

New brand of care in Queens
at Margaret Tietz Center

BY STEVE MOSCO

Monday, September 26, 2011 1:48 PM EDT

While representatives in D.C. squabble over national health care, local health care received a major overhaul right here in Queens.

The Margaret Tietz Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Jamaica unveiled its newly-renovated care units, as well as an expanded rehab gym, at an event packed with elected officials, community members, facility employees and volunteers.

"We never closed down a bed, even with all these renovations and we're really, really proud of what we have here," said Director of Public Affairs Linda Spiegel at the grand reopening on Friday, September 23. "We are so proud of the fact that we've expanded our services to so many more communities. It's a melting pot, the borough of Queens, and we're here to service everybody the best way that we know how."

That service now includes a thoroughly-renovated rehab gym, which nearly doubled in size and is loaded with state-of-the-art rehab equipment. In that gym, Margaret Tietz Executive Director Joseph Seminaro welcomed all visitors and officially opened the facility's newest amenities.

"This is the culmination of a long and arduous construction project. And it's the type of project that becomes difficult in terms of doing this kind of refurbishment while residents are still in the facility," Seminaro said. "Mortar and bricks are wonderful and that's what you've seen today, but it's more the heart and soul of the staff that renders the best care."

Queens legislators in attendance included Assemblymember Rory Lancman, Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, Assemblymember Grace Meng, Assemblymember David Weprin, Councilmember Peter Koo, Councilmember James Gennaro and Assemblymember Michael Simanowitz. Many elected officials had family members who have benefited from the care at Margaret Tietz, including Meng, who recalled the attention her grandfather received at the facility.

"Like many of our colleagues in government, my grandfather too was here for a period of time and the sensitivity and compassion shown by the leadership and staff at Margaret Tietz was just overwhelming and very touching," she said. "And it speaks volumes that so many of us have had family and loved ones here. What a wonderful asset this facility is for the entire Queens community."



THE COURIER/Photo by Steve Mosco
Elected officials and community members gathered for the official ribbon-cutting of the newest renovations at Margaret Tietz Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.