

TIMOTHY H. BISHOP  
1ST DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
AND LABOR

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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[www.house.gov/timbishop](http://www.house.gov/timbishop)

January 19, 2010

Theresa Leuffen, Director  
Office of the Supervisor  
Division of Women's Services  
**TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN**  
Brookhaven Town Hall  
One Independence Hill  
Farmingville, NY 11738

Dear Ms. Leuffen:

I am writing in support of a constituent and Town of Brookhaven "Women of the Year" Nominee, Allyson Scerri, Founder of New Beginnings Community Center, Farmingville, NY.

New Beginnings, a state-of-the-art neurological and physical rehabilitation facility, is Ms. Scerri's brainchild and dream. Via tragedy, Ms. Scerri's vision is coming true. Her father, Al Carbone, suffered a severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) causing Ms. Scerri to be thrown into a world of rehabilitation. Ms. Scerri found, however, that her "rehabilitation world" was void of , "...a superb TBI rehabilitation center on Long Island".

Thus began Ms. Scerri's New Beginning's journey, and, thankfully, our successful affiliation. Ms. Scerri reached out to me and requested my support of her project. As you may be aware, TBI and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) are the signature injuries of our returning Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom service members. According to the Pentagon, statistics confirm that up to 360,000 veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan may have suffered brain injuries. Many of those injuries are from IED blasts, and about 90% are so-called mild cases where recovery is expected. An estimated 45,000 to 90,000 victims, however, suffer persistent symptoms such as memory loss, lack of balance and problem-solving difficulties.

I am currently assisting Ms. Scerri in her mission to have New Beginning's become formally certified as a Tricare provider. Tricare is the medical insurance plan that covers active duty service members, military retirees, and veterans for five years after discharge from military service. In addition, I am assisting her in the navigation of various local government departments, in order that New Beginnings receive the

necessary health and zoning permits and certifications required for the building of a new facility.

As a Member of Congress, it is my professional obligation to ensure that our service members and veterans are provided the best healthcare possible. As a human being, it is my moral obligation to care. Thus, Allyson's honorable mission has easily become mine.

It is with pride that I recommend Allyson Scerri for recognition by the Town of Brookhaven. Her outstanding advocacy and commitment on behalf of the injured deserves our unending support, and special acknowledgement.

Thank you for your serious consideration of Ms. Scerri, and for your efforts in recognizing the outstanding women who reside in the Town of Brookhaven.

Should you wish to further discuss my recommendation of Ms. Scerri, please do not hesitate to contact Erin D'Eletto or me in my Coram District Office at 631.696.6500.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy Bishop', written in a cursive style.

TIMOTHY BISHOP  
Member of Congress

TB/emd