



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **For more information, please contact:**

Cathy Demeroto, Executive Director

[cdemeroto@castsoutholdtown.org](mailto:cdemeroto@castsoutholdtown.org)

410-693-6692

## **CAST IS OPENING ITS DOORS TO THE COMMUNITY**

### ***Public Open House on Sunday, October 31st from 2-5PM – Long-Standing North Fork Human Service Agency Has a New Home and New Name***

**October 28, 2021** - CAST, formerly known as Community Action Southold Town, invites the public to celebrate the grand opening of its new home, located at 53930 Main Road in Southold, the former Southold Opera House and Southold Methodist Church. As the North Fork's only full-service human services agency, CAST has been a respected and trusted community-based organization since 1965, and looks forward to welcoming its neighbors, clients and partners on Sunday, October 31st from 2-5pm for live music, refreshments, and guided tours of the new facility.

“We are grateful to the community for supporting our mission and investing in the future of CAST and look forward to welcoming the community into our new home,” stated Marc Sokol, CAST Board President.

When the doors officially open for business on November 1, 2021, CAST will begin operating under a new name which better reflects the work it does as it enters its next phase. The **Center for Advocacy, Support & Transformation** will be a much-needed community resource center that offers a safety net for those in need and promotes self-sufficiency for long-term health and well-being.

The new Center for Advocacy, Support & Transformation, located on a 1.15-acre campus in the heart of the business hamlet of Southold, will be a spacious community hub where CAST will provide critical programs and services for North Fork residents more efficiently and effectively. CAST serves nearly 10 percent of the population living in Southold Town, including seniors and many hard-working families that help keep the wheels turning on the North Fork.

A key feature of CAST's new home is a 9,000 square foot, two-floor "Opportunity Center" which will house various food relief, client support and education programs as well as a large gathering hall for arts, education, and cultural programs. Conveniently located on the county bus line, the building also offers space for a community garden and a children's play area as well as ample parking, a garage, and an auxiliary building for future growth.

"Since joining CAST nearly five years ago, I began to imagine what a new home might look like in order for us to provide the best care and service to the community," said Cathy Demeroto, CAST Executive Director. "Our new home is a dream come true providing the perfect location and lay-out for our multitude of programs and services and we are very excited to share the space with the community."

Empire State Development, through the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council, is supporting this project with a \$300,000 capital grant. ESD's investment reinforces the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council's mission to support projects that align with the Council's childcare and workforce development strategies. The LIREDC's community-based, bottom-up approach towards regional economic growth has delivered \$727 million to Long Island communities since 2011.

Empire State Development Chief Operating Officer and Executive Deputy Commissioner Kevin Younis said, "ESD is proud to support CAST as it broadens its ability to provide social, childhood education and workforce development services, which are important resources for building a stronger, more resilient economy. CAST has a long, local history of helping Suffolk County residents empower themselves for personal prosperity, and the new North Fork Community Center allows CAST to expand its reach with programs to help working families, the local economy, and improve the lives of eastern Long Islanders."

LIREDC Co-Chairs Kevin Law, Tritec Real Estate Partner and Executive Vice President, and Stuart Rabinowitz, President Emeritus of Hofstra University said, "Supporting childhood education and workforce development services is central to our mission. We are proud to assist CAST with the purchase and renovation of their new headquarters, which is crucial to meet the growing needs of their programs and services on the North Fork. This resource center will help build a vibrant and equitable community for generations to come."

CAST will continue to have a strong presence in Greenport, while serving all those in need throughout the North Fork. With its Mobile Pantry & Resource Center, CAST will provide food and client support services in Greenport on Tuesdays from 9am to 12pm at Holy Trinity Church, 768 Main Street starting on November 2. CAST will also deliver food directly to community members who have transportation challenges and are unable to get to the Southold community center or the Greenport satellite location.

At the time of its grand reopening, CAST has raised 75 percent of its \$3 million capital campaign goal. Donations can be made [online](#) to support CAST in its mission to pay off the mortgage and enable CAST to focus on essential programs and services. Checks can also be mailed to Cathy A. Demeroto, *Build What Matters* Campaign, P.O. Box 1566, Southold, NY 11971.

“We look forward to welcoming all of our neighbors and friends into our new home with hopes that it will truly be a meeting place and resource center for the entire community. Whether people come for services, to volunteer, take a class, or enjoy a musical performance, our doors will always be open to all,” concluded Demeroto.

### **About CAST**

Founded in 1965, CAST has supported underserved and vulnerable populations by addressing the need for help with food, shelter, education, employment, and health insecurity. Its mission is to provide a safety net and promote self-sufficiency for North Fork residents in need. The organization serves a diverse population, with dignity and compassion, including seniors, people living with disabilities, single mothers, veterans, children and the working poor. CAST’s vision is to build a community where every member is free from worry about basic necessities and has the opportunity to build a better future for themselves and their families.

To understand the important work of CAST on the North Fork, see CAST’s new video.

[CAST - Build What Matters \(Full Version\) - YouTube](#)