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ing library, producing and mailing a newsletter, and lobbying the Oregon Legislature.

Bunch said the number of victims is growing yearly but public knowledge of the problem is not. Victims may experience short term memory loss, may be subject to excitability and may have difficulty concentrating, she said.

Even sophisticated medical techniques such as CAT scans can fail to detect injuries that, if untreated, may ruin an otherwise happy and productive life, she said.

Taking protective measures such as wearing a seatbelt in a car or

*"The fundraiser offers them (people re-adjusting to head injuries) a chance to participate in their own recovery and to be productive."*

— Mary Bunch.

a helmet when bicycling or motorcycling will help prevent more people from becoming victims, Bunch explained.

Currently no state agencies deal specifically with the problems related to head injuries, Bunch said. For this reason the OHIF lobbies the state legislature each year. Earlier this year the legislature agreed to establish a task force to study further the issues and repercussions to society, she said.

Support groups are important, because the median age of victims is 19, an age where parents have "let go," she said. A victim may require full-time parental care. Support groups help those involved find emotional support and share ways of coping with the problems involved.

The OHIF is an advocacy, information and referral service that needs funds to continue to provide services, Bunch said. The "Be an Angel" Christmas tree sale is one of several annual fundraisers that supplement direct donations and a volunteer staff.

The trees are being sold at Wilson's Hidden Valley Tree Farm, 89900 W. Demming Road (off Territorial Highway north of Elmira) and at the Garden Way Tree Farm, 100 S. Garden Way (off Centennial Boulevard east of Autzen Stadium). The OHIF offers wreaths and other Christmas decorations, as well as varieties ranging from Douglas Fir to exotics such as Noble Fir, Scotch Pine, Norway Spruce, Shasta Fir, Colorado Spruce or Grand Fir. All purchases are tax deductible. Interested volunteers can contact Bunch at the OHIF office (686-1182).

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