

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE, Friday, November 19, 1976

Hostel opened at Willowbrook

By JOHN E. HURLEY

A transitional hostel in what was formerly a director's residence on the grounds of Willowbrook Developmental Center was officially opened yesterday. It may be the first of several staff buildings to be eventually converted to halfway houses for outgoing Willowbrook patients.

The clean, spacious house, formerly known as Building 52, was turned over to the Association for Children With Retarded Mental Development months ago by the state, and six Willowbrook residents were moved in Aug. 9.

ACRMD, a non-profit, volunteer group, will pay the cost of operating the home, now known as the Abe and Emily Plastik Residence, in honor of two donors to the charity.

"When you see this place and then think of what's down there in the wards, it's unbelievable," said Mrs. Ida Rappaport, executive director of the association. "And what's more important is that we have the day programs to prepare the residents for living out in the community."

The 25-year-old association now provides day programs to about 500 residents of Willowbrook and other developmental centers in New York City, but this is its first venture into the opera-

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Willowbrook director Dr. Levester Cannon, left, talks with two officials of the Association for Children with Retarded Mental Development during open house yesterday for a new hostel on the Willowbrook grounds. They are executive director Mrs. Ida Rappaport and associate director Mickey Marlib.

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