2 organizations get \$1.65M in state aid

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North Shore
Jewish Community
Center and On
Your Mark to use
money on
buildings

By WARREN HYNES

The North Shore Jewish Community Center (JCC), Tompkinsville, was the scene of a very happy meeting yesterday, during which \$1.65 million in state funds were given to two Staten Island organizations.

The JCC and On Your Mark were recipients of the state dollars. Assemblyman Eric N. Vitaliano (D-Mid-Island) and Assemblywoman Elizabeth A. Connelly (D-North Shore) were at the JCC to announce the funding, which they had secured along with state Sen. John J. Marchi (R-Staten Island).

The funding, which came from the state's \$425 million Community Enhancement fund, will help the JCC move to a new facility in Sea View, while helping On Your Mark purchase the 70-year-old Tompkinsville JCC building.

The JCC received \$1 million in state funds, while On Your Mark received \$650,000.

"We could not think of two greater organizations, with proven records," Vitaliano said.

Added Mrs. Connelly, "It's wonderful what we can do as a community. We're providing such important services for our seniors, our vulnerable population and the community at large."

In a statement, Marchi said, "Both of these items represent the united support of the three Staten Island legislators. I am proud to have taken part in delivering these items with Eric and Betty."

The JCC's plans to build a new recreational facility on Manor Road near Susan Wagner High School, on Greenbelt property that the JCC has used for 20 years as an outdoor family camp.

Lewis Stolzenberg, executive director of the JCC, estimated that this project will cost between \$12 million and \$15 million.

The JCC has raised almost half of the funds it must raise, Stolzenberg said. He estimated that ground will be broken on the facility in September 2000, with the center opening in January 2002.

Stolzenberg told the two Assembly representatives: "We thank you for the job you've done for Staten Island. You've brought home the pastrami on more than one occasion."

On Your Mark, a West Brightonbased agency, provides support services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

On Your Mark also has some more money to raise, according to Gene Spatz, executive director. Spatz said the total cost of On Your Mark's project is around \$2 million.

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