

Missing from the dozens of people at Claire Haverkamp's funeral was the couple who perhaps best knows the depths of her kindness. Logistical problems prevented John and Pat Lund from attending Thursday services at Medinah Baptist Church. The couple, however, paid an emotional tribute to the woman who founded Marklund Charities, a network of homes, centers and schools for those with profound and severe disabilities. "We will miss her," John Lund said from his home in California. "She was one of the purest and most lovable people we have ever had the privilege to know." The Lunds, though, did not need Thursday's eulogy to remind them of Haverkamp's legacy. They didn't need an obituary to reiterate her achievements or a memorial to explain her devotion to children. The Lunds experienced the legacy, achievement and devotion first hand. Haverkamp and her husband, Stanley, were foster parents to their son Mark. The little boy - who had Down syndrome and severe cardiac complications - went to live with the Haverkamps on Christmas Day 1954. Claire, who was a nurse and former missionary, eased many of the Lunds' anxieties when she agreed to care for their son. "In the early years following Mark's birth," John Lund said, "her and Stan's dedication, vision and hope helped us through a traumatic period of confusion and doubt." Soon after they began caring for Mark, the Haverkamps accepted several more disabled children into their home. When the house became too crowded, the family moved into what's now Marklund Children's Home in Bloomingdale. Claire once said had she known how big Marklund would become, she probably would have been afraid to begin. Lund, too, never imagined the home would evolve into a vast charity network. But in retrospect, he says, Marklund's success should have been expected. "When I stop to think of the two people who started it," he said, "how could it fail with two people like that behind it."

Source: The Daily Herald - Friday, September 12, 1997

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Services for Claire Roberta Haverkamp, 81, of Little Rock, Ark., formerly of Bloomingdale, will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at Medinah Baptist Church, 900 Foster Ave., Medinah. She will lie in state from noon until the time of services. Mrs. Haverkamp died Monday, Sept. 8, 1997, in Little Rock, Ark. Interment will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery, Arlington Heights. She was a resident of Arkansas since 1994. She founded the Marklund Home in Bloomingdale. Survivors include her daughter, Carla (John) Gehrig of Winter Park, Fla.; her son, Rick (Joan) Haverkamp of Mabelvale, Ark.; her grandchildren, Robert, John and Mindy Meier, Sean Duff, Scott and Dale Haverkamp, Angela Griffis, Penny Bomar and Marsha Harrison; and her great-grandchildren, Amy, Bobbi Jean and Christina Meier, Elizabeth and Jessica Haverkamp, Brandon and Laura Griffis, and Hannah and Micah Bomar. She was preceded in death by her husband, Stanley. Memorials to Marklund Charities, 290 Town Center, Glendale Heights, IL 60139, would be appreciated. Arrangements were made by Brust Villa Park Funeral Home. For information, (630) 834-6656.

Source: The Daily Herald - Wednesday, September 10, 1997