

GSH director assaulted

Bob Robinson, Asst. Editor with the Early Bird Newspaper contributed to this article.

On Aug. 19, there was a scuffle outside of the Darke County Courthouse that resulted in the arrest of Adam Weaver, a former resident in the Good Samaritan Home shelter, who attempted to stab GSH director Dr. John Graham with a knife.

Graham was not injured. The knife tore about a six inch slice out of Graham's jacket.

"We've been trying to get him much needed help... we've been afraid something like this might happen. And it did," Graham said,

"Actually this is a good thing," Weaver's mother said. "He's going to get the help he needs."

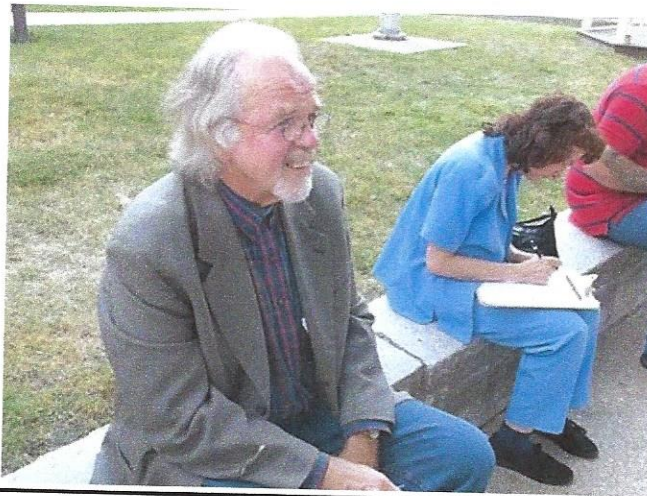
She added her son hadn't had a job since February. He was not taking medication for what she referred to as a "bi-polar" condition.

"He's a totally different person. I had to kick him out of my house... he put two holes in my door." She wasn't sure where her son was living; staying in his car or walking around town.

Graham and his wife Kathy were at the courthouse to testify regarding an incident where Weaver was allegedly throwing pop cans at Graham's house.

"Suddenly he just started yelling and screaming and pulled out a knife," Kathy said. "He yelled stay away from her."

Mrs. Weaver said she didn't know who pulled her son off of her... she was trying to get



GSH director Dr. John Graham was assaulted outside the Darke County Courthouse by a knife-wielding homeless person with mental health problems who had threatened his mother.

away from him.

"He had grabbed me and was trying to take me somewhere," she added. "I was afraid he was going to hurt me."

Update on this incident:

We have known from the beginning there are inherent risks in trying to help damaged people. All the research data, and our own experience housing more than 1,000 people over the past 12 years shows that ex-offenders are not the risk, but those with mental health issues, such as this incident has shown.

Mr. Weaver was a local man, with good family and no arrest record. But as his illness intensified, so did his erratic and threatening behavior.

Although the family had repeatedly tried to get help for him, he had refused treatment.

In May he stayed in our shelter with no incident, but two months later, without warning, he damaged our property and began making increasing threats toward me.

We filed charges hoping the court could then mandate some

sort of treatment.

It was after this court hearing that he confronted me on the courthouse steps, yelling delusional threats, and in an instant had pulled out a knife and attempted to stab me.

So this begs the question, realistically Mr. Weaver will be back on the street again with no guarantee that he will not still be intent on doing me or Kathy harm.

So what should we do to protect ourselves? I was advised

by one concerned police official that I should **carry a gun**. But in doing so, would that change me? More important, would it change how we respond to those sick people who need us the most? So that option was ruled out.

A retractable baton and even mace were considered, but again, we felt this was too confrontational, and inconsistent with our core beliefs.

In the end we determined that if we are serious about our faith, and our commitment to helping damaged people, there will always be inherent risks. But trusting God means exactly that, and returning violence for violence only breeds more violence, not healing.

At present, Mr. Weaver is still in jail awaiting trial. This time, however, the local mental health office is actively involved and there is real hope that he will finally get the help he needs – whether he wants it or not.