

Bank Opens With Splash of Cash

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Mayor Michael Pavia, center, bank officials and local administrators gather to cut the ribbon at Stamford First Bank.



Janet Bacco and Anjelica Haralambides of The Learning Center at Piper's Hill are Stamford First Bank's first customer



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Janet Bacco knows a lot about financial choices. She has to make plenty of them as business manager of The Learning Center at Piper's Hill preschool in Stamford. One issue she must deal with is where The Learning Center banks. When Stamford First Bank came to the city, her choice was easy.

"I have had a long relationship with [parent company] The Bank of New Canaan. I used to work for [the former] New Canaan Bank and Trust for 12 years," said Bacco. The Learning Center became Stamford First Bank's first customer when it opened soft on July 26.

Bacco and Anjelica Haralambides, executive director of the center, were on hand for the bank's grand opening Wednesday. They lauded the company's community focus.

"We feel a small bank that knows the customers in the community is a better bank. You feel more secure with your money," said Bacco, adding, "hometown banking, that's the way to go."

"This reminds me of the bank I grew up with," said Haralambides, who came of age in a small Massachusetts community.

SFB is located at 612 Bedford St. Divisional President Robert Palermo said the bank's emphasis on personal service is what sets it apart.

"We feel it's a hometown bank attitude and atmosphere we have," he said. "Our focus is small business. We're here to expand on our successes as a community bank."

To demonstrate the importance the bank places on community outreach, it is donating \$2,000 to the Stamford Senior Center. Palermo presented a ceremonial check to center Director Marcia O'Kane, who said it would be directed to programming for city seniors.

"We are so grateful for the generosity of Stamford First Bank and Mayor Pavia for helping us with this donation, especially in such a difficult budget year. We wish Stamford First Bank the very best," she said.