

New York City Department of Social Services. These SERVE groups have been incorporated in the senior center programs as community service projects.

Without the vision, interest, and continued support of Dr. Jack Hammond, director of Willowbrook State School, and Mrs. Elizabeth Hammond, coordinator of volunteer services, the SERVE program at Willowbrook would not have been possible. Not to be underestimated is the constructive role and positive attitudes of the Willowbrook staff with whom the volunteers work each week. One of the important ingredients of successful placement of volunteers is to insure that the staff sees how the volunteer can really be helpful to them and to the residents they are serving. Although initially many of the staff were hesitant about using the older volunteer, now there are more requests by staff for SERVE volunteers than can be met.

The SERVE success story at Willowbrook School would not

have become a reality without the combined efforts, planning and cooperation of the Willowbrook coordinator of volunteers and the SERVE staff. Their rapport and appreciation of each other's contribution made possible the program's steady growth and development. They have been creative in developing new placements for volunteers and have tried to match volunteers' interests and skills with the needs of the school. Their patient attention to detail; their understanding of the needs of both residents and older volunteers; their concern for the welfare of each individual through recognizing the contribution of each, and of the SERVE group as a whole; their presence, participation, and leadership -- these are the bedrock of the entire program. As one volunteer, an elderly man, said to a VIP on a tour of SERVE at Willowbrook, "These ladies have taken me to the top of the mountain and shown me a new world."

*Permission Granted.
SERVE Newsletter.*



This SERVE volunteer puts his horticultural interest and skill to good use in Willowbrook's nursery.