

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**Steve Stern**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Monday, December 31, 2012**

**LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN WELCOMES NEW BEGINNINGS  
COMMUNITY CENTER TO VETERANS & SENIORS COMMITTEE**

*Center to open "Brendan House" Long term Care Home*



*Pictured l-r Legislator Wayne Horsley, Legislator Rick Montano, Legislator Steve Stern, Allyson Scerri, Founder and CEO, New Beginnings, Kate DiMeglio, Vice-President, New Beginnings, Legislator Sarah Anker, Legislator DuWayne Gregory*

**HUNTINGTON, N.Y.** - Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington) 16<sup>th</sup> L.D., Chairman of the Veterans and Seniors Committee, welcomed Allyson Scerri, Founder and CEO and Kate DiMeglio, Vice-President of New Beginnings Community Center, a not-for-profit center founded in 2011 by Ms. Scerri after caring for her father who suffered a traumatic brain injury in a car accident in 2007. Ms. DiMeglio cares for an adult child with a brain injury. With a core mission of Hope, Healing and Understanding, New Beginnings

provides comprehensive out-patient rehabilitation services for those suffering from traumatic brain injury (TBI), physical and cognitive disabilities and dementia. The center also serves many veterans who are suffering from TBI and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Ms. Scerri and Ms. DiMeglio addressed the committee and discussed plans to open an in-patient rehabilitation facility in Riverhead, “Brendan House” named in honor of Brendan Aykroyd, who died as a result of TBI suffered in an assault. The home will allow TBI victims to live independently while receiving needed care, counseling and support. They hope to also open a facility in Western Suffolk to provide these services.

“I am proud to welcome Ms. Scerri and Ms. DiMeglio to the Legislature,” Legislator Stern said. “Their remarkable accomplishment in opening New Beginnings is truly an inspiration. Brendan House will provide a higher level of service to our veterans and others suffering from TBI and PTSD. Their incredible dedication and ability to transform personal tragedy into such an outstanding facility brings pride and hope to the entire Suffolk County community.”