

## Project Hope opens doors to Hub's homeless, hapless

By **Michael Givens**

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**P**roject Hope, a Dorchester refuge for single mothers and the hungry and homeless, celebrated the opening of a \$5.4 million headquarters yesterday with a ribbon-cutting featuring pols and activists.

Project Hope began in 1981 when a group of nuns opened a facility on Magnolia Street in Dorchester to offer single moms and homeless families a safe community. For 25 years, thousands have benefited from the shelter's food pantry, residential units and children's center.

The modern facility is housed on Dudley Street in Dorchester and boasts a computer resource center, educational facilities, a career training program, a community room and a homelessness prevention program. "The organization really focuses on transformation," said Elizabeth Zarrella, director of development and external relations for Project Hope.

Mayor [Thomas M. Menino](#), Diane Patrick, wife of gubernatorial candidate [Deval Patrick](#), and state Rep. Marie St. Fleur (D-Dorchester) were some of the notables at the celebration.

The facility is most notable for being an environmentally friendly building, with low-flush toilets, natural lighting and a low-emission HVAC system. It was funded by Putnam Investments, the Massachusetts Housing Investment Corp., Strategic Grant Partners, the Lynch Foundation, the Reilly Foundation and the Department of Neighborhood Development.



Lawanda Durham and her son Eric, 18, yesterday attend the opening of the new Project Hope headquarters seen behind them on Dudley Street in Roxbury. (Staff photo by Ted Fitzgerald)