

Team Walker Learning Center



For Additional Info:

Jonathan Martin (201) 939-8601

Opening of Team Walker Learning Center Is Dream Come True for Jerry Walker

JERSEY CITY -- The Team Walker Learning Center, a culmination of years of dreaming by community leader Jerry Walker, becomes a reality on Saturday, May 17th, when the building has a grand opening dedication and celebration.

Jersey City Mayor Steve Fulop will be among the dignitaries who will cut the ribbon that opens the three-story brick building that is part of a public-private partnership that built the \$2.3 million building. The Team Walker Learning Center, located at 373 Communipaw Avenue, will expand Team Walker's highly successful 21st Century After-School Program while also building on the various community programs that have been important activities for the neighborhood and Jersey City community.

"This is the culmination of a long journey and a dream that has been in my family for over 40 years," explained Walker, who was a legendary basketball player at Saint Anthony High School and Seton Hall University. "Education is the key to life for the hundreds of youngsters in my neighborhood. This building will help many, many kids and hundreds of other people."

Walker worked closely with the city of Jersey City, the corporate community, a number of foundations and his personal friend from his basketball days at Seton Hall to raise the funding for the center. State Senator Sandra Cunningham has also been a supporter of the project.

"I simply have to say -- 'Thank You' -- to everyone who has helped with this dream," said Walker. "At times I thought it was not going to happen. But the city fathers knew how important this building could be for the kids and our many, many supporters did everything possible to build a world-class learning center. This will be bigger than any event in my life".

The opening day dedication starts at 11 a.m. with tours of the building for supporters and the Team Walker Board of Trustees. The formal dedication will be at 11:45 am. The building will be open to the community and general public starting at 1 p.m. There will be hot dogs, chips and other food while tours are conducted of the building.

The James M. O'Brien Family, the Frank Walsh Family and George Ring had the lead gifts of the project. The Provident Bank Foundation, the William E. Simon Foundation and Wiss & Company also provided major support. Mast Construction Services also donated all of its services for the building. There were over 250 individual donations.

"Jerry Walker is an amazing person," explained Team Walker Chairman Leo Zatta. "He never gave up in his quest to have this building. It was just too important to helping the kids in Jersey City and giving them the chance to have a chance to be successful in life. We owe a special thank you to all of the people that have made his dream become a reality."

The Team Walker Learning Center was designed by RSC Architects and Mark Martins Engineers. Catcord Construction handled all of the construction elements of the project.