

SIGN OF SPRING — If the recent spell of warm weather wasn't enough, this softball game being played in Brook-

lyn is certain proof that spring is on its way.

Photo by Leslie Cooper-Klein

Revival in Brooklyn

Help for the disabled

By JO BRUEN
Staff Writer

After a long dormant spell, the former Crippled Children's Center in Brooklyn again stirs with activity.

Next week, patients from the world famous Shock-Trauma Center will come to the building at Fourth and Pontiac Streets for continued therapy.

That's only the beginning of the activities Frederick C. Ruof plans for the rehabilitation center which the Easter Seal Society purchased in December.

Ruof, executive director of the Society in Central Maryland, outlined his plans at Monday's meeting of the Curtis Bay Improvement Association.

"We want that place to come alive,

and not just during the day," Ruof said.

While the center serves as headquarters for the Society's program in the city and the five surrounding counties, Ruof said he also wants it to meet the needs of Brooklyn and Curtis Bay residents.

He asked the community members for suggestions and help in planning programs and invited a representative to serve the Society's steering committee.

The association selected Josephine Rutkowski of Brooklyn to work on the committee which Ruof said was the first step in forming a board of directors.

The director said the Society is in-

terested in developing programs for the disabled and the handicapped as well as providing services for senior citizens.

He cautioned members to give the Society time to get its operations going and offered to report back to the group in the future.

In the three months since Easter Seals purchased the building from the Maryland Society for Crippled Children and Adults, several programs have been organized.

Ruof said the loan closet, which provides wheelchairs, crutches and other medical equipment in emergency situations, is operating.

The Society, he said, has a varied supply of equipment but is always looking for more and asked anyone with unused canes, crutches or wheelchairs to donate them to the center.

For the time being, Easter Seals is continuing the speech therapy program traditionally offered at the center.

The therapy, Ruof said, is open to anyone with a speech problem, including stroke victims.

The program, he said, will only continue if there is a demand for it.

The rehabilitation program for Shock-Trauma patients will be the first new program to open at the center.

Ruof said the trauma facility at University Hospital does an exceptional job of saving the lives of severely injured accident victims, but isn't equipped to aid them in the long recovery period.

Many of the accident victims, he said, are unable to go back to their jobs, many of them lose their jobs and there is a high incidence of family problems, alcoholism and drug abuse.

Ruof said the Society plans to provide the patients with ongoing rehabilitation

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Photo by Leslie Cooper-Klein

MAKING PLANS — for the Easter Seal Society now headquartered in Brooklyn are Frederick Ruof (left) and Robert Johnson. The Society will hold its first telethon in Baltimore on channel 45 March 28 and 29.

Bev - I'm sorry I don't know the origins of this price charge

smashed against dashboards and tossed proposed law

Brooklyn revival to help disabled

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therapy and counseling.

What shape the rehabilitation takes, he said, will depend on the needs of the patients.

There is a possibility, he added, that they will need and use the extensive physical therapy equipment that many community members helped purchase for the old Children's Center.

Ruof said he wasn't sure if there would be other needs for the equipment since South Baltimore General Hospital now has a physical therapy department.

The Society, he said, is interested in providing home employment for the handicapped and disabled.

Money raised through the Easter

Seals campaign, he added, is going to help Johns Hopkins develop a new artificial arm and provide camping experiences for disabled children and adults.

The director said new programs would be developed for the growing needs of senior citizens.

"Let us know where the homebound seniors and disabled live and what their needs are," Ruof asked. "The programs we develop can only be as good as the advice we get."

Ruof invited the community to visit or call the center at 355-0100. The building, he added, is also available for a meeting place.

The center, he said, will probably host an open house once the building has been refurbished.

Witness

By RANDY WILSON
and MICHAEL PE
Staff Writers

They came by the dozens — two dozen, to be exact — to state lawmakers for stiffer handgun-related crimes.

For nearly four hours, 200 trooped before the House Judiciary committee with numbers as im their turnout: 69 handgun deaths world each day, 8,000 a year

800,000 since the turn of the century

Since 1972, however, when passed one of the strictest handgun laws in the country, legislators have done little to fine-tune their response to public outcry

Wednesday, that outcry came

Desperate situation

By RANDY WILSON

localities.

Under the law, private gun stores must pay 60 percent of the tax