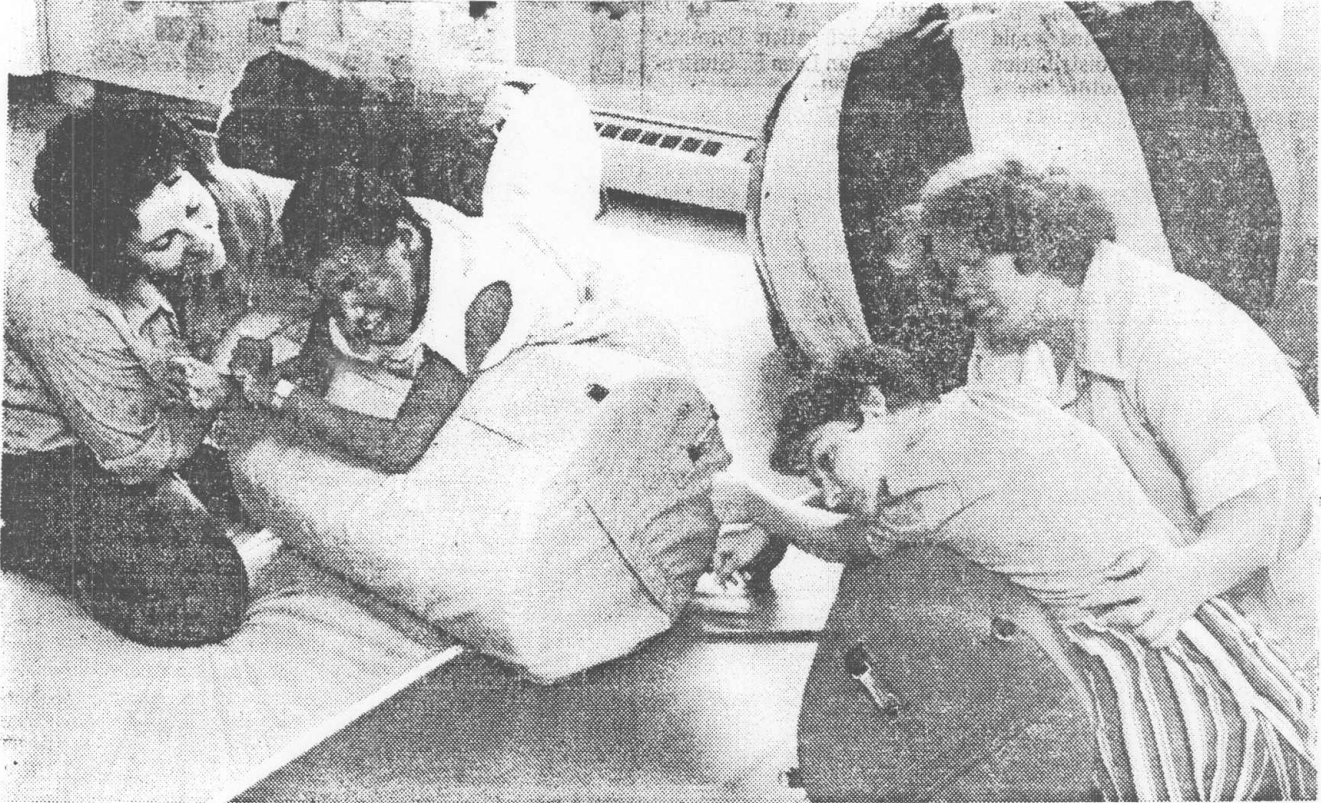


# 50 ex-Willowbrook residents all smiles in cheery new home



Special education teacher Robin Miller, left, and therapy aid Kristine Carlson, assist residents in physical therapy. The special therapy session is designed to improve coordination and avoid muscle spasms.

By DIANE C. LORE

A lot of smiles and looks of contentment were evident on the faces of 50 former residents of the Willowbrook Developmental Center yesterday as they spent their first full day in their new home at the South Beach Psychiatric Center.

The mentally retarded-cerebral palsied residents, who range in age from 10 to 28, were permanently transferred from Willowbrook Monday and are now residing in the new Nina Eaton Treatment Center, a facility of the United Cerebral Palsy Association of New York State. The center is housed in Building D of the South Beach center.

Named in honor of one of the founders of the United Cerebral Palsy movement, the

center is spacious and fully air-conditioned.

Residents have private and semi-private rooms, well furnished and each with a large picture window. The facility also houses an attractive dining room, kitchen and lounge area, along with therapy and examination rooms. Due to a thin budget, the only things missing from the center are "the comforts of home," such as televisions, books, toys and pictures for the walls.

Outside, in a center courtyard, there is a garden and a patio area. It was here that many of the residents were found, enjoying the warmth of the sun. The residents were joined by enthusiastic attendants.

Most of the building's facilities are accessible to the residents in wheelchairs.

Aside from the improvement in physical conditions, the ratio of staff to residents in the new treatment center is now one and a half to one, as opposed to the one to nine ratio at Willowbrook.

The center is staffed by 43 former welfare recipients who underwent an intensive five-week training period before being hired as attendants by United Cerebral Palsy. Working in three shifts, the attendants will provide round-the-clock care for the residents.

In addition to the attendants, the center has employed more than 30 professionals, including 15 nurses, a full-time doctor, a dietician, a social worker, a psychiatrist, a physical therapist, an occupational therapist, a speech therapist, a recreational therapist and several special education teachers.

According to Robert Schon-

*Page 1  
of  
2 pages*