

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1989

TCH psychiatry unit marks 20th

The Cambridge Hospital (TCH) Inpatient Psychiatry Unit (Cahill 4) celebrated 20 years of dedication to community mental health with an anniversary celebration on March 30, 1989. The unit has been serving the mental health care needs of adults in the surrounding community since its inception in 1969.

"This is a historic occasion," said Cambridge Mayor Alfred Vellucci, speaking at the afternoon ceremony. "This was the first unit in Cambridge and Somerville to treat people in the community where they reside instead of in state institutions. It set a precedent for community mental health care."

Cahill 4 is a 22-bed acute inpatient unit that provides psychiatric evaluation and short-term care. It was founded in 1969 by John Mack, M.D., who was Chief of Psychiatry; Susan Miller-Havens, R.N.; Ed Khantzian, M.D.; Lee Macht, M.D.;

James Beck, M.D.; Melvin Stern, M.D., and a core staff of nurses and mental health workers. The unit's current staff consists of psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, social workers, mental health workers, and an occupational therapist.

"It's not only important to recognize those whose foresight helped initiate Cahill 4, but also those who have worked hard to keep it a successful, viable, community health unit during the past 20 years," says Cambridge Hospital Administrator John G. O'Brien.

"The staff members over the years have all played an important role in the center and made their mark in the community," says Myron Belfer, M.D., chief of psychiatry.

To highlight the 20th Anniversary celebration patients on the floor wrote a special song that was sung in harmony by the guests. The lyrics sum up the important step Cahill 4 has taken to provide the highest quality mental health care for residents in the community:

"Cahill 4 has lasted
Through many years and seasons
We say hello, we come, we go
for many, many reasons
We come with fears and trouble,
and worries on our minds,
We leave endowed with self-respect
and brand new lives we find"

For more information on services and programs available through the Department of Psychiatry, contact the office of the Clinical Director at 498-1153.