

Mayor cites Willowbrook, North Richmond volunteer groups

Two Staten Island volunteer groups, one composed of college students, the other of tenants and homeowners in one area, were honored yesterday at the Mayor's 1976 Volunteer Service Award ceremony in Gracie Mansion, Manhattan.

An innovation this year was a special citation to agencies providing the best setting for college volunteers.

Willowbrook Developmental Center was one of three agencies selected because it has been able to work out a rewarding volunteer program for college students, who work among severely retarded residents.

According to the Mayor's Voluntary Action Council, "This has been done despite extremely limited funds, greatly reduced staff and many obstacles. The experience for the students has been so satisfying that they have taken responsibility for, and been successful in, recruiting others to carry on their volunteer project after graduation."

Robert Flavin is director of volunteers at Willowbrook and Herbert Zweig has been serving as volunteers' team leader in Building 15.

Recipient of the second citation was the Todt Hill Tenants' and Homeowners' Association for its service to the community and the evening pilot program developed in association with St. Vincent's North Richmond Community Mental Health Center outpatients and area residents.

The citation was presented to Mrs. Elizabeth Keeney, chairman of the North Richmond advisory council for the program. Also cited for her contribution was Mrs. Grace Ferrante, project coordinator for the Todt Hill association.

Based at the community center on

Westwood Ave., the Todt Hill group volunteers provide a variety of services on a seven-day-a-week basis to fellow area residents.

These include a day center for pre-school children, two hours a day, five days a week; a ceramics class twice a week for 60 adults; a teen-age center, family program, senior citizens' activities, a Scouting program and an educational art project.

The Todt Hill work emphasizes socialization activities and is considered unique because it is attended by both North Richmond clinic patients and their families as well as non-patients and their families from the Todt Hill area.

Yesterday's reception for individual and group honorees was sponsored by the Mayor's Voluntary Action Council in cooperation with Germaine Monteil Cosmetics Corp.

Winners of awards and citations, distributed by Mayor and Mrs. Beame, were chosen by an independent panel of judges.

The program is part of a nationwide movement to encourage all people to become involved in volunteer work to make the United States and their own communities better places in which to live.

The Mayor's Voluntary Action Council is the New York City affiliate of the National Center for Voluntary Action in Washington, D.C.