

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE, Friday, December 19, 1980

Aid for Retarded Children opens group home

Staten Island Aid for Retarded Children, a private non-profit agency, held an open house yesterday at its first group home for the mentally retarded located in a non-institutional setting, in Tottenville.

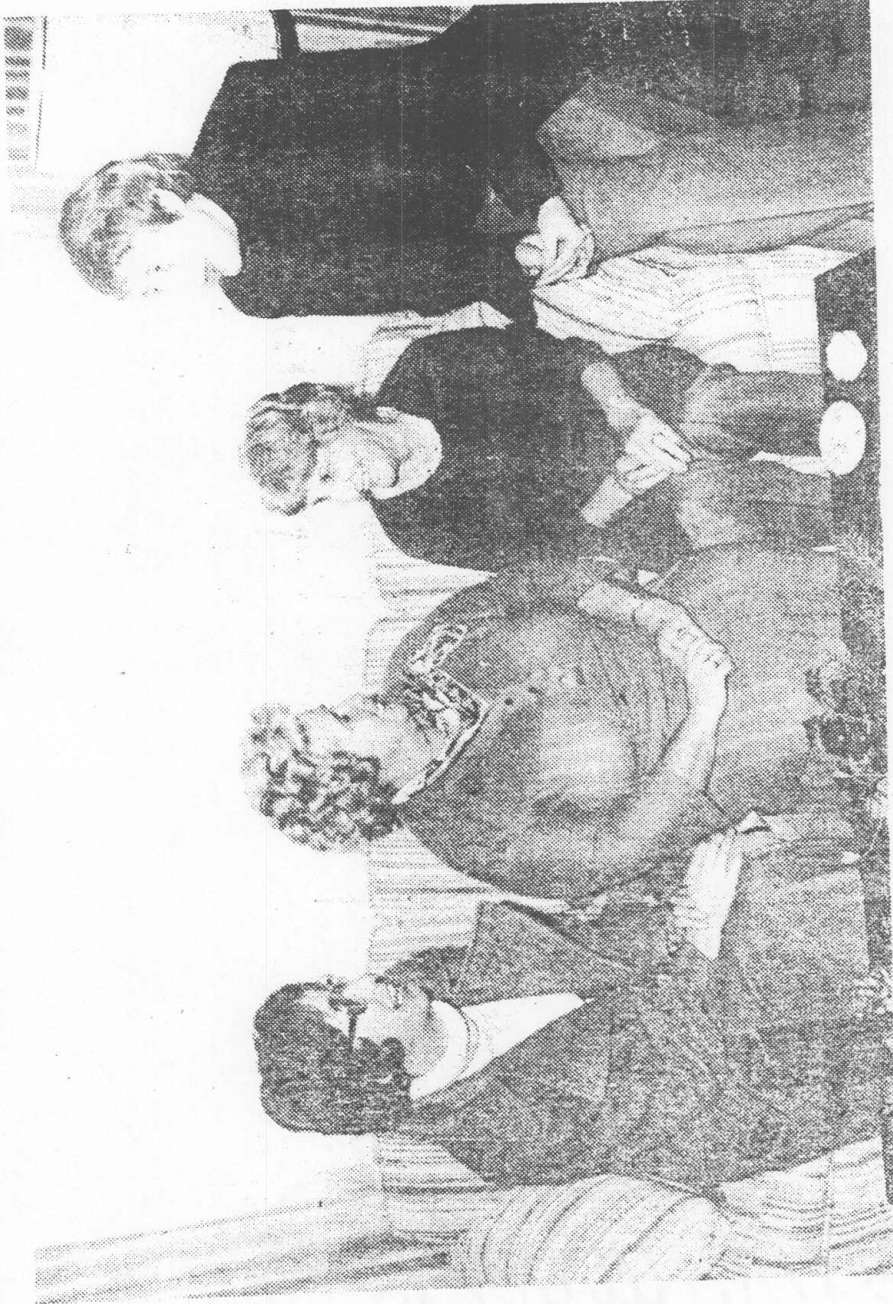
The colonial-style white frame house at 750 Page Ave. has housed six mentally retarded adults since July. The youngest resident is in his mid-20s. Four of the home's occupants were formerly institutionalized at the Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook, and two came from private homes in the community.

Neighbors and workers in the field of mental retardation from programs both on and off the Island attended the ceremony yesterday. The group home is managed by James Whalen, and Staten Island Aid staff members are present around the clock to supervise operations.

Staten Island Aid operates the group home under a contract with the state Office for Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, which purchased the house from a private owner.

Joan Hodum, Staten Island Aid's executive director, said the agency plans to open another group home on the Island within six months, if a search for a site is fruitful. Prospective sites must be approved by the local community board.

The agency has operated another group home on the grounds of the Staten Island Developmental Center



Joan Hodum, second from left, executive director of Staten Island Aid for Retarded Children, talks with, from left, Jane Lutkenhouse, Leonora Stevenson and Irene Jacobs at an open house in the agency's first group home in Tottenville. S.I. Advance Photo by Robert Parsons

setting.

Staten Island Aid for Retarded Children was established in 1954 and runs a variety of treatment and vo-

national training programs in the borough for the mentally retarded aged 3 years and older.

— ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS