



Discussing the new Mary Campbell Ellis Vocational Training Center are, from left to right, George Kimmer, former president and charter member of the Staten Island Aid for Retarded Children, Mary Lynne Schnorbus, Mrs. Ellis' daughter, Judge Jerome O. Ellis, Mrs. Ellis' husband, and Theodore W. Fandrei, president of the group.

## Training center dedicated to founder of aid group

The Staten Island Aid for Retarded Children yesterday dedicated its recently opened Tompkinsville facility in honor of the late Mary Campbell Ellis, one of the founders of the organization and its treasurer for 18 years before her death in 1972.

Henceforth to be known as the Mary Campbell Ellis Vocational Training Center, the facility, at 215 Bay St., was first opened in March and now provides vocational training and daily living skills to about 130 developmentally disabled persons of all ages.

Scores of public officials, parents and observers who attended the dedication ceremonies heard Mrs. Ellis praised for her years of hard work to make the dream of the Tompkinsville facility a reality.

"I can't help but grieve that she does not stand here today," said Joan Hodum, executive director of Staten Island Aid for Retarded Children. "We so much need her strength, her dedication and her wisdom."

Later, Mrs. Ellis' husband, Civil

Court Judge Jerome Ellis, offered the gathering his "grateful and sincere thanks" but noted that "the warmth and vibrancy that we have here today outshines even the greatest monuments and most beautiful plaques."

Following the ceremonies, visitors were given a tour of the spacious and brightly lighted facility, which was dressed up for the occasion with a new coat of paint applied by the clients.

Under the supervision of director Harry Friedland, the center now provides three distinct programs for the retarded. The first involves about 18 "profoundly retarded" former residents of the Staten Island Developmental Center, who are taught daily living skills and hopefully will move on to vocational training.

Twenty other clients are now receiving three-month vocational training preparing them for the job market, while 100 other clients are enrolled in a long-term sheltered workshop in food service, porter and maintenance skills.

Some students will be taught to be floor aides, working in quality control and record keeping.

Moreover, as Mrs. Hodum noted, the new facility is just as significantly "a place that isn't crowded, that has light to see by and that is large enough for social activity — a true vocational center."

Mrs. Ellis, a former Advance Woman of Achievement, was also active as a volunteer for Catholic Charities and secretary of the board of visitors at the former Willowbrook State School.

Other speakers at yesterday's ceremonies included Elin Howe, director of the Staten Island Developmental Center; Theodore Fandrei, president of Staten Island Aid for Retarded Children, Assemblywoman Elizabeth Connelly; Councilman Anthony Giacobbe and Councilwoman Mary Codd; Deputy Borough President Ralph Lamberti, representing Borough President Gaeta, and former Councilman Ed Curry, representing Congressman John Murphy.