



## Information

For immediate release

### AMOCO DONATES BUILDING TO MCARC

WOOD RIVER, IL (June 12) -- Amoco today announced it is donating its former Wood River, Ill., refinery administration and engineering building to the Madison County Association for Retarded Citizens (MCARC). The gift will mean that more retarded children can be taught in a new and bigger facility, and will enable MCARC to expand its services to the retarded citizens of Madison County and surrounding Illinois counties, with reduced operating costs.

The donation of the building and the 3.5-acre site it occupies at 400 S. Main St. was announced by Amoco Chemicals Corporation Wood River Plant Manager Henry McCandless. In addition to the two-story, 35,000-square-foot building, the site includes a driveway, parking lot, and adjacent grounds, and is valued at more than \$600,000.

Bill BeDell, executive director of MCARC, hailed the gift as "a godsend in these times of reduced governmental spending on social services. It clearly demonstrates Amoco's concern for the community."

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McCandless noted that "Amoco is delighted to be able to help the handicapped people in this area."

The Amoco building doubles the amount of space that MCARC can use for its children's programs. "This will be a real boon to us in terms of improved programs, economy, and efficiency," BeDell said.

MCARC presently leases space for its school programs in two different buildings in Madison County. The largest of them, on Niagara Street, in East Alton, also houses administrative and other programming activities. Both buildings can now be vacated and the leasing expense saved.

"The additional space and cost savings will create many benefits to the retarded, and at less cost to the taxpayers who support us," notes BeDell. "First, we'll be able to serve all children ages three and under who need help. We can add a classroom for them which will completely eliminate our present waiting list of 14 children.

"All our children's services will be consolidated from two buildings into one, and housed on the 10,000-square-foot first floor of the newest section of the Amoco building. This will be more efficient and functional than our present situation. Our new location is also much more convenient and accessible than our old, and less hazardous for our school buses to get to," he said.

The larger building will permit improved MCARC services besides school. The Family Support Program, with more office space, can now utilize some additional state funding to expand the counseling it offers to parents of retarded children. MCARC personnel providing outpatient services to 600 adult retarded citizens in the county will also have larger quarters.

In addition, personnel directing other MCARC programs on Niagara Street will have less cramped offices in their new facility. The administrative office for MCARC also will move to the former Amoco building. Some MCARC activities will continue to be housed elsewhere in Madison County.

The Amoco building will need only minor revamping to accommodate its new functions, said BeDell, who plans to move the offices there by July, and the school, by August. MCARC will lease out the second-floor office space it will not occupy.

The former Amoco building was built in four sections. The first section was completed in 1908; and the last, in 1954. All administrative, accounting, employee and community relations, and engineering activities at the Amoco Oil Company refinery were conducted there. With the mothballing of the refinery last year, this building will no longer be needed by the company. These functions for the remaining Amoco Chemicals Corporation complex at Wood River will be housed in another office building at 301 Evans Street in the plant.

MCARC is run by a locally-constituted board of directors, and is funded by federal, state, county, and private contributions.