

Home for handicapped marks 1st anniversary

A celebration was conducted yesterday by staff, residents and friends of the Volunteers of America group home for

the developmentally disabled in the Arlington Terrace Houses in Mariners Harbor to commemorate its opening one year ago.

The home was the first on Staten Island to be established since the signing of the Willowbrook Consent Decree, which mandates that the resident population of the Staten Island Developmental Center be reduced from 5,000 to 250 by 1981.

"When we first started a year ago, there was some community fear and opposition and today those same neighbors were helping serve the refreshments," said Beatrice Victor, director of the program, which serves a maximum of 12 developmentally disabled people.

Also present at the celebration were Dr. Jennifer Hause, associate commissioner of the New York State Department of Mental Retardation; Elin Howe, director of the Staten Island Developmental Center; Assemblywoman Elizabeth Connelly; Lt. Col. Belle Leach, Volunteers of America and Arlen Miller, supervisor of the residents.