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Cuomo was recognized for his work in continuing the implementation of the judgment and in eventually closing Willowbrook and a host of other similar state-run institutions.

"Today is a celebration, of course. But it's not enough. There's more to be done," Cuomo said, adding that society is still grappling with quality-of-life issues concerning the mentally ill, senior citizens, the uninsured and the poorest of the poor.

"There is no way to help these people except through government," he said. "That's the message of Willowbrook, too, that we come together through our government to help one another."

Pataki was honored for his New York State Creating Alternatives in Residential Environments and Services (NYS-CARES) initiative, which over the next four years will phase in enough community residences for the developmentally disabled to eradicate a huge waiting list.



ADVANCE PHOTO ■ IRVING SILVERSTEIN

Former Gov. Hugh Carey talks with Alice Catalano, of South Beach, a former resident of Willowbrook, during the conference in celebration of the Willowbrook consent decree.

The Legacy of Willowbrook

