

'Boutique' to open at Willowbrook

The simple but ego-boosting experience of a clothes - buying jaunt, known to almost everyone, will soon be a new experience for the retarded patients at Willowbrook State School.

A "boutique," carrying new clothing only, will open Monday in Building 18 for the benefit of residents without private funds.

A complete wardrobe selection, from undergarments to dresses, trousers, shirts, suits and coats, will be available in a range of sizes from size two toddler through size 50 adult.

The shop also will feature shoes, hats, handbags and accessories; residents are free to make their own selections.

With the opening of the boutique, the school has announced it can no longer accept donations of used clothing from the community, since nearly 80 per cent of that donated during the past year was deemed unusable.

Contributions of new merchandise to the boutique, however, are welcomes.

The boutique, housed in a former clothing storage room, is a joint venture by the state Mental Hygiene Department, the Children's Benevolent Society of Willowbrook, the school administration, employes and volunteers.

The idea was first suggested by Stephen Zoltan, a laundry consultant to the Mental Hygiene Department. The society raised funds and gathered donations from clothing manufacturers and merchants, and the employes will help staff the shop.

The boutique is under the direction of Mrs. Anna McKenna, a laundry supervisor at Willowbrook. It will be open daily from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.