

Turnbull fund growing as teen keeps fighting

By SUE BOCK
Staff Writer

The Barbara Turnbull Fund may be growing by leaps and bounds but, more important, Barbara herself is beginning to improve her condition.

Family friends of the young paralyzed girl say she's starting to take some breath on her own for short periods of time and she may have another tracheotomy that will allow her to speak.

Last month doctors told the girl, shot in the neck during an armed robbery at the Becker's store where she worked, that she would be paralyzed from the neck down, would have to breathe with the aid of a respirator and would be mute for the rest of her life.

Denise Olmstead, a friend of the Turnbull family and one of the organizers of the Barbara Turnbull Fund, said she was put in a wheelchair and was taken to a visitors' room over the weekend, all without benefit of her respirator.

But Barbara's battle is far from over. Olmstead said there has been no improvement in her paralyzed condition and there's no indication when she'll be moved from the intensive care unit at Sunnybrook Medical Centre.

"It's been very frustrating for her, but being a patient person, she's taking it as well as can be expected. She's in better spirits and is being a real fighter," Olmstead said.

\$70,000

Meanwhile, organizers of the fund for Barbara and her family's expenses say figures now stand at over \$70,000 toward the \$1-million goal. The Toronto Dominion bank holds close to \$60,000 and Barbara's fellow students at Clarkson Secondary School have already raised over \$16,000 in their campaign.

One fundraising venture over the weekend raised \$12,000. Volunteers at eight Mississauga and Toronto shopping malls manned booths and singer Burton Cummings and Toronto Blizzard soccer captain Bruce Wilson were at two of the malls signing autographs for those who contributed.

Today (Wednesday) Clarkson will be hosting a silent auction at the school and Thursday, Friday and Saturday students are presenting their play, *Rock Star*, with proceeds going to the fund. The \$4 admission tickets can be obtained by calling Terry Boyle at 822-7600.

The Optimist Club of Mississauga will be covering the budget for a Portage-a-thon this Saturday. About 100 past and present staff members of the Moorelands Family Camp, where Barbara has worked for the past three summers, will collect a minimum of \$30 worth of pledges each and will portage from the Downtown Churchworkers Association headquarters on Adelaide St. E. to Sunnybrook on Bayview Ave.

AUCTION

Part of the first evening of a Rotary television auction on Dec. 1 will be devoted to auctioning merchandise specifically donated to the Barbara Turnbull Fund. It can be seen on Cable 10 Mississauga from 7 to 11 p.m.

Joan Dunn, the woman who started the fund after Barbara was shot, said response to the girl's plight has been so overwhelming they've had to acquire the services of a public relations person.

They also have a 24-hour hotline, 782-0783, for anyone with questions or ideas for the fund.

Dunn said cards and letters sent by members of the public have meant a great deal to Bar-

bara but she's afraid they may stop coming. Anyone who would like to send a line to her can by writing P.O. Box 310, Station W.,

Toronto M6M 5B9.

Donations can be sent to the Toronto Dominion Bank at 24 Truscott Dr. in Mississauga.