

Family Service League launches Ramos Teen Center

Family Service League (FSL). Bay Shore, hosted a dedication ceremony to commemorate the grand opening of the Ramos Teen Center at the Iovino South Shore Family Center in Bay Shore in September. New York State Assemblyman Phil Ramos, the Long Island Real Estate Group, and the Junior League of Long Island also were honored for their contributions.

Launched with a \$50,000 government grant secured by New York State Assemblyman Philip Ramos, FSL's new 1,000-square-foot Teen Center provides local youth with a positive, safe environment to build skills while having fun with their peers. The Long Island Real Estate Group's successful fund-raising initiatives in 2009 enabled them to provide FSL with a \$25,000 grant for the Teen Center.

In addition, the Junior League of Long Island (Roslyn and Manhasset, NY) donated approximately \$10,000 toward a computer center—equipped with computers, monitors, software, printers, fax machines, copiers as well as desks and chairs. The computer center enables teenagers with limited resources to complete their homework, take computer classes, and prepare for standardized tests.

The Ramos Teen Center can accommodate small or large groups of up to 40 people and also offers a large screen television, Wii bowling, cushy chairs, and other recreational activities. Assemblyman Ramos stated that he is most proud when the community comes together to bring a project like this to fruition.

Family Service League staff will supervise the Teen Center, which is open to all, said Karen Boorshtein, FSL president and CEO, who also noted that it was a coordinated effort of multiple organizations, along with Assemblyman Ramos, that made the Teen Center possible.

"This is dedicated space for positive recreation where teens can feel safe and hang out," Boorshtein stated. "At the Teen Center, the kids will have fun, learn some skills, and have good role models."

Shown, left to right, are Alice Krupa, Shelley Wojtkiewicz, Helena Solomon, and Heather Hamann, Junior League of Long Island; New York State Assemblyman Philip Ramos; Family Service League President and CEO Karen Boorshtein; Dee Maleno, Junior League of Long Island and Arthur Katz, Richard Herzbach, and Peter Shapero, Long Island Real Estate Group.

