

# YOUR LETTERS

## Seek Rally Support .

*Editor's Note: The following letter was sent to Mr. Jack Hammond, Director of Willowbrook State School.*

Dear Mr. Hammond:

The Staten Island Community Corporation is taking this opportunity to thank Dr. Michael Wilkins and Mrs. Elizabeth Lee for their unselfish devotion to the patients at Willowbrook State School. The courageousness and the dedication of Dr. Wilkins and Mrs. Lee must not be allowed to falter because of our failure as citizens to demand that the deplorable conditions at Willowbrook be corrected.

It is not enough to us to "prove" that we are shocked and disgusted by the conditions under which our fellow human beings are living. We must commit ourselves as deeply and as thoroughly as Dr. Wilkins, and Mrs. Lee and their co-workers.

The Staten Island Community Corporation Board of Directors is joining its voice in demanding that Dr. Wilkins and Mrs. Lee be immediately reinstated into their positions at Willowbrook State School.

We question the decision to remove them for being compassionate human beings interested in the safety, comfort, and future of other human beings. We are of the opinion that these two young people should be given all of the freedom and

cooperation necessary to guarantee the loved one's of Willowbrook patients complete peace of mind.

Exposes that create sensationalism, but fail to correct deplorable conditions, have proven to be the generalized rule. Staten Islanders should not and must not allow Willowbrook State School to return to business as usual.

The Staten Island Community Corporation wishes to go on record as one agency that will cooperate with Dr. Wilkins and Mrs. Lee in every possible way.

We urge everyone to support the scheduled rally on the morning of Saturday, February 5, 1972 at Willowbrook State Park, under the auspices of the Willowbrook Rally Committee.

Thomas I. Wilson,  
Chairman  
S.I. Community Corp.



Mrs. George McGovern, makes a surprise visit to Willowbrook with a complete entourage of TV press (Channel 7's Geraldo Rivera is at left) and Marie Salvatore, a Registered Nurse. Story on page two. Photo by Jim Romano.

*Please note: There was no story on page 2 as indicated in the caption under the picture.*