

# SERVE Needs Volunteers

A campaign to match older volunteers with agencies needing volunteer help is being launched this week on Staten Island by Project SERVE.

The drive will focus on gathering names of retired persons, as individuals and in groups, who are willing to devote their spare time working in one of 33 Island agencies and institutions.

In addition, SERVE, for Serve and Enrich Retirement by Volunteer Experience, will seek additional agencies needing volunteer workers.

Through such a drive, directors hope SERVE will become an Islandwide "middleman"—matching the talents of older persons with the volunteer needs of the entire Island.

In the past SERVE recruited volunteers for four major agencies—the Staten Island Mental Health Society, the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital, Willowbrook State School and Sea View Hospital and Home.

SERVE presently has 138 volunteers, including many from the city-run Day Centers

for Older Persons, in these institutions. But more volunteers are needed, says SERVE's director, Mrs. Janet Sainer.

The Mental Health Society, for instance, requires reading volunteers who can give two mornings or afternoons each week to assist children who are slow readers.

SERVE is also anxious to recruit persons for the Mental Health Society to work in the Head Start program in the Berry Houses, Dongan Hills.

At U.S. Public Health Service Hospital, volunteer clerical, filing and receptionist positions are open in the pharmacy, X-ray and medical records departments.

In addition, the hospital needs volunteers to escort patients within the hospital, and to work on community health education programs.

At Willowbrook State School, any skill in any area on any day can be used. SERVE gives these examples: Child care, sewing and arts and crafts, gift wrapping and class aides.

At Sea View Hospital and Home, a variety of volunteer

positions are open, according to SERVE directors.

Although so-called Friendly Visitors have served patients on a person-to-person basis for many years, more are needed. Aides for shopping, birthday remembrances, recreation, clothing room, library and central supply are in demand.

The project director, Mrs. Sainer, and volunteer directors of individual institutions have stressed that volunteers in no way take jobs away from paid personnel.

Mrs. Jack Hammond, supervisor of volunteer services at Willowbrook, explained that a careful distinction is made between work for which jobs have been budgeted and work which is needed but is not included in the budget.

Anxious to get volunteers into new areas, Project SERVE has found over a dozen Island agencies which need help now. Men and women to supervise the shop are needed by Beth-

lehem Children's Home, Arrochar. The home also needs men to do gardening and to fix bikes.

Staten Island Chapter, New York Association for Brain Injured Children, reported a need for persons, especially men, to help with therapy treatment of young children.

A sampling of other groups needing help includes St. Vincent's Hospital, Mariners' Family Home, Staten Island YMCA, Clove Lakes Nursing Home, Staten Island Aid for Retarded Children, Staten Island Chapter of the American Red Cross, Board of Education bureau of community education, Mount Loretto and St. Michael's Home.

"We could use any kind of entertainment group or individual entertainers to give programs at hospitals," Mrs. Sainer noted.

"We hope that any individual or group wishing to donate services—or any agency needing help—will contact us at SERVE headquarters, 56 Bay St., St. George, within the next few weeks," Mrs. Sainer said.