

Spectrum of Activities Available for the Developmentally Disabled Freeholders to Speak at Grand Opening June 7th

Teaneck – What do you get when you cross an award-winning architectural firm’s expertise with the goals of an organization that believes that developmental disabilities should not be a barrier to living a fulfilling and meaningful life?

You get a brand new facility that offers complete barrier free access to everything from computer and cooking classes to recreational programs and baseball leagues for area adults who might otherwise just be sitting in front of a television set.

Bergen County Freeholders Valerie Vainieri Huttle and Julie O’Brien are just two of the area dignitaries expected to be present at the ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremonies for Spectrum for Living’s new Teaneck Adult Training Center, at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 7. Located on the grounds of Grace Lutheran Church at 1200 River Road, Spectrum’s newest center is the culmination of several years worth of exploration, negotiations, and partnership between the respected non-profit organization that maintains 18 other New Jersey facilities for the developmentally disabled, the Morris County-based Kimmerle Architects, Grace Lutheran Church, the town of Teaneck, and the state Division of Developmental Disabilities.

The result is the redesign of an old school building into a bright and engaging modern facility that will host a range of activities from the practical arts relevant to daily living, to a full-service gymnasium where various games, leagues, and even dancing lessons will be offered to any adult area residents who are eligible for services under the state’s developmental disabilities guidelines. It will be staffed with professional nursing personnel, physical therapists and occupational therapists, among others.

“We are very excited about our facility which will not only enhance the quality of services and lives of the people we currently serve, but provides room for growth to serve other people in the community,” says Carmine Marchionda, CEO of Spectrum for Living.

Kimmerle Architects, a division of the award-winning Kimmerle Group, a unique, multi-faceted architectural design and real estate planning firm that has been recognized as a leader in environmentally sustainable designs for worldwide entities ranging from Fortune 500 corporations to private residences and community non-profit organizations, says that one of the primary challenges in redesigning a complex of this nature is to relieve the impression of an institutional environment while creating open accessibility for those who are wheelchair-bound.

“We used bold colors and unusual flooring patterns to create a sense of fun and lighten up the heaviness of the space,” says Paul Newman, project manager and principle in charge for the Spectrum project. “We were also able to create direct outside access from the rooms in most cases for maximum safety for the wheelchair-bound clients. There is a real need for centers of this type and we see it as an important step in the future growth of the area.”

George Kimmerle, founder of the firm, applauds Teaneck’s and Spectrum’s partnership in adapting outdated, existing facilities. “This is a particularly good example of forward thinking and rational planning that we believe can be adapted on a much broader basis for other uses ranging from child care to senior care, as well,” he says.

Spectrum for Living, which will celebrate its 25th anniversary next year, was begun by a group of parents concerned about the quality of life available for their developmentally disabled young adult children. Funded by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, the Division of Developmental Disabilities and private donations, Spectrum provides barrier-free residential facilities, day programs, and evening recreation programs in addition to medical, vocational, psychological, social and therapeutic services to persons with physical and developmental disabilities and their families.

For more information on the June 7th Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting, please contact Ann Long, Vice President of Community services for Spectrum for Living at (201) 358-8007. To arrange interviews with the principles and coverage of the event, please contact Words & Music (908) 595-9948.