

Job program for mentally handicapped wins praise

FAIRHAVEN – The Job Paths program for mentally handicapped adults opened for its first official viewing yesterday at the Job C. Tripp Elementary School, and state Commissioner of Mental Health James Callahan described it as a model of community cooperation that can be copied in other parts of the state.

The center, which will train developmentally disabled adults, was made possible with \$400,000 in contributions, volunteer labor and donated materials and a \$125,000 state grant.

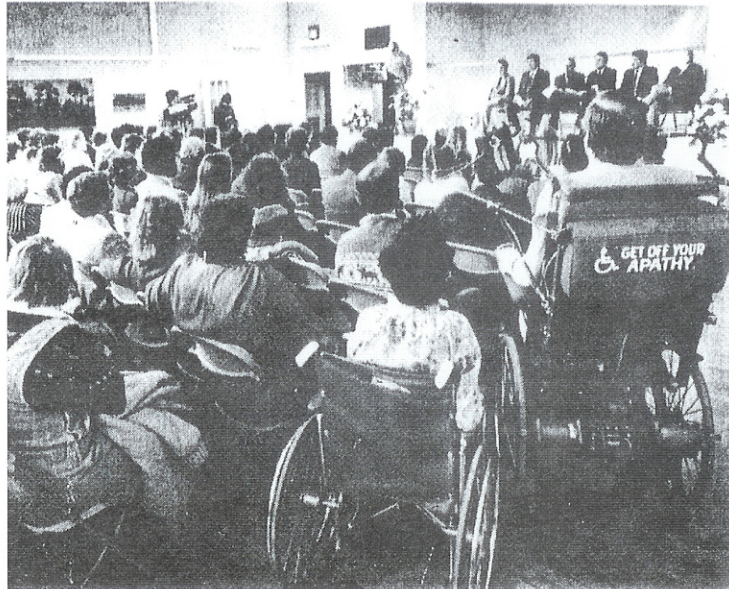
Callahan and Philip Johnston, secretary for the Executive Office of Human Affairs, among several speakers at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, hailed the new center as an example of what the private and public sectors can do together.

“This is a tribute to a cooperative partnership that has existed, but only in this part of the state, but throughout Massachusetts,” Johnston said, calling

the new center an “extension and a continued commitment” toward innovative job training programs in Massachusetts.

The Job Paths project expects initially to serve about 22 clients, 22

and older, and anticipates growing to 35 in the next fiscal year. The area to be served runs from Buzzards Bay to Dartmouth. The program will include industrial and commercial woodworking, food services, building



Master of Ceremonies George Graves addresses the supporters of the Job Paths program who gathered yesterday at the newly-renovated Job C. Tripp Elementary School in Fairhaven.