

STATEN ISLAND

Fund-raising drive starts for needy

By MARY ENGELS

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The New York City State Employees Federated Appeal kicked off its Staten Island borough campaign last week at a brunch held at the Country Club Diner, 2270 Clove Road.

The event, held for the first time on the Island, marked the start of the fund-raising effort to support human-service organizations helping people on Staten Island, throughout New York City and in other areas.

Marcia Miner, the campaign director, said that last year the organization raised close to \$232,000 through-

out the city; and on Staten Island alone, \$21,000 was raised for the various state agencies."

"We hope to surpass those figures by raising close to \$300,000 this year," Miner said. "Mainly, we are looking for new money out there, and, hopefully, Staten Island will lead in this direction."

Assemblywoman Elizabeth Connelly (D-Staten Island), the keynote speaker at the fund-raiser, said she was "concerned with getting funds for several programs on Staten Island since the federal government is cutting back on much of its support."

"Very few programs are prepared to deal with it; and as the slashing increases, it creates a tremendous burden on the city and state," she said.

Connelly said she feared "It will place a tremendous pressure on already overburdened resources."

"I fear that the state budget, because of cuts in other areas, will also have their impact on programs that provide transit, respite, and housing for those who are disabled or mentally incapacitated."

Connelly said to those present that her message is, "Go out and spread the word and make a major effort in your individual fund-raising campaigns in the various state agencies."

"We have to do more on our own; and since your agencies are all-impotent in providing services to a certain population, you will have to give it all you've got."



BIG APPLE music boxes are presented to Assemblywoman Elizabeth Connelly and Jack Sipp (l.) of the Staten Island Savings Bank for their support of New York City State Employees Federated Appeal. Presentation is made by Fiorello Cicero, campaign coordinator.

JIM HUGHES/DAILY NEWS