

50 Willowbrook residents get new home

By A. STANLEY ALLISON

Fifty severely disabled residents of Willowbrook Developmental Center were transferred today to a new treatment facility at South Beach Psychiatric Center which features open visiting hours, a full range of therapeutic services and an environment that is not strictly institutional.

At the Nina Eaton Treatment Center, a facility of United Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State, the residents will have private quarters decorated in bright colors, and will be provided with occupational, physical and speech therapy; nursing services; visitors from the community; constant evaluation, and training, social and recreational opportunities.

The ratio of staff and residents will reportedly be one and a half to each of the 50 residents ranging in age from 18 to 28.

"The patients who will be entering the center are being moved back into the community from an institution which for too long has had too many patients and too little staff and money to provide humane services," said Mrs. Martin Eaton of Lawrence, L.I., for whom the center is named.

Mrs. Eaton is one of the founders of the United Cerebral Palsy movement and is an active volunteer on nation-

al, state and local levels.

Her volunteer service with United Cerebral Palsy began when her son, Leonard, a practicing New York attorney, became the first national United Cerebral Palsy poster boy in 1951. Since then she has dedicated much of her time to seeing that others have the opportunities her son had in overcoming the physical, emotional and mental disabilities which can be caused by cerebral palsy, a result of brain damage at birth.

Mrs. Eaton has served on the board of directors of United Cerebral Palsy of New York City, as president of the state association, and is currently a member of the state board of directors. She was also recently reelected a vice president of United Cerebral Palsy Associations, the national organization, and appointed chairman of its awards committee.

In addition, she has been instrumental in the development of a United Cerebral Palsy Association's manual on transportation for the physically handicapped.

Describing the new center, Mrs. Eaton remarked, "The colorful decor of the center is a far cry from the Willowbrook surroundings, in which the residents have spent at least 15 years...nothing is institutional looking."

The residents will have the privacy of individual quarters and the opportunity for group activities in well appointed recreation, training and social activity areas.

"Parents and families will also be able to visit at any time," said Mrs. Eaton, "not just on specified days and hours as with most institutions."

The new building where the residents will be housed is a unit provided by the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene, which also gave United Cerebral Palsy a \$750,000 grant to start the center.

The center itself is an outgrowth of a project United Cerebral Palsy of New York State has had underway for more than two years, sending professional teams representing the rehabilitative disciplines into Willowbrook to work with aides, attendants and other personnel, and with the patients themselves, to improve the institution's care program.

According to Mrs. Eaton, "United Cerebral Palsy of New York State was the first community agency to actually move staff into an institution. We are now becoming one of the first in the country to take a sizeable number of disabled people out of an institution and into an open facility where they will be part of the community, instead of being shut behind walls."