

Link to Article: <https://ryerecord.com/a-campaign-for-hope/>



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 9, 2023

Senator Nathalia Fernandez Applauds \$2.7 Million Commitment for New HOPE Community Center in New Rochelle

New Rochelle, NY – Senator Nathalia Fernandez is proud to announce her support for the new HOPE Community Center in New Rochelle, which received a combined \$2.7 million in pledges from Federal, New York State, Westchester County, and New Rochelle officials. On October 26th, HOPE Community Services hosted a press conference to express their gratitude to the leaders who helped secure these funds and officially launch their Capital Campaign to renovate the center at 81 Union Avenue.

The event gathered key community leaders and elected officials, including Congressman Jamaal Bowman, Senator Fernandez, Senator Shelley Mayer, Assemblyman Steve Otis, Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, and representatives from the City of New Rochelle. Together, these leaders have played a pivotal role in securing the resources needed to help HOPE Community Services transition from their long-standing location at St. Gabriel's School to the new facility.

“For decades, HOPE Community Services has been a cornerstone of this community, offering critical services and support to families in need. The opening of the new HOPE Community Center represents an exciting new chapter in their mission, and I am proud to be a part of the efforts that made this possible,” said Senator Fernandez at the press conference.

The organization has provided millions of meals through its Food Pantry and Community Kitchen, along with housing programs and outreach services. After receiving notice in 2022 that their lease at St. Gabriel’s School would not be renewed, HOPE began searching for a new home. Thanks to the generosity of Pat Procopio and Casa Calabria, the Calabria Mutual Aid Society’s building was donated to HOPE, securing the organization a new space after more than 50 years at their original location.

The new facility, however, requires extensive renovations to meet modern building codes and accommodate HOPE’s wide range of services. The estimated cost of the project is \$6 million, but under the leadership of HOPE’s Executive Director Sylvia Hamer, \$3.6 million has already been raised. The Capital Campaign, spearheaded by the HOPE Board of Directors, continues to gain traction with the Individual Donor Campaign, which has already brought in over \$850,000 in contributions from longstanding supporters.

“We are incredibly thankful to HOPE’s leadership for their dedication and tireless work in raising the necessary funds to make this new center a reality,” added Senator Fernandez. “Their commitment to providing food, shelter, and dignity to those in need is unmatched, and I look forward to seeing the lasting impact this center will have on the New Rochelle community.”

Assemblyman Steve Otis also praised the project, saying, “HOPE Community Services has been an indispensable provider of essential services for families in need for decades. Their new home will continue to enhance their great mission. Special thanks go to the Calabria Society for their leadership and donation.”

The event marked the official kick-off of the Capital Campaign to raise the remaining funds needed to complete the renovation of the future HOPE Community Center, ensuring that this vital resource will continue to serve New Rochelle residents for years to come.