

Local Straight plan unhurt by suit

A Tribune Staff, Wire Report

PINELLAS PARK — The closing in Cincinnati of Straight Inc., a teen-drug rehabilitation program, and a \$1.5 million lawsuit against it will not affect the Pinellas Park program, an official said Wednesday.

Cincinnati-area individuals and corporations are suing for \$1.5 million contributed to Straight Inc. in 1982. The class-action lawsuit filed there claims the donations were made with the understanding that Straight would start and maintain a program in the Cincinnati area.

Plaintiffs include individuals who enrolled their children in the Straight program, as well as the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Kro-

ger Co., Procter and Gamble Co., and Ohio Attorney General Anthony J. Celebrezze Jr.

They want to keep the money in Cincinnati, for use in drug rehabilitation, and to stop Straight Inc. from using it elsewhere.

Linda Hedden, vice president for research and development at the company's national headquarters in Pinellas Park, said Wednesday the Cincinnati closing and lawsuit will have no effect on

Straight's Tampa Bay center or its six other facilities nationwide.

Hedden said competitive treatment programs and declining enrollment led to the decision to phase out the Cincinnati-area operation.

The 12-year-old drug rehabilitation program serves young people between 12 and 21. About 800 people are being treated by Straight, including 90 at the Pinellas Park center, Hedden said.