



# TMO NEWS

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October 17, 2011

## HELP IN HOUSING



*Jung Ching*

There's a tremendous need for **supportive housing** in New York—that's shelter for **veterans**, the **disabled**, formerly **homeless**, and those with **psychiatric problems**. This is evidenced by the agreement between NYC and the State for **9,000 units**, says Concern for Independent Living executive director **Ralph Fasano**. His non-profit just delivered the \$25M, 65-unit **Rochester Avenue Apartments** in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, a five-story former hospital-turned-studio dwellings for low-income folks recovering from mental illness (including formerly homeless people and those exiting from **NYS Office of Mental Health's** state residence program).



But supportive housing doesn't mean it's lacking in amenities—Rochester Avenue Apartments, above, has features like **lounges**, a **computer room**, **exercise room**, **dining hall**, and **rooftop garden**. Supportive housing projects CIL has in the pipeline include apartments at MacDougal and Broadway and **801 East New York Ave** in Brooklyn. Some of the over 600 units CIL operates include affordable housing for those making **55%** of the area median income. Kiss stigmas goodbye—affordable housing is so precious and **desirable** that residents feel comfortable living with supportive housing residents, Ralph says.



Also in the pipeline: 60 units for homeless US vets and their families at **600 Albany Ave** in **Amityville, Long Island**—the land was donated (former military space) and there's been a push from the Veterans Affairs, HUD, and the Obama administration to **end homelessness** among our vets. The public outpouring has been great for all supportive housing projects, Ralph says—you could see it from the cross-section of attendees at the opening of Rochester Avenue Apartments, including Brooklyn borough president **Marty Markowitz**, Brooklyn **Community Board 8**, and residents from all around the neighborhood.

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