

# Developmental center fetes volunteers at special dinner

Volunteers who gave their time to brighten the days of the residents of the Staten Island Developmental Center (formerly Willowbrook Developmental Center) were honored last night at the center's first volunteer recognition dinner.

The dinner took place in Vienna's Restaurant, Dongan Hills, and honored individual volunteers, all service organizations, religious groups and entertainment units that have given of their time and talents at the center.

Organizations represented at this inaugural Volunteer Recognition Dinner were:

S.E.R.V.E. (Serve and Enrich Retirement by Volunteer Experience) — whose members have been working in the center for 12 years. Some 150 volunteers have given service to residents on a one-to-one basis in a number of dif-

ferent areas. They have helped with mending in the sewing room, done clerical work and organized a weekly dance group.

Tottenville Evangelical Free Church — Church members have provided entertainment and organized religious services at the center.

Calvary Presbyterian Church — Over 500 bibles a year have been made by members of this West Brighton Church for use by center residents.

The Morgan Guarantee and Trust Co. — The company has sponsored carnivals, barbecues and parties for the residents over a number of years. It has been responsible for introducing hundreds of volunteers to the Island center.

Knights of Pythias, handicapped children's committee — This group of men

visits the center at least once a year and gives a party for residents of a client building.

The Corporation Ltd. Band — This Island group provides entertainment for the residents numerous times during the year.

In addition to the above named organizations, those who have worked at the center on their own, were recognized for their individual efforts.

Last night's event was highlighted by a vocal performance by Tina Aponte, a center resident. She was accompanied by Vinnie Damico on guitar.

Guest speakers were F. Al Manticá, director of Volunteer Services from the Division of Mental Retardation in Albany and James Shea, Deputy Director institution administrator of Staten Island Developmental Center.



Volunteer workers at the Staten Island Developmental Center get together before the recognition dinner at which they were honored. Left to right are Michael Hayes, Ann Gavin, David Marcus and Marilyn Desky.