and Major Erickson of New Hope. There are hundreds of others as well who deserve recognition. Your courage and determination are admirable. We all will benefit from your efforts in the years to come.

Being here today brings back memories of last April's "Night of Stars" when many of us shared in the fun of helping to raise the needed funds for the facility for which we have just broken ground.

New Hope's Homeward Bound is just the beginning. Although it will serve 64 children ranging between the ages of two through 17, there are over 300 children in Hennepin County and over 500 youngsters in the Twin Cities area who could benefit from the services provided by a facility of this type.

Our most precious commodity, our hope for a brighter future for all Americans, is our children. The strength and viability of our Nation will depend to a great extent on the values and knowledge we impart to them.

As you know, I long have been deeply concerned for the care, treatment and opportunities provided by this Nation for its handicapped citizens.

Our state of Minnesota, I'm proud to say, is a national leader in the field of care for mentally retarded and physically handicapped youngsters. Homeward Bound represents an alternative to institutionalization for the care of these children, within their own community, surrounded by loved ones.

I am happy to report that two significant pieces of legislation which I have long and vigorously supported have been enacted. Because of this, programs such as Homeward Bound can continue to grow. I refer to the Education for All Handicapped Children Act and the Developmental Disabilities Amendments.

There are approximately eight million handicapped children between the ages of three and 21 in this country. Over a million of these children receive no educational opportunities whatsoever. Almost three million children, while in school, receive none of the special services they require in order to make education a meaningful experience.

Although Minnesota is one of the more progressive States, it has fallen below its intended goals. Sufficient funds have not been made available to serve all of the handicapped children we originally planned to serve.

As of March of last year, Minnesota was serving 78,000 children between the ages of four and 21. But we still are not serving 17,505 handicapped children who were going without an educational program.

The outlook was equally bleak for other States as well. Enactment of the new legislation goes a long way in restoring the basic right to education for all handicapped children.

Over nine million Americans today suffer from developmental disabilities. They truly constitute a "silent minority" in our society.

But we have developed new innovative educational techniques and we have gained some understanding of the nature of these handicaps. The concept of "deinstitutionalization" is important here too. But to provide the needed facilities, the specially trained teachers, and the specialized programs to effectively help handicapped people, we need a great deal of money.

Passage of the Developmental Disabilities Amendment, including a Bill of Rights for the Handicapped, makes great strides in both the quality of general institutional care and in the development of community residential facilities such as Homeward Bound.

Too often our handicapped citizens have been the forgotten people. For a long time our country has done little to aid handicapped individuals to achieve that measure of self-fulfillment of which they are capable. There has been a hidden assumption that the handicapped person is a total invalid, that he cannot help himself, or that he must be protected from society or vice versa.

This is a costly conception both in terms of the human toll it takes on handicapped persons and their families, and in terms of the financial burden it unnecessarily imposes on society.

The human dimension is paramount. One of the great political principles of our national life is that every person shall have an opportunity to achieve whatever degree of self-reliance and self-fulfillment he or she is capable of achieving.

The cost of rehabilitation is returned many times over in savings when individuals with handicaps are given the proper care, training, and motivation to leave the hospitals and institutions and become, to the extent possible, self-supporting and productive citizens.

Handicapped children, if given the proper education and equality of treatment in all other respects, can and do become productive, self-supporting and well-adjusted citizens. Their own lives are brighter and all of society benefits from their contributions. The work of Homeward Bound plays an integral part in making this dream a reality.

Homeward Bound represents a spirit of cooperation and partnership at the community, State and national levels in developing and implementing programs for the handicapped. We must offer these "forgotten people" a genuine opportunity to find themselves, to know what it is to set their own goals and to achieve those goals.

This is our challenge.

This is our opportunity.

Let us accept it -- NOW.

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NEW HOPE, MINNESOTA

DECEMBER 20, 1975

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Ed Brinkson - Mayor
Wayne Larson - Director
Senator Skip Humphrey
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KEEP THEM NEAR HOME.

HOMEWARD BOUND WILL BE THE ONLY FACILITY IN THIS AREA FOR

THE TREATMENT OF THE SEVERELY RETARDED AND PHYSICALLY

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It is fitting that the TOWN OF NEW HOPE, with inspiration
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particularly DON HATZ, PRESIDENT OF HOMEWARD BOUND; WAYNE
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I am happy to report that two significant pieces of legislation which I have long and vigorously supported have been enacted. Because of this, programs such as Homeward Bound can continue to grow. I refer to the Education for All Handicapped Children Act and the Developmental Disabilities Amendments.

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HOMEWARD BOUND REPRESENTS A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND
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