

Maple Grove opens doors

A new alcoholic treatment center opens its doors today in Oakland County. Maple Grove, situated on 78 acres in West Bloomfield, offers alcoholics a setting where they can isolate themselves from the anxieties and stress of daily life and start on recovery.

The center, designed, staffed and programmed by Henry Ford Hospital, is located behind the West Bloomfield HFH Outpatient Center on Maple west of Drake.

The 40,000-square-foot facility can accommodate 50 patients in private rooms with an average anticipated stay of 28 days. An outpatient program also is available.

The treatment program focus on the individual, but family involvement is considered vital.

"We looked all over for the right setting for Maple Grove," said Harold Ford, HFH Director of Substance Abuse.

"We looked at existing structures such as office buildings and churches. What we wanted was quiet pastoral surroundings — the West Bloomfield site offered a secluded wooded setting which met these goals."

THE NEW CENTER is patterned after a similar alcoholism treatment center, Donwood, in Toronto.

Information on referrals is available by calling 661-6100.

The facility is a part of the Henry Ford Hospital health care system. This includes the comprehensive services of the 1,000-bed main hospital in Detroit and outpatient centers in West Bloomfield, Troy, Dearborn and Sterling Heights.

The \$3 million construction project was paid for privately. The Kresge Foundation donated \$400,000, with additional support coming from individuals and businesses.

Architectural design was by Albert Kahn Associates Inc. Crowe and Associates Inc. was the general contractor.



The Maple Grove facility is located in a quiet, pastoral setting off Maple Road in West Bloomfield. (Staff photos by John Stano)

Dedication

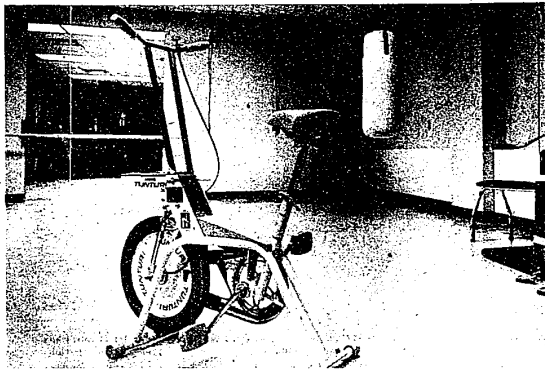
Former First Lady Betty Ford formally will dedicate the Maple Grove Health Care Center Feb. 24.

Mrs. Ford has publicly spoken and written about her battle with alcoholism.

She will be a guest speaker at the Detroit Economic Club luncheon and then visit the West Bloomfield center for dedication ceremonies later in the afternoon.



Accommodations have been arranged for conference rooms where patients can gather as a group and share experiences.



Since physical fitness will be a major aspect of rehabilitation for alcoholics, the physical therapy room at the new center will offer a variety of conditioning programs.

Doctor gears innovative ideas to helping alcoholics

Patients at Maple Grove will find an internationally known physician coordinating their recovery program.

Kenneth Williams, M.D., is noted for his innovative programs in the treatment and rehabilitation of alcoholics.

He joined Henry Ford Hospital in September as medical director of the department of substance abuse and Maple Grove.

For the past several months, the Bloomfield Township resident has been preparing the center's services and interviewing candidates for the 60 positions on the Maple Grove staff.

"I don't know of any other field where the selection of people for the staff is so crucial to the success of the program. In creating the therapeutic milieu ideal for the recovering alcoholic, the staff plays a key role," Williams said.

The goal of Maple Grove is to offer innovative treatment for the alcoholic, both medical and psychiatric, with "a strong commitment to involvement of the family."

"THE FAMILY suffers first and often most," he said, explaining that the family needs to play a therapeutic role that often begins by getting the alcoholic to treatment.

If this role is not continued, it is difficult for the alcoholic to proceed in treatment, he said. "The family can undo what the physician is trying to accomplish."

Williams has taken a special interest in the children of alcoholics because he believes there is

strong evidence that disposition to alcoholism is inherited.

"There are at least 10 million alcoholics in the country today. Eventually, we will have to learn to prevent the disease or to get it very early," the 43-year-old doctor said.

He considers the children of alcoholics a "very high risk" of becoming alcoholics themselves. So, identifying these children is a major step in dealing with the national problem of alcoholism.

BEFORE JOINING the HFH staff, Williams was associate professor of psychiatry and internal medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and director of the alcohol and drug abuse program at Pittsburgh's Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic.

His experience treating alcoholics dates from his years as an assistant resident at the Yale-New Haven Hospital in Connecticut.

"Some 60 percent of the patients I saw there were alcoholics. I did what I was taught to do for them, which was very little.

"They kept coming back. It was frustrating and aggravating."

While working as a postdoctoral fellow at Yale University, he set up a plan for the hospital that focused on treating and rehabilitating alcoholics.

He attended an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting and was impressed by the group.

"I had a hard time believing these people were alcoholics. I had never seen a recovered alcoholic."

As a result, he set up the first hospital-based AA group in the country.



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Dr. Kenneth Williams, Maple Grove director, examines one of the center's detoxification tanks which includes a hospital bed.