in their attitude and they began to recognize the valuable role animals could play in rehabilitating children with emotional, behavioural and learning difficulties. "by learning to take care of animals, children can learn to take care of themselves."

The kids arriving at Green Chimneys range between 6-21 years of age. All have been treated by conventional kinds of counseling which have failed and many are unable to communicate with people. They are first introduced to all the animals and then they are given



total responsibility for one animal. The experience of feeding, grooming, nursing, parting and grieving are all valuable steps in the child's rehabilitation. It is essential for the child to do the job from start to finish in order to gain a feeling of achievement. It is the first time in their lives that they experience success.

One child called Vincent whose mother has died and who had never been able to express grief is given the care of a crow and a hawk. Both have

been badly injured and are unable to fly. The crow's conditions worsens and when it dies, Vincent has to come to terms with its

death. The hawk slowly recovers enough to be released back into the wild. As it flies away Vincent says, "Fly to my mother," the first time he has mentioned her. " By helping the hawk to heal and regain its freedom, Vincent is learning that he too can heal and someday be free", commented Dr. Ross.

The farm has more than 250 trained staff. Many bring their own pets to work with them. "When someone applies for a job with us, we tell them, if you don't like animals, you won't want to work here'," said Mila Ross.

Many of the children's problems are rooted in their family situation, their mothers themselves are often teenagers addicted to drugs and alcohol or suffering from AIDS. A new service Green Chimneys offers is for 'latch-key' kids. They come each morning by bus and return home in the evening.

As I sit here listening to this man with twinkling eyes, I am overwhelmed by the effort which has gone into his 50 years of work and the success of Green Chimneys which requires 180 million dollars a year to run. I'm thinking how badly it's needed in this concrete jungle of computer game kids who've forgotten what nature is.

But without animals Green Chimneys could not exist. Dr. Ross summed up his gratitude to them; "Thank you animals. Without you we could not do what we do."

