



Eth Fromkin, deputy executive director of Lifestyles for the Disabled, and Richard Salinardi, executive director.



Mary Pannese serves lunch at the Lifestyle Cafe.

ADVANCE PHOTOS ■ IRVING SILVERSTEIN

Agency finds jobs for developmentally disabled clients

JANE MILLZA
ADVANCE FOOD EDITOR

"We do whatever we can to find something each person can do," said Lifestyles for the Disabled's deputy executive director Beth Fromkin. "We do everything we can to find a job each person can

now" and the disabled learn to do things for themselves as far as their abilities allow."

Individuals who are mildly to severely retarded as well as those who have dual diagnosis are involved in the Lifestyles for the Disabled programs. They range in age from 21 to 60. About 75 percent of the people involved in Lifestyles for the Disabled live at home; others live in apartments or in community residences where there's always a support staff available.

Service coordinators attached to the agency work with consumers and their families to make sure individual goals are met. They'll

The restaurant concept complemented other programs set up by the agency since it was established in 1994. According to Salinardi: "Our goal always is to create a productive environment for consumers to do something positive."

Staff members, Camille Disefano and Angela Donatone, have been employed in the program since its beginnings. They've noticed the progress the disabled consumers have made since the menu consisted only of breakfast items.

"When they added lunch, we got more delivery orders," recalled Mrs. Disefano, an Amnendale resi-

bled as "an agency without walls" because of its outreach to the community.

A laundry project, for example, services the state's multiply disabled unit and day treatment programs. A housekeeping team, meanwhile works in various buildings on the premises as well as in senior citizen housing in various Staten Island neighborhoods.

The community beautification team started as an affiliate of the Borough President's Office several winters ago when the Island experienced severe snow and ice storms. A telephone hotline called for Lifestyle workers to remove snow from sidewalks all over the

Team members work in cemeteries, plant flowers in conjunction with the Lynne Steinman Foundation, and do yard cleanup for heart patients and the elderly. They even have contracts with several Staten Island business firms to do paint and clean-up work.

Lifestyle's functional academic and computer programs give consumers the choice of learning a variety of independent living skills, travel training, safety measures and telephone skills they need to maintain jobs in the community. Math, reading and instruction on money handling also

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