

## Office of the Governor

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### NEWS RELEASE

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### **Governor Supports Local Program for Women; Visits Schools in Lodi and Teaneck**

Governor Christie Whitman today continued her support of a school in Teaneck whose original facility was destroyed by fire in 1998. The Governor presented the Community High School with \$200,000 to help defray the costs of relocating and renovating its new home. The Governor also spent time at the Roosevelt School in Lodi, visiting with students and teachers.

In addition, Gov. Whitman stopped by the Women in Transition Program at the Wayne Counseling Center. The program helps women gain the skills they need to help them reenter the workforce.

### **Governor Continues Support of School Destroyed by Fire in 1998**

Governor Whitman today presented a check for \$200,000 to the Community High School (CHS) of Bergen County to help pay for relocation and renovation expenses incurred when the original home of the school was destroyed by fire in 1998. At the time, the Governor asked the Bergen County Superintendent to help find a temporary location for the school and she also requested that the county freeholders provide the school with a low-interest loan to help cover costs.

"It is wonderful to be here today to see the teachers and students of Community High School back to the business of learning," said Gov. Whitman. "I am happy to be able to present you with a check for \$200,000 to help cover the costs of relocation and the renovation of this building. I'd also like to thank Assemblymen Paul DiGaetano and John Kelly for supporting this project, which will make such a difference to area students."

CHS of Bergen County educates public school students who have been certified by the state as having mild to moderate disabilities. The schools' mission is to provide students with the opportunity to achieve a level of performance in the classroom that is reflective of their abilities.

CHS employs 70 staff members and educates 140 students from New York and New Jersey. On average, over 90% of the school's

graduates go on to college. Founded in 1976, the original location of the school was destroyed by fire in 1998. The school was temporarily located at Felician College in Rutherford, but found a more permanent home in Teaneck at the St. Anastasia building. Costs of relocation and renovations to the St. Anastasia building reached over \$1.5 million.

### **Governor Lends Support To Women Reentering Workforce**

During her visit to the Women in Transition, the Governor presented the program with a check for \$90,000, representing the funding it will receive from this year's state budget. So far this year, Women in Transition has helped over 60 women gain skills that will make them more economically self-sufficient and will enable them to become valuable employees to the workforce.

"Too often divorced, separated, or widowed women have a hard time making the transition back into the workplace," Governor Whitman told the people involved with the program. "Your organization is making that transition easier by providing career counseling, computer training, and emotional support to women who need to reenter the workforce."

Women in Transition is a program of the Wayne Counseling Center that provides services to displaced homemakers in Passaic County, teaching social and vocational skills that will allow them to reenter the workforce. Displaced homemakers include women who have lost the financial support of their spouse due to divorce, death or disability. The program includes courses in computer literacy, goal setting, resume writing, and interviewing skills. Also available are support groups, internet accessibility and childcare referrals. Women can also receive individual counseling.

