

## IN THE COMMUNITY

# ACLD Holds Ribbon Cutting At Bridges Bethpage

BY HERALD STAFF

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Adults and Children with Learning and Developmental Disabilities, Inc. (ACLD) celebrated a ribbon cutting ceremony on Oct. 28, for its newest site located at 345 Broadway in Bethpage. The new Bridges Bethpage site is situated in the heart of Bethpage, also home to ACLD's headquarters on South Oyster Bay Road. Bridges is a center-based day habilitation program designed to promote independence, integration and productivity through a wide range of volunteer work experiences in the community.

Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph Saladino was in attendance and presented ACLD with a proclamation. ACLD executive director Robert Goldsmith and ACLD Board of Trustees First vice chair

Richard Breuninger also spoke at the event.

"Bridges Broadway provides a wealth of opportunities for the people we support, from job readiness to socialization and volunteerism," said Goldsmith. "Among the volunteer sites they actively participate at is Meals on Wheels, Island Harvest, Stew Leonard's, E Joy Food Pantry, the Lupus Foundation and Long Island Citizens for Community Values. It's a beautiful example of how the people we support give back to the communities they are a part of."

30 people attended the Bridges Bethpage site Monday to Friday. The program was relocated from its original site in Farmingdale and is designed to foster independence, individualization, community integration and productivity. The emphasis is

on community-based training through educational, social/recreational and volunteer opportunities.

"My wife Sandi and I have been involved with ACLD for more than 20 years, a time during which we have seen the agency grow by leaps and bounds," said Breuninger. "There isn't a day that goes by that we don't reflect on how important ACLD has been to our family and especially our son Keith. It gives me great pleasure to see all the wonderful ways we are active participants in the Bethpage community."

The gathering included members of the Bethpage Kiwanis Club, who work with Bridges on their Aktion Club and are longtime supporters of the group. ACLD staff, people the agency supports and their family members also attended the ceremony.



The gathering of ACLD officials, town officials, people supported by ACLD, staff members and members of the Bethpage Kiwanis Club celebrate the opening of the Bridges Bethpage facility.  
*(Photo courtesy of ACLD)*