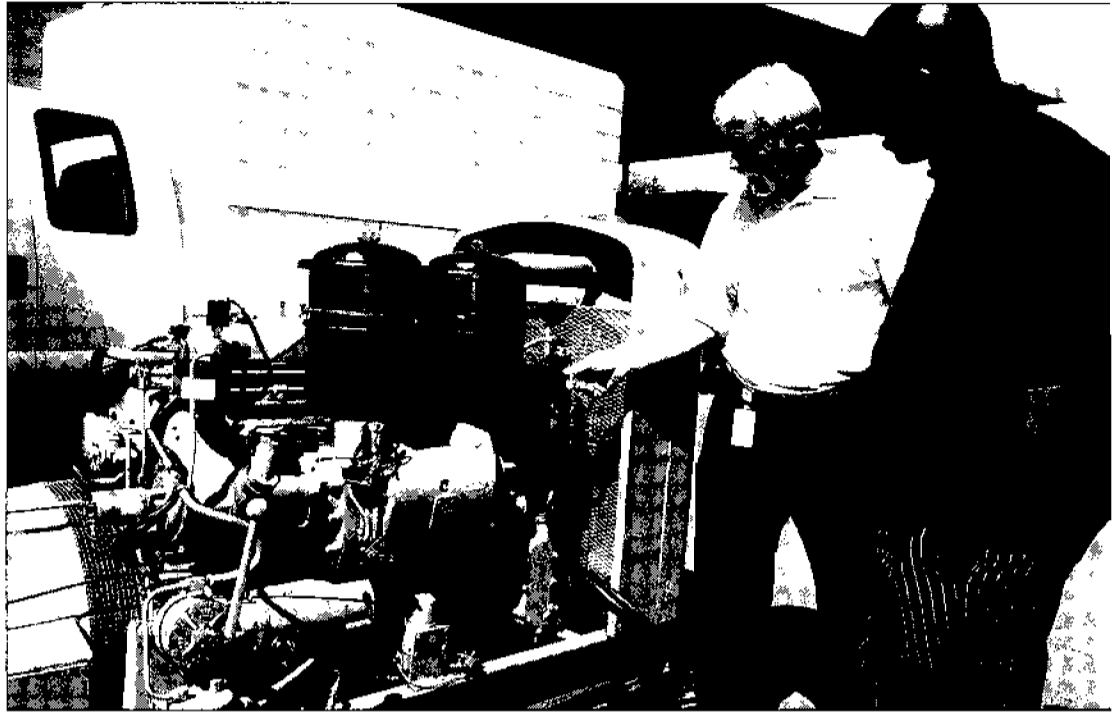


Middletown News



Susan Burgess / The Middletown Press
 Frank Howd, manager of network maintenance at AT&T, speaks to Moises Sifren, administration of the Good Samaritan Hospital in the Dominican Republic about the generator that AT&T is donating to the hospital.

AT&T donates generator

By **Matthew Engelhardt**
 Press Staff

MIDDLETOWN — The AT&T garage facility has teamed with the Petra Construction Corporation of North Haven to provide a Dominican Hospital

with a valuable resource.

Terry Wooding, executive vice president of Petra and former president of the Wallingford Rotary Club, presented AT&T with the idea of providing a backup generator to the Good Samaritan Hospital of La Romana, Dominican Republic. The hospital has had trouble caring for patients as the result of unreliable power sources.

AT&T provided a used generator that was rebuilt to give the hospital a backup source of power. Should normal power fail, the generator would keep the hospital up and running to the benefit of the staff and patients.

"It is a real blessing directly to the hospital and the poor patients that cannot pay for the services," said Moises Sifren, administrator at Good Samaritan.

Sifren was on hand Friday at the AT&T garage facility on Highland Avenue in Middletown to commemorate the donation. The generator will soon be sent to the hospital in the eastern part

of the Dominican Republic.

Wooding was also at the dedication along with representatives from AT&T, the Rotary Club and members of a missionary team to the Caribbean nation.

"Petra's always been a company interested in community service and community projects," Wooding said. "It was just nice to be able to put this together and help the people that it is going to serve."

According to Sifren, the backup generator will allow the hospital to run its air conditioning units without fear of losing power. The other generators are outdated and in need of replacing, creating a strain on the ability to help patients in times of need.

According to Frank Howd, manager of network maintenance for AT&T in Connecticut, the company normally gets rid of used generators. However, the idea to rebuild this one was a chance to do something positive, and AT&T was happy to donate the generator to the cause.

"It's nice to know that it's going to a place where it could continue to have life and really help people," Howd said.

Howd estimated that a normal generator would cost over \$35,000.