

Paralyzed teen thrives on community support

By SUE BOCK
Staff Writer

The staff and students at Clarkson Secondary School have shown their support for classmate Barbara Turnbull by raising over \$25,000 for her care.

Organizers of the two-month fundraising venture presented the money to Barbara's mother and sister, Iris and Christine, at an assembly in the school gymnasium Tuesday. The room was also packed with Clarkson students and members of the community who helped them in their drive.

"This shows how much you care about Barb and it is giving her the courage to go on," Mrs. Turnbull told the crowd.

"I love you all very much."

Turnbull related a message that Barb told her she wanted passed on to her fellow students and teachers.

"She said she knows you had fun doing it (raising the money) and she wishes she could have been there to join in."

Turnbull said Barbara is now breathing on her own and is able to speak because she is off the respirator/ventilator.

"She hasn't stopped talking since her voice came back," Turnbull said.

\$1 MILLION

The Barbara Turnbull Fund at the Toronto Dominion bank stood at \$80,000 before the Clarkson Secondary School donation but Turnbull said paraplegic organizations have told her it will take about \$1 million for care for Barbara for the rest of her life.

"But we're hoping her condition improves. If it does, any money left over will go to worthy charities."

Barbara was paralyzed from the neck down after she was felled by a bullet in a Becker's store armed robbery last September. Turnbull said

that at the time of the incident she wouldn't have predicted the reaction the community has had to her daughter's adversity.

"We knew she has a lot of friends but there's been so much support — as well as emotional support. The people here are just fantastic."

ONGOING

Although the student effort to raise money for Barbara has ended, several other campaigns are still going on within the city.

Andy Pruchnicki, manager of the Pronto Gas Bar on Benedet Dr., has managed to raise \$2,000 so far by donating two cents for every litre he has pumped at his station and by selling various retail products.

On Saturday, Dec. 17, he'll run from the station to Sunnybrook

Medical Centre, where Barbara is a patient. He's accepting pledges for his run and can be reached at 270-6489.

The Masonic Foundation of Ontario will also be asking members and friends to donate to their fund. Receipts for income tax purposes will be issued by each lodge or organization secretary and cheques can be made out to The Masonic Foundation of Ontario (Barbara Turnbull Masonic Fund).

The Barbara Turnbull hot-line number is 782-0763 and cards and letters can be sent to P.O. Box 310, Station W., Toronto, M6M 5B9. Donations can be sent to the Toronto Dominion Bank at 2425 Truscott Dr. in Mississauga.

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