

BY EMILY CARPENTER
The Post and Courier

Two camera crews, three on-air personalities and a construction crew spent six days in the Charleston area filming four shows for the Do It Yourself network program "DIY to the Rescue." The inspiration for two of the shows was 7-year-old Will Schrecker.

Will was diagnosed with a genetic disorder called Angelman's syndrome when he was about 13 months old. Characteristics of the syndrome include seizures, sleep disorders, developmental delay, hyperactivity, an apparent happy demeanor, hypopigmentation, fascination with water and gait and movement disorders.

"Developmentally, Will functions at the 12- to 18-month stage. He cruises on furniture, people, the floor," says Julia Schrecker, Will's mother. "He likes musical toys and things with buttons, the television, lights and textures. Everything has to be real safe. We can't keep small toys or toys with pieces around."

Will's room was constantly being altered to best suit him in each developmental stage. His father, Larry Schrecker, and his grandfather, Ray

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Larry Schrecker holds his son up to get a first look at the fish in his new wall aquarium as director Chaz Howard from "DIY to the Rescue" films his reaction.

Mt. Pleasant boy gets his room remodeled on television show

Where there's a Will ...



PHOTOGRAPHS BY MELISSA HANELINE/STAFF

Julia Schrecker spins her son Will in a cloth swing suspended from the ceiling. The swing was designed to stimulate vestibular orientation, or a sense of gravity, for Will, who suffers from Angelman's syndrome. The feature was one of many additions to Will's room installed with the help of the Do It Yourself network show "DIY to the Rescue."

Will plays peek-a-boo with Cat Buesing after being introduced to his newly renovated room. The wall aquarium not only provides stimulation for Will but also serves as an unobtrusive window for his parents.



Julia Schrecker (center) helps son Will, 7, greet Amy Devers, one of the hosts of "DIY to the Rescue," in the kitchen of his family's home in Mount Pleasant. Personal care assistant Cat Buesing stands ready to catch Will should he fall.

Some adult siblings fight housing costs by living together

BY LIZ DOUP
South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Her roommate doesn't clean his room at their Greenacres, Fla., apartment and is slow paying his half of the bills. But Sabrina Sparks isn't complaining.

"I can't say I'm surprised," she says with a good-natured laugh. "I knew what I was getting into."

That's because Sabrina's roommate is her brother.

At 22, Sabrina didn't think she'd be living with 19-year-old Warren. But the

sky-high cost of putting a roof over her head changed that.

In May, she joined the growing number of siblings-only households, which increased nearly 5 percent from 1990 to 2000, according to a U.S. Census report.

Since 2001, South Florida home prices have soared so high, even the cooling market hasn't helped people in their 20s and 30s find affordable homes to buy.

In the past five years, the median price of a Fort Lauderdale, Fla., home has more than doubled.

Renting isn't cheap either, with apartment-vacancy rates in Broward and Palm Beach counties among the country's lowest. The average rent for a one-bedroom apartment in West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale is about \$1,000.

"Condo conversions and investors have cut into the supply," says Eve Hyatt, who sells real estate in Broward and Palm Beach counties. "So people are getting creative."

Living with a sibling, a childhood foe in your battle for the biggest piece of



Sabrina Sparks, 22, has dinner with her brother, Warren Sparks, 19, at their apartment home in Greenacres, Fla. The siblings are living together to combat the high cost of housing.

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