

It's your opinion

Willowbrook articles lauded

The Advance is to be congratulated on its sympathetic, compassionate reporting of the plight of children at Willowbrook.

As your reporter noted, it is only through the personal dedication of directors, nurse's aides and volunteers that even minimal services are maintained for these children.

Dr. Jack Hammond, the director of the school, deserves special mention. He is one of

the most dedicated, personally concerned physicians in the whole Department of Mental Hygiene structure.

Let us hope that your articles have given him courage to remain in his position and not leave our community under the pressure of severe cuts in his budget by the Legislature.

While the State Department of Mental Hygiene has made enormous steps ahead in the last 20 years, these advances are now being lost. Any person with a relative, or a friend at Willowbrook has reason for concern. It was valuable to the Staten Island community for you to make our community aware that the staff at Willowbrook is as concerned about the welfare of Willowbrook patients as they possibly can be when faced with the loss of 700 employees.

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