

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SEN. BOB DOLE
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PAOLA, Kans., March 20 --- "Every child should have the opportunity to grow, develop and contribute to his or her fullest capability," U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.) said here Saturday at the dedication of the Lakemary Center. "The Center," he said, "has a high goal --- a self-sufficient place in life for the mentally handicapped."

Calling Paola a "Can Do Town," Dole said, "This new residential-day school for mentally handicapped children is proof of what dedicated people can accomplish by coordinating their efforts with the community, government and private enterprise."

Construction of the school, the first of its kind in Kansas, began in 1967 following a \$50,000 cash gift and 34 acres of land from the Ursuline Academy, and the assurance of \$545,000 from an HEW grant and of income from 25 municipal industrial bonds.

Dole said the Lakemary Center, which is part of a 60-acre medical-education complex, is a progressive step in the right direction toward meeting "one of America's greatest unmet responsibilities and untapped resources." "The complex," he said, "has attracted to Paola a wide range of medical and related specialists who might otherwise not have come to this community and state."

The educational and rehabilitative needs of America's 42 million handicapped citizens have been a special interest of the Kansas senators for a long time. In his first major speech in the Senate, April 14, 1969, he proposed that the President appoint a Task Force for the Handicapped to study the problems and needs of nation's mentally and physically handicapped. Last October, President Nixon announced the formation of the Task Force on the Physically Handicapped; and in December, he announced the creation of the Task Force on the Mentally Handicapped. Nixon appointed two Kansans, Mrs. Dole and Mrs. Harvey J. Fried, Prairie Village, to serve on the latter Task Force, which is expected soon to submit its findings and recommendations to the President.