Alleman Center Aids Retarded Citizens

The Alleman Center of the Lafayette Association for Retarded Citizens has become one of the most effective aggregations of projects for the care, training and employment of the handicapped in the South. With the help of funding from the United Fund, it provides services for all ages and all degrees of mental retardation, as well as services for the epileptic, autistic and those with cerebral palsy.

"Lafayette should be proud of its program for the handicapped at the Alleman Center. With a continuation of the tremendous support of the Acadiana area communities and the United Fund of Lafayette, the needs of our Acadiana handicapped will be met in a fashion truly indicative of the compassion and generosity of Southwest Louisiana," said Pearl Boudoure. UGF general campaign chairman.

The Alleman Center is located on a 25-acre site off Ridge Road on the southside of Lafayette and includes the New Hope Developmental Training Facility, New Hope Activity Center, New Hope Evaluation and Training Center, Multiresources Inc. (formerly New Hope Sheltered Workshop) and the Acadian Village and Gardens.

The New Hope Developmental Training Center's primary function is to build parenting competencies, to provide developmental training and to prepare the handicapped child for placement in the public school system.

The Work Activities Program continues services for the severely and profoundly retarded past the age of 21. Training emphasizes personal independence, work habits, life skills, development skills acquisition, and the development of community living skills.

Multiresources Inc., the moderately handicapped are provided the opportunity to produce, learn, and earn. It is designed to serve those handicapped persons who are unable to work in the competitive job market but who can produce quality merchandise in a sheltered environment and earn a wage.

The Early Intervention Program, housed at the Lafayette General Hospital, is designed to provide handicapped children, up to the age of 3, with individualized, comprehensive developmental programs and provide the parents with the information and skills necessary to implement these programs in the home. The Early Intervention Program also serves to make parents of handicapped infants aware of the various agencies in the community that may provide medical, financial or related supportive services, and to coordinate the efforts of all those involved in the case management of each infant.

The Acadian Village and garden serves as an established tourist attraction, a place for training and employment of handicapped children and adults to allow for family relief in emergency or planned situations and to train the handicapped to live independently. At present, this program is operated on weekends only, but construction of the new Alleman Respite Center is due to be completed in early February. Therefore, respite services will be available 24 hours a day, every day of the