

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE, Thursday, June 23, 1977

# Center for handicapped marks anniversary

The Nina Eaton Center, a residence for individuals who once lived at the Willowbrook Developmental Center, celebrated its second anniversary yesterday amid undashed hopes and realized dreams.

Founded as a model of proper care for the mentally retarded and physically handicapped, the center is housed in Building D of the South Beach Psychiatric Center and operated by the state United Cerebral Palsy Associations.

The accomplishments the center is reporting this year take on added significance since UCP, with a federal court's approval, has agreed to contract with the state for operation of seven buildings at Willowbrook.

Second anniversary statistics provided by the center's director, Fred Stein, indicate that many of the residents, once forgotten in the warehousing atmosphere of Willowbrook, have improved markedly with the aid of regimented programs and attention.

Two of the 50 have graduated from the center, now living in apartments in Brooklyn.

Twenty are independent or need only minimal assistance in daily living skills.

Thirty-eight individuals, many of them severely or profoundly retarded, now eat and dress by themselves.

When they entered Nina Eaton on June 25, 1975, Stein says, few if any of the residents could perform these tasks, which were never asked of them at Willowbrook.



Dolores Calloway, left, cuts the center's second anniversary cake, as Jane Wilbur, standing, and three residents look on.

S.I. Advance Photo by Robert Parsons