



Crystal Run Village, Inc.

Public Relations Department
601 Stony Ford Rd. Middletown, NY 10941
Phone: 845-695-2547 Fax: 845-695-2570
Email: Christine.Knickerbocker@crvi.org

News

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Contact: Christine A. Knickerbocker
Public Relations 845-695-2547
Email: Christine.Knickerbocker@crvi.org

Monticello - At an open house today celebrating the relocation of its Sullivan County administrative offices to 9 Landfield Avenue, Crystal Run Village, Inc. announced the closing and subsequent sale of its Fallsburg Residential School Campus.

The impending completion of a new residence in the Town of Delaware for the final four people remaining on its Route 42 campus, will fulfill the agency's nine year initiative to dissolve the congregate care system of providing services to people with intellectual disabilities. At the time of peak occupancy the residential school was home to 184 people.

According to Jim Lawler, executive director for the human services agency, the Crystal Run Village success story is one in which social justice has prevailed for those who have over the centuries suffered due to neglect and degradation because of their differences. "The closing of our campuses is particular to what is right for humanity," Lawler said. "It considers individual liberties, individual dignity and individual respect for all people."

The agency's mission to close its three residential schools is the result of a new philosophy focusing on the needs of people with disabilities as individuals and the fulfillment of their right to live in a home, in a caring community. Since 1993, 327 residents of the Crystal Run Village, Inc. campuses have relocated to 44 group homes in communities throughout Sullivan, Orange and Rockland Counties. The reconfiguration of the Sullivan County Campus results in 132 people with intellectual disabilities receiving residential services in 16 group homes and several supported apartments.

Crystal Run Village, Inc. seems to have a knack for adding new life to real estate having significant history in Sullivan County. Its newly renovated offices are at the site of the former Kelly Candy Company. The residential school in Fallsburg was the site of the Flagler Hotel, the premiere resort of the Catskills during the 1920s.

According to Jeanne Savona, associate executive director of the agency's Sullivan County Operations, 22 employees will work in the offices on Landfield Avenue. "We are delighted with our new administrative space and the conveniences offered by being in

downtown Monticello,” Savona said. “We were based in Fallsburg since 1971; leaving the campus is bitter sweet considering all the memories,” she said. “Our residents are now receiving services in their own homes by more than 200 employees devoted to direct care. Being “in-the-community” is the essential ingredient for allowing staff to move beyond the role of “caretaker” that was the model for their work in the segregated campus setting,” Savona explained. “Staff efforts can now focus on dignifying the lives of the people served by responding to them as individuals.”

Crystal Run Village, Inc. is a non-profit, independent provider of services to more than 700 people with developmental, psychological and physical disabilities living in Sullivan, Orange and Rockland Counties. It has a reputation for skilled management, vigorous program development, astute provision of care and financial stability. The human services agency employs approximately 760 people and has an operating budget of over \$26-million. Its main offices have been located in Middletown since 1959.

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