



**Woodrow Wilson  
Rehabilitation Center**  
The Premier Rehabilitation Community  
Serving People with Disabilities

# Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 31, 2007

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## WWRC Celebrates 60 Years of Service to People with Disabilities

**Fishersville, VA** – The Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) is pleased to announce that it has reached its 60<sup>th</sup> year of serving people with disabilities. The Center will mark the occasion with a public ceremony on Thursday, November 8, 2007. Festivities will begin at 10:30 AM and conclude at 2:00 PM and include presentations by the WWRC Director, Rick Sizemore; DRS Commissioner, James A. Rothrock; State Rehabilitation Council Chairperson, Danny DeBoer; Aide to State Senator Emmett Hanger, Holly Herman; State Delegate R. Stephen Landes; Keynote Address will be delivered by Ms. Juliette Rizzo, Ms. Wheelchair America 2005. A lunch sponsored by the Center's Alumni and Student Government Associations will be served after the ceremony.

**Brief History of WWRC:** In the aftermath of WWII, Virginians' R.N. Anderson, W.K. Barnett, Roy M. Hoover, M.D. and Corbett Reedy developed a new concept in rehabilitation.

The new concept involved a coordinated and comprehensive approach to rehabilitation by including numerous medical, behavioral and occupational professionals in the process. When the Woodrow Wilson General Hospital was declared surplus by the War Assets Administration, the property was transferred to the Commonwealth of Virginia and a home for this newest concept in rehabilitation was established.

In November 1947, the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center (WWRC), then known as the Woodrow Wilson Technical School, opened its doors to a client body of one person. Effective June 30, 1958, WWRC's scope and mission was broadened and it became the first facility in the United States dedicated to the comprehensive physical and vocational rehabilitation needs of people with disabilities. Since 1947, WWRC has served over 70,000 individuals with disabilities.

The physical appearance of WWRC has adapted to reflect the changing scope of the rehabilitation process over the years. The facility was essentially re-built in the late 1970's. The campus now includes: dormitories, independent living skills training cottages, a medical rehabilitation wing, vocational evaluation and training classrooms, a chapel, and extensive recreational facilities. Renovations to the Center's buildings and facilities are on-going. Carter-Ashley Dormitory was renovated and reopened in 2003. Additionally, renovations for the Medical building are planned in late 2007.

As a leader in the field of medical and vocation rehabilitation, WWRC is proud of its record and proud that its successes have served as a template for the establishment of eight other comprehensive rehabilitation centers in the United States. WWRC is a charter member of the National Consortium of State Operated Comprehensive Rehabilitation Centers. The Consortium is supported by the Federal Rehabilitation Services Administration. In addition, WWRC is accredited by the Council on Occupational Education (COE) and is a licensed Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF)

In the past three years, WWRC has undergone a vibrant renewal initiative including a rigorous strategic planning process. As a result, WWRC has again positioned itself to serve a diverse client population in a holistic approach. Today, as throughout its history, WWRC is dedicated to returning clients to an autonomous life. Successful clients work at full-time jobs in their home communities, support themselves, and require little or no financial support from public funds.

***Full History:*** <http://wwrc.virginia.gov/library.htm#history>

Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center is the first state-owned and operated comprehensive rehabilitation center in the country. WWRC provides comprehensive medical, assistive technology and vocational rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities to help them gain increased independence and employment. WWRC is a division of the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services.

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