

Shovels, dignitaries highlight new Employment Horizons annex

HANOVER TWP. - State Sen. President Richard Codey, D-Essex, was one of 135 attendees at the May 1 groundbreaking ceremony for an expansion to the Employment Horizons building at 10 Ridgedale Ave. in Cedar Knolls.

Employment Horizons is a not-for-profit agency that provides employment services to more than 550 individuals with disabilities each year.

A 22,000-square-foot addition to the agency's existing facility is being built to serve an ever-increasing number of individuals with disabilities, expand existing programs, introduce new training units and create a larger warehouse capable of accepting additional business contracts thereby ensuring adequate employment for Employment Horizon's Fulfillment Center employees, according to the center.

"I applaud you for all you do to help people with disabilities," Codey said.

The ceremony's agenda included remarks by Jurate Fiory, Employment Horizon's executive director, and Nancy Delaney,

its board president.

An address was given by Stephen Somich, a program participant who stated, "I represent the program participants of Employment Horizons. On everyone's behalf, I say 'thank you' for supporting the Capital Campaign. The new building is very important to all of us ... we will have a bigger Technology Center, more jobs, new programs and a cafeteria."

A "5-Star General" hard hat was presented to former Hanover Mayor Sal Iannaccone, a long-time agency advocate who is serving as the pro-bono general contractor for the expansion.

Bill Craven, former board trustee, was cited for his vision in helping to bring the agency to its present success.

A "flip the switch" ceremony recognized Avaya's donation of a cutting-edge Communication System.

In her closing remarks, Capital Campaign Director Maria Verducci-Florio announced that \$2 million of the \$5 million goal had been pledged and encouraged everyone to help in garnering the additional funds needed

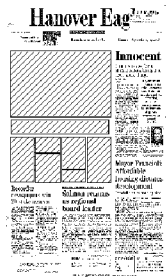
to complete construction.

After speeches and "shovel in the ground" photographs, guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres donated by The Hanover Marriott and wine from The Martini Bistro & Bar of Millburn.

Many viewed the display of items from the agency's 50-year history, which will be placed in a time capsule and buried on the grounds.

In thanking his colleagues in attendance for their support in having helped him with state-level legislative action in the arena of assisting people with special needs, Codey asserted that when it comes to work on behalf of people with disabilities, "There's no Democratic way, or Republican way, there's only the right way."

To learn more about Employment Horizons, its programs for people with disabilities or its business services for business customers, visit the agency's website at www.emhorizons.org or contact Patricia Braun, director of Advancement at (973) 538-8822, ext. 215 or e-mail pbraun@ehorizons.org.





Surrounding N.J. Senate President Richard Codey are individuals instrumental to constructing the new Employment Horizons Annex. From left are Nancy Delaney, Employment Horizons board president, Maria Verducci-Florio, Capital Campaign director, Michael Spagnolo of MJS Architects, Codey, Sal Iannaccone, pro bono consultant, builder Stan Omland, Employment Horizon's Executive Director Jurate Fiory and Sen. Anthony Bucco, R-Morris.