

## Supervisor Lesko, Deputy Supervisor/Councilwoman Walsh and Councilwoman Bonner Meet with Mount Sinai Family In New Home Constructed by Building Hope for Long Island

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*Pictured left to right are Councilwoman Jane Bonner, Deputy Supervisor/Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh, Christine and James Shaljian and Supervisor Mark Lesko.*

**Farmingville, NY** - On January 19, Supervisor Mark Lesko, Deputy Supervisor Kathleen Walsh and Councilwoman Jane Bonner were on hand to present certificates of appreciation to volunteers from Building Hope for Long Island at the site of a home that is being rebuilt for the family of James and Christine Shaljian of Mount Sinai. Mr. Shaljian, who has Hodgkin's Lymphoma, was forced to move out of the family home due to a severe mold problem that threatened his health. A friend who knew of the situation nominated the family to appear the television program "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," but the family was not chosen. Then, local contractors stepped up to form Building Hope for Long Island and made the Shaljian's plight their first project. The organization is constructing the new home with donations of money and building materials from residents and local companies. Those who want to donate can go to [buildinghopeforli.org](http://buildinghopeforli.org) for more information. The Town of Brookhaven waived all fees associated with demolition and construction totaling more than \$20,000.

"It's great to see so many people in the Brookhaven community come together to help the Shaljian family," said Supervisor Lesko. "I am always impressed by the generosity of those who unselfishly donate their money, time and talent to help their neighbors and ask for nothing in return." He continued, "Thanks to Building Hope for Long Island and all those who participated, the Shaljian's can now look forward to a brighter future."

"Being part of a project like this is truly the most satisfying part of holding public office. Seeing so many groups coming together to help this family is tremendously rewarding. It is my hope that all involved receive the blessing of good health and the satisfaction that kindness brings," said Deputy Supervisor/Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh.

"A new home is really a dream come true for James, Christine and their children," said Councilwoman Bonner. "This has been a community effort that we can all be proud of and I commend Building Hope for Long Island, the volunteers, Four Seasons Home Products and other companies that donated building materials, because this could never have happened without their help. I look forward to being there when the Shaljian's finally move in."

