



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

OCCUPATIONS, INC. BREAKS GROUND AT RENOVATION PROJECT IN NEWBURGH

Newburgh: On September 12th, State and City dignitaries came together at a groundbreaking ceremony to launch Occupations, Inc.'s Grand Street Renovation Project, "Revitalizing History & Hope", at 21-23 Grand Street, Newburgh, New York.

This grand project marks the beginning of Occupations Inc.'s \$2.5 million capital campaign to raise funds to help serve the unmet service needs of families throughout the Hudson Valley region. New York State Senator William J. Larkin, Jr. recently announced a Capital grant for Occupations, Inc. through the New York State Economic Development Assistance Program in the amount of \$250,000 for costs associated with construction and expansion of its Mental Health and Child Welfare Treatment Center in the City of Newburgh.

"It is my belief that the needs of people with disabilities and those who care for them have never been greater in New York State," said Senator Larkin. "I am proud to be able to support the important work that Occupations, Inc. does every day to help the children and adults under its care. "

Among the honored guests today was Mr. William Kaplan, a strong supporter of these development efforts, as well as Edward Diana, Orange County Executive, Mayor Nicholas Valentine, Jean-Ann McGrane, Newburgh City Manager, Chris White of Congressman Maurice Hinchey's office, and Regina Angelo, City Council Member.

"The Grand Street Renovation Project will enable Occupations to meet the area's growing service needs by adjoining two buildings at 21 and 23rd Grand Street, resulting in more than 12,000 square feet of usable space, nearly quadrupling the current capacity to provide critically important mental health and child welfare services to Hudson Valley residents," said Thomas Glendening, MD, Chairperson of Occupations Foundation, Inc. Board of Governors.

"This additional space will enable Occupations to expand two of its most effective programs that currently reside at 21 Grand Street in Newburgh," said James B. DeStefano, President and CEO of Occupations, Inc.

According to Amy Anderson-Winchell, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer of Occupations Inc, "One of the programs at this site is Family Counseling of Occupations, Inc., a New York State licensed mental health clinic and family service center, which provides critically important mental health services to children families and adults. The second program is Our Newburgh Healthy Families, which is a wonderful primary prevention program, reduces child abuse and supports and educates at risk families to improve health and well-being."

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September 18, 2008

Today's event marks the beginning of this extraordinary renovation project and Occupations continued commitment to provide these great services to those in need in the Newburgh community.

"We are grateful for all the support we have received from so many of our local and state representatives. We especially want to thank Mr. Bill Kaplan for his most generous contribution which has enabled our work to begin" said James B. DeStefano, President and CEO of Occupations, Inc.

Occupations, Inc., programs include outpatient mental health services, case management, child welfare, emergency services, residential services, and employment opportunities to people with developmental disabilities and individuals recovering from mental illness. Occupations, Inc., also provides an extensive transportation system throughout Orange County. Occupations will celebrate 45 years of services in September 2008. All of Occupations, Inc.'s services can be accessed 24-hours a day, seven-days-a-week, through one toll-free call to the Service Access Center at 1-888-750-2266.

For more information on the Occupations Foundations, Inc., or for information on how you can help, please contact Wendi Chason, Director of Development at (845) 692-4454, ext. 105 or visit the website at www.occupations.org.

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