

## Laurelton Center. . .Now

Today, Laurelton Center provides a wide range of services to clients. The Center is organized into three autonomous program delivery units. Staff from the disciplines of cognitive development, nursing, psychology, social services, speech and hearing, therapeutic activities and therapeutic recreation join with residential services personnel to plan and deliver the unit programs. Additionally, staff from medical services, occupational therapy, therapeutic dietetics, and vocational adjustment are assigned to the clients' interdisciplinary teams. Staff from all these areas are responsible for assessing each client and then designing, implementing, monitoring and documenting all services needed for the individual.

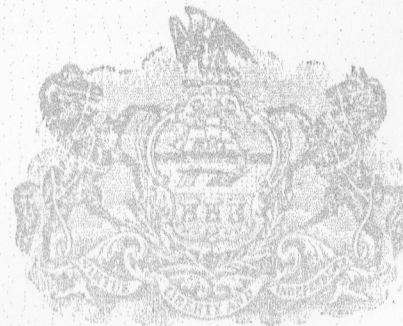
Each client receives at least twenty-five hours of programming weekly based upon individual needs in the following skill areas: behavioral, cognitive, communications, self care, self direction, sensorimotor, social, and vocational. In addition, the following services are provided either by facility staff or via contracted services: audiology, dentistry, financial, gynecology, medical, nursing, occupational therapy, optometry, pharmacology, physical therapy, podiatry, psychiatry, psychology, religion, residential, speech pathology, social services, therapeutic dietetics and vocational.

The goal of each individualized habilitation plan is to enable the client to care for him/herself, associate with others, assume responsibility, participate in family living, gain security, and be as independent as his or her capabilities will allow.

\* \* \* \*

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Department of Public Welfare



LAURELTON CENTER

BUILDINGS  
DEDICATION CEREMORY

Thursday, October 26, 1989  
1:00 P.M.

Ireland Hall  
Multi-Purpose Room

\* \* \* \*

Accredited by  
Accreditation Council on Services for  
People with Developmental Disabilities (ACDD)

WELCOME.....S. Reeves Power, Ph. D.  
*Superintendent*

INVOCATION.....Chaplain Steven Middernacht

LUNCHEON.....1:00 P.M.  
 Multi-Purpose Room, Ireland Hall

PROGRAM.....2:30 P.M.

**SPEAKERS**

S. Reeves Power, Ph.D.  
*Superintendent*

Steven M. Eidelman  
*Deputy Secretary for Mental Retardation  
 Office of Mental Retardation*

Mrs. Edythe H. Bossert  
*Member, Board of Trustees*

Mrs. Dorothy B. Ruhl  
*Psychologist (retired)*

William A. Schooley  
*Maintenance Engineer (retired)*

Mrs. Evelyn C. Marboe  
*President, Board of Trustees*

SPECIAL PRESENTATION.....Patricia S. Bastuscheck  
 Jane G. Slack

CLOSING REMARKS

**COMMITTEE**

Jane G. Slack, Patricia S. Bastuscheck  
*Co-Chairpersons*  
 Emery Bliesmer, Edythe Bossert  
 Evelyn Marboe, Jane Troup

**Laurelton Center. . .Then**

In the early 1900's, the **Pennsylvania Public Charities Association (PCA)** began to arouse public interest in mental retardation. The **Pennsylvania Federation of Womens Clubs**, supported by PCA, began holding a series of public meetings to suggest that mental retardation could be eliminated by segregating mentally retarded women of childbearing age. The two organizations were successful in having the **Enabling Act** passed. This Act was signed June 25, 1913 by Governor John Tener, establishing the **Pennsylvania Village for Feebleminded Women of Childbearing Age** (now Laurelton Center). Formally opened in 1919, Laurelton Center's early years were devoted to custodial care of mentally retarded women. Emphasis was placed on agricultural training and the Center was then a self-sufficient "village."

Very early in its existence, the institution began providing various academic, vocational and social training activities to individuals living here. The first placement from Laurelton occurred in 1925. Although the prevailing philosophy across the Commonwealth continued for some years to emphasize confinement and containment, staff at Laurelton were leaders in a gradual evolution to habilitation and return to the community. By 1956, Laurelton was becoming an "open institution" with emphasis on training residents to return to community living. In the mid-1960's Laurelton became Pennsylvania's first state run mental retardation institution to have a Vocational Rehabilitation Department and in 1967 accounted for over half of all community placements from institutions in Pennsylvania. Laurelton admitted its first male resident July 15, 1969.

\* \* \* \*



## HONOREES

\* \* \* \*

### WOLFE BUILDING

*Mary Moore Wolfe, M.D., Sc.D., one of the founders of  
Laurelton Center and its first Superintendent*

### HOUSER BUILDING

*Mr. Russell M. Houser, former Garage Foreman*

### IDELL BUILDING

*Mr. George S. Idell, first Architect*

### NEWMAN BUILDING

*Miss Gertrude Newman, first Director of Nurses*

### SCHOOLEY BUILDING

*Mr. William A. Schooley, first Maintenance Engineer*

### SNYDER BUILDING

*Mr. J. Frank Snyder, first Farm Manager*

### BIDDLE HALL

*Judge Edward W. Biddle, first President  
of the Board of Managers*

### BROWN HALL

*Miss Nona B. Brown, second President  
of the Board of Managers*

### DERR HALL

*Frederick S. Derr, M.D., former Medical Director  
and Staff Physician*

### EARLE HALL

*Mrs. Catherine H. Earle, Member of the first  
Board of Managers*

### EDGETT HALL

*Catherine DeEtte Edgett, M.D., second Assistant Superintendent*

### GLOVER HALL

*Oliver Wendell Holmes Glover, M.D.  
former Member of Board of Trustees*

### IRELAND HALL

*Effie Clair Ireland (Thornton), M.D., second Superintendent*

### JOLLY HALL

*Miss Hilda Jolly, first Social Services Director*

### KARSTETTER HALL

*Miss Margaret Karstetter, former First Matron*

### LINN HALL

*Mr. Philip B. Linn Esq., former Member of Board of Trustees*

### LOMISON HALL

*Mrs. Kay Lomison Dorman, former Cottage Attendant*

### McCLURE HALL

*Mrs. Margaret F. McClure, former Member of Board of Trustees*

### MOORE HALL

*Miss Katherine V. Moore, first Supervisor of Attendants*

### MOYER HALL

*Mr. Edward W. Moyer, former Director of Recreation*

### MURDOCH HALL

*J. M. Murdoch, M.D., member of the first Board of Managers*

### SHOWALTER HALL

*Mr. Charles M. Showalter, first Business Manager*

### SLEIGHTER HALL

*Mr. William Z. Sleighter, former Business Manager*

### VANUXEM HALL

*Mary Vanuxem, Ph. D., first Assistant  
Superintendent and Psychologist*

### BETHANY CHAPEL

*Miss Bethany Bossert, former client*

\* \* \* \*