



PHOTO BY FRANCINE ORR

Rabbi Steven Carr Reuben blesses the Ocean Park Community Center's new building Saturday in Santa Monica, while Vivian Rothstein, right, executive director of the center, and "Ruthie," a resident, look on.

Santa Monica service facility opens

By Pat Alston

STAFF WRITER

Scores of supporters and well-wishers turned out Saturday for the dedication of Phase 1 of the Ocean Park Community Center's new multiservice building in the heart of Santa Monica.

Nonstop tours of the 16,000-square-foot complex at 1446 16th St. included the Campion Counseling Complex, complete with individual counseling rooms and a children's playroom, and second-floor living quarters for participants of the Turning Point Transitional Housing project.

The facility provides temporary

housing to 55 homeless people committed to turning their lives around. Living quarters offer each participant individual cubicles with built-in bed, desk and open closet space, plus bath and laundry facilities, a kitchen and dining room.

The second phase of construction at the former nursing home site begins this summer and will include administrative offices and volunteer work space for the nonprofit agency's battered women's program, Sojourn.

The festive event drew dignitaries from city, county and state governments, including Santa Monica Mayor Paul Rosenstein, Los Angeles County

District Attorney Gil Garcetti and state Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica.

It also captured the attention of two former Westside children, who flew across the country to participate in the dedication of a special room within the complex.

Diana Hurd, 10, and her brother Charlie, 6, accompanied their grandmother to Santa Monica for the dedication of the Beatrice "Bea" Cook Hurd Room. It's named for their mom.

Hurd, who was a Santa Monica city employee, was shot to death in her Mar Vista home in 1993. Her husband, Dale,

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Facility

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is serving a life sentence for her murder, and the children now live with their maternal uncle and his family in Maryland.

The room serves as a support-group meeting place for victims of domestic violence. A plaque with Hurd's picture that hangs inside the door explains the motivation of friends and supporters who contributed the funds for the meeting room, kitchen and adjoining children's playground.

"Bea's ready smile, generous spirit and gentle strength was a beacon inspiring loyal and loving friends to name this room in her honor," the plaque reads.

Vivian Rothstein, executive director of the Ocean Park Community Center, described the room as a safe place where battered

women can "regain their dignity" and look with optimism toward their future.

Friends and co-workers of the slain woman brushed away tears during the dedication, which included a meditation by the Rev. Frank Marshall of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Westchester, which Hurd and her children attended before her death.

■ *Contributions to the second phase of construction may be sent to the Ocean Park Community Center, 245 Hill St., Santa Monica, 90405-4197. For information, call 399-9232.*

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