



Woodhaven and M.U. join forces in

A Program of Sharing

By Betty Haverfield

When the Woodhaven Christian Home for Children opened its doors to a carefully selected group of mentally retarded and physically handicapped youngsters last May, the University of Missouri gained another valuable training and research center for its staff and students.

Coinciding with the University's program for the education of severely handicapped students at the college level, Woodhaven is providing an in-service training program for many areas of the curriculum. Particularly in the departments of medicine, psychology, physical therapy and education, each institution can offer services to enhance the work of the other, while remaining financially and administratively independent.

Woodhaven lies in a heavily-wooded tract of land four miles south of Columbia, just west of Highway 63. Its present complex consists of three contemporary brick and glass buildings which can house 64 children ranging in ages from infancy through adolescence. Today there are 45 pre-school and school age children in residence; the infant wing has not yet been opened.

Presiding over the many facilities of the Home is the Reverend Charles M. Palmer, who for many years headed the St. Louis Christian Home for Children. A five-man professional staff serves on a full-time basis: a social service director, education director, medical director, psychologist and minister. These

men act as a committee to evaluate the applicants for admission and to supervise their education and welfare while in residence.

Any child who is retarded in some degree is potentially eligible for admission to Woodhaven; admission is based upon the total medical and training needs of the child. Only those children who are living in a family unit are admitted. This is because the chief aim of the Home is to maintain a close family relationship and educate or train the children to return to family life as active and participating members, and perhaps to support themselves.

Dr. Elmer Ellis, president of the University, has worked closely with the Christian Church board for the six years that Woodhaven has been in the planning and construction stages. At the dedicatory services, President Ellis emphasized the ways in which the University and Woodhaven would be helpful to each other. "Certain educational research and training programs of the University will be enriched by excellent study resources at Woodhaven and not available anywhere else in the entire University system," President Ellis said. "Concurrently, Woodhaven will be aided in securing highly competent professional staff members who might not be available under other circumstances."

The education director, or principal, at Woodhaven is Daniel L. Peterson, a graduate of the University

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