

Newcomers' guide

Handicapped

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First Foot Forward assists pre-school children through assessment, therapy and a special education teacher who works with both children and parents at the JCC. Phone: Sheila Lipton at 727-7257.

● Muscular Dystrophy Association provides patient services through its Manhattan office, (212) 557-9450, and referrals through its Queens office, 793-1100.

● North Richmond Community Mental Health Center's Community Treatment Clinic, based at Bayley Seton Hospital, addresses mental health needs of mentally retarded and developmentally disabled people ages 16 and up. Clients are seen individually and in group sessions, and families are also offered support. For more information, call 390-1626.

● On Your Mark is a community-based program providing therapeutic recreation, family support services, holiday trips and respite getaways. It serves persons with special needs, from pre-schoolers through adults. Activities are scheduled after school, evenings and on weekends at 12 sites on Staten Island. The agency also sponsors a cooperative summer camp program with the Jewish Community Center called Camp Tikvah. For more information, call 720-9233 or 981-1500 and ask for Dana Rydel.

● Our P.L.A.C.E. School is a pre-school for speech impaired, developmentally delayed and hearing disabled children ages 2½ through 5. It also serves the severely handicapped. Man. Inv. re-

tarded and children with other handicaps through speech, occupational, physical and music therapy and creative dramatics. Phone: 987-9400.

● PS 37 moved from South Beach Psychiatric Center to the former Barnes Intermediate School annex at 15 Fairfield St., Great Kills. It serves autistic, developmentally disabled and emotionally disturbed children age 5 to 21, as well as those with multiple handicaps. The telephone number is 984-9800; the principal is Nancy Burri.

● R.E.A.C.H. Program, sponsored by the city Parks and Recreation Department, provides recreation, athletics and creative arts to handicapped persons ages 6 and up. Programs are scheduled after school, evenings and Saturdays, in addition to a summer day camp. For more information, call 720-1555 in the afternoons or evenings.

● Richmond Association for the Developmentally Disabled in Dongan Hills provides weekend trips, bowling, theater, movies and restaurant outings for people 17 and older. It also operates a parent support group. Phone the Russo, president, Christine

● Richmond Occupational Training Center in Clifton is a Board of Education program that provides secondary educational and occupational training for developmentally and physically handicapped young adults ages 14 through 21. The center can be reached at 278-6425.

● Seton Foundation for Learning, 164 Gordon Street, Staten Island,

is a 10-month special education program for developmentally disabled children ages 5 through 14. For information, call 447-1750.

● The Special Education program of District 31, located at 211 Daniel Low Terr., St. George, serves children ages 4 to 14 who have been certified as handicapped by the Board of Education's Committee on Special Education. Children ages 15 and above are served through local high schools. Elementary and intermediate-school-level instruction is provided for disabled and handicapped children, as are counseling and speech services. Phone: 448-9600.

● Staten Island Aid, also based at Bayley Seton Hospital, Building 3, sponsors a variety of programs for the mentally retarded, all of which include psychological and social services, speech therapy and training in self-help skills. Programs include a pre-school for youngsters at the hospital, ages 3 to 5, who are developmentally delayed, and a Saturday recreation program at 500 Seaview Ave., Ocean View. A similar program is offered during the summer.

● The Stephen O'Halek Day Treatment Center, 500 Seaview Ave., teaches independent living skills and provides pre-vocational training for about 70 adults, ages 21 and up.

● The Mary Campbell Ellis Vocational Training Center, 215 Bay St., Tompkinsville, provides occupational training and sheltered workshops for about 165 clients. AITDO, a division of Staten Island Aid, employs a number of work-

shop clients who assemble framed prints that are distributed nationally.

● Staten Island Aid also runs four group homes on Staten Island for developmentally disabled adults, and plans to open a fifth late this year. For information about these services, call 447-5200.

● Staten Island Center for Independent Living in Sea View is a non-resident resource center with free or low-cost programs for disabled people of all ages. Services include personal care attendants, interpreters for the deaf, a program for hearing-impaired people, advocacy, community education, transportation, financial management, housing assistance, independent living skills and other kinds of counseling and recreation.

Many of the staff members are disabled themselves. For more information, phone 667-1200 or (TTY) 667-0825.

● The Staten Island Mental Health Society at 669 Castleton Ave., West Brighton, offers a number of programs for the developmentally disabled and mentally retarded.

● The Elizabeth W. Pouch Center for Special People provides outpatient services including individualized diagnosis and evaluation, family and group therapy, early childhood programs, including a five-day-a-week nursery for children ages 2 to 5, and a day intervention Guided Home Training (EIGHT), which offers therapy through a multi-disciplinary team for children from birth to 3 years with severely delayed development.

● The center also offers the T.I.P.S. (Training in Parenting Skills) program for mentally retarded adults who have children. For information about Pouch Cen-

ter programs, call 448-9775.

● Staten Island Retardation and Disabilities Council is a consortium of agencies, parents and interested individuals whose goal is to see that programs are available to meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities. The council provides information, referrals and advocacy, and sponsors events to foster understanding of people with developmental disabilities. It advises the New York City Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services. Phone: 983-5354.

● Staten Island Special Olympics provides training clubs and sports activities for all handicapped people on a weekly basis. The phone is 356-0901.

● Topsy is a home-based program serving infants and children from birth to age 3 who have any type of developmental problem, including social and emotional problems. A psychologist and a social worker provide speech and occupational therapy. There is a charge for services. Phone: 727-1515 between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

● Tourette Syndrome Association, Queens, is a national association that acts as an information and referral agency. Phone: 299-2999.

● United Cerebral Palsy of New York City provides infant stimulation, education, day treatment, and vocational and home

rehabilitation. It operates a group home on Staten Island for developmentally disabled adults, an adult rehabilitation center and programs for infants, pre-school and school-age children. Phone: 442-5615, and ask for Rhona Hanshaft, Staten Island Borough coordinator, or Michael Moroch, workshops coordinator.

● Volunteers of America Developmental Services operates nine community residences on Staten Island for mentally retarded adults and operates a pre-school and infant stimulation program for developmentally disabled children under 5 years old. Phone 448-4730.

The following parent support groups also are available in addition to those affiliated with a specific agency.

● Benevolent Society for Retarded Children, Staten Island office, 983-5204.

● Prader-Willi Parent Group, for parents of children with Prader-Willi Syndrome, an eating disease. Call Rita Welch, president, at 767-6077.

● Richmond Occupational Training Center Parent-Teacher Association, 273-8622.

● Staten Island Parents of Hearing Impaired. Call Jane Milza at 447-5003.

● Talking Over and Under-standing Children with Handicaps (TOUCH). Call Gail Checkett at 73-1613.

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