

## **Funds available to complete Decem Center fourth wing**

Officials of Decem Center, Inc., a non-profit specialized care facility for severely and profoundly retarded adults, received word from the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation that funds would be made available to complete the fourth wing of their building.

The center, located at 1525 Eber Road off Airport Highway, opened its doors (96 beds) last March. The building was formally dedicated on May 16 and has a current enrollment of 81 residents.

Last year funds ran short to complete the \$4 million dollar building which had been under construction for the past two years. Now funds totaling \$450,000 have been made available through the Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to complete a fourth wing which will add 32 beds to the center.

Originally, the center

was developed by interested local citizens and funded by the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation to serve the non-ambulatory, profoundly retarded adults of Northwest Ohio.

Three counties, Seneca, Putnam and Huron, have been added to the original 10 counties catchment area.

The addition of the 32 beds will allow parents to leave their children at the center for brief periods of time. The respite care will give parents who are ill or hospitalized a secure home for their children while they are gone. They will also be able to utilize the services of Decem Center when they are gone for other reasons such as vacations, etc. The additional beds will also provide an area to isolate residents when they become ill or who need individual attention during their orientation to the center.

MAY, 1982