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**ADULTS AND CHILDREN WITH LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES, INC. (ACLD) HOLDS RIBBON CUTTING AT BRIDGES BETHPAGE
DAY HABILITATION PROGRAM**

Adults and Children with Learning and Developmental Disabilities, Inc. (ACLD) celebrated a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 28, for its newest site located at 345 Broadway. 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 J. Saladino was in attendance and presented ACLD with a proclamation. ACLD Executive Director Robert C. 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."

Thirty people attend the Bridges Bethpage site, Monday-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 over 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.

About Adults and Children with Learning and Developmental Disabilities, Inc. (ACLD):

Founded in 1957, ACLD is a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit agency whose mission is to provide opportunities for children and adults with autism, learning and developmental disabilities to pursue enviable lives, promote independence and foster supportive relationships within the community. ACLD employs more than 1,300 people and operates 90 different program sites, including community residences and apartment programs across Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Services include early childhood services, day habilitation, residential alternatives, vocational training and job placement, recreation programs, respite, family support services, and occupational, speech and physical therapies. For more information: www.aclid.org



PHOTO CAPTION:

Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph J. Saladino, with the “big scissors,” having just cut the ribbon at ACLD’s new Bridges Bethpage Center. To his left, holding proclamation from the Town is Robert C. Goldsmith, ACLD Executive Director. To the right of Saladino is Robert Ciatto, ACLD Chief Operating Officer. Fifth from the right is Richard Breuninger, First Vice President of the ACLD Board of Trustees. The group is flanked by people supported by ACLD, staff members and members of the Bethpage Kiwanis Club.

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