

# Supervisor Ed Romaine and Councilwoman Kepert Attend Dedication of Bellport Hagerman East Patchogue Alliance Building as the Helen Martin Building

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*Current Director of BHEP Fred Combs and Helen Martin in front of the new Helen Martin Building plaque*

*[Pictured from L to R] Sarah Hartmann (Assemblyman Ed Hennessey), Donna Lent (Town Clerk Patricia A. Eddington), Supervisor Romaine, Councilwoman Connie Kepert, Former Bellport Village Mayor David Pate, BHEP Director Fred Combs, Helen Martin, Bellport Village Mayor Ray Fell, Dean Murray (Suffolk County Clerk Judy Pascale), Legislator Rob Calarco, Senior Lee Zeldin, and Legislator Kate Browning in front of the Helen Martin Building.*

**Farmingville, NY** - On Monday, August 26, Supervisor Ed Romaine and Councilwoman Connie Kepert attended a ceremony during which the Bellport Hagerman East Patchogue Alliance (BHEP) building on Montauk Highway in Bellport was dedicated in honor of former BHEP director, Helen Martin.

Helen became the Director of the Bellport Senior Nutrition Program in 1975 and, in 1992, was a founding member of the INN Friendship, a soup kitchen that serves meals every Tuesday night at St. Joseph the Worker R.C. Church in East Patchogue. In 1983, Helen became the first Executive Director of the BHEP, a not-for profit organization that serves the community by working to provide housing assistance, job counseling, and support services to homeless or at-risk of homelessness families in the Bellport/East Patchogue area. BHEP provides services for first time homeowners, food and nutrition programs, senior programs, utilities assistance, and housing rehabilitation programs. A strong and dedicated Director, Helen, a single mother, also raised six children on her own while working for the Alliance. In December of 2011, Helen officially retired from the BHEP Alliance, but continues to be a viable force for change in her community.

"Helen's strong leadership has made such a positive impact on so many people in the community," said Supervisor Ed Romaine. "Dedicating this building in her name is a well-deserved honor and I was happy to be part of this very special event."

"Helen Martin is the type of selfless leader that we want young people to emulate," stated Councilwoman Connie Kepert. "Helen loves her community and knows its issues and has worked tirelessly to identify and dedicate resources to resolve those issues. The BHEP building, which is now dedicated in her honor is a fitting tribute to a great leader," stated Councilwoman Kepert.

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