



Vanderheyden Hall

Serving Children & Families Since 1833

Contact Information:

Shari Hand, Public Information and Community Relations Coordinator

P.O. Box 219

Wynantskill, NY 12198

283-6500 x 210

shand@vanderheydenhall.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 27, 2006

Vanderheyden Hall honors former resident with dedication ceremony

North Greenbush, NY-On Tuesday, October 24th, 2006 Vanderheyden Hall honored former resident, employee and Vietnam veteran Robert “Pope” Powell by unveiling a bronze plaque in his name in one of the newly renovated campus cottages. Through a contribution to Vanderheyden’s Cottage Renovation Project, the Bert Johnson Charitable Foundation chose to honor Robert’s commitment and dedication to Vanderheyden and the community during his lifetime.

Surrounded by fellow veterans, friends and family “Pope” spoke of his residency at Vanderheyden and his days serving as a counselor to other children and adolescents who experienced the same kind of emotional, developmental and behavioral challenges that he faced while there. A huge advocate of Vanderheyden Hall, “Pope” credits Vanderheyden with “saving my life”. Robert continued his career by volunteering his time to helping homeless and incarcerated veterans on the path to recovery from drug and alcohol addiction.

Reading a proclamation from Rensselaer County Legislator Neil Kelleher who was unable to be present, Vanderheyden’s Executive Director Linda B. Mappes, MSW was joined by Albany County Executive Mike Breslin, Col. Charlie Johnson, US Army, Retired of the Bert Johnson Charitable Foundation and Albany County Veterans Bureau Director Joseph Pollicino to help bestow the honor.

Vanderheyden Hall is a nonprofit agency serving children and families through day, residential, educational, clinical, recreational, health, life skills, and respite programs for children and young adults. For further information please visit our website at

www.vanderheydenhall.org.

###