

FREE

## This teen makes computers his own

### Credits foster parents for helping him make the most of opportunities

By CARLA CHARTER  
Special to Quabbin Valley Voices

**M**ark Levesque of Orange is one hard-working teenager. He is a sophomore at Mahar Regional High School, where he is usually an honor student, he works at North Quabbin Computers, works for Quabbin Mediation and volunteers at the Young Entrepreneur Society's by maintaining their cybercafe.

Levesque started working with computers young.

"It used to be a hobby. Something I'd fiddle with them in the basement. It's good work. it's a never-ending business," he said.

After high school, Levesque hopes to take college classes, possibly at Mount Wachusett Community College, and someday, "In the dis-

it.

"I know plenty of parents who don't want their kids hanging out with foster kids. A lot of them are very good kids."

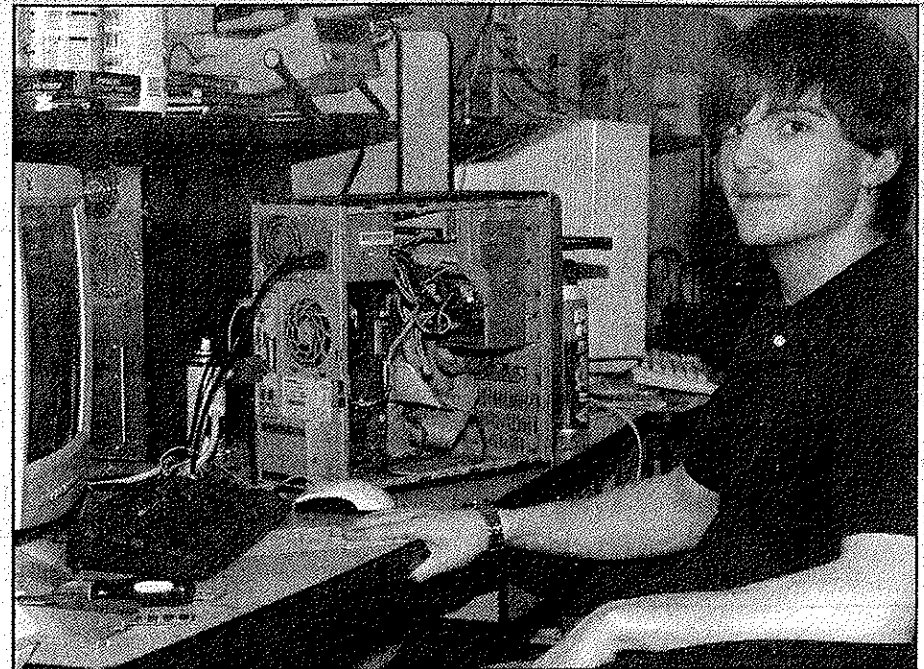
His foster parents, John and Sheila Judge, Levesque said, have helped him quite a bit.

The Judges have been foster parents off and on for 25 years and say Mark is doing well at home, at work and at school. The Judges were named Foster Parents of the Year in 2005.

There are currently nine children living with the Judges, six of whom they have adopted and another three they are waiting to adopt.

These children range in age from 4 to 20. The Judges have two biological children: Eileen Burnie and John Judge Jr. a Marine who has just returned in serving in Iraq.

Timothy Leary, a child who is under their guardianship, is cur-



Mike Phillips photo

Mark Levesque, at work at Quabbin Valley Computers.

be in today's world." and when he grows up, he hopes that he to can take in foster children himself.

The Judges recommend foster parenting to others. "Foster kids need some place to live and someone to care about them.

"It's a good feeling to see them move on, succeed and want to do well."

Shiela Judge said being a foster parent runs in her family. "My mother was one, I am one, and my daughter is now one."

Those interested in becoming

Foster parents are required to take an 8-week, once a week class held locally through the Department of Social Services and must pass a background check.

"There is no special training to become a foster parent other than wanting to help someone," Judge said.

As her children go out on their own, Judge keeps in contact with them.

Currently her home is at capacity, but as her older children move