



# **BERGEN** *County* **NEW JERSEY**

**For Immediate Release**

November 3, 2016

## **Tedesco Presents CDBG Funds to Eastern Christian Children's Retreat**

(Wyckoff)- On behalf of the Bergen County Division of Community Development, Bergen County Executive Jim Tedesco presented \$488,900 in Community Development Block Grant funding to the Eastern Christian Children's Retreat (ECCR). The grant award, representing Bergen County's commitment to the non-profit for fiscal years 2015 and 2016, will fund ADA renovations to bathrooms and bedrooms at two ECCR group homes for adults with disabilities. The renovations will enlarge the bathrooms to accommodate necessary medical and support equipment and enlarge doorways to support safer emergency exit procedures. Similar renovations, funded by CDBG grants through the Bergen County Division of Community Development for fiscal year 2014, were recently completed in a third ECCR group home (photograph included below).

"Eastern Christian Children's Retreat provides care and meaningful support to these adults with disabilities," said County Executive Tedesco. "The families of these residents have peace of mind, knowing that their loved ones are in the hands of competent, caring professionals. For residents using wheelchairs and other medical support equipment, these renovations will provide a better quality of life. I'm so proud to support ECCR and the critically important work that it does to support people with disabilities."

"The ECCR values the partnership with Bergen County which has helped us to provide needed services for our residents," said ECCR Executive Director Jayne Press. "We have worked together with Bergen County and the Community Development Block Grant program staff for 20 years and have received over \$2M in funding for important projects. We have been able to upgrade our facilities and improve accessibility for our residents as their needs have changed through the years. These projects would not have been completed without the funding provided by this program."



ECCR ED Jayne Press and ECCR Board Members Julie Westra, Ed Galenkamp, and Daun Hook accept CDBG funds from County Executive Tedesco



County Executive Tedesco plays Connect Four with ECCR resident and staff member



County Executive Tedesco and Community Development Director Rob Esposito tour the renovated bathrooms at ECCR's Willow Lodge