

# Hutch Metro Center inks health tenant

BY BEN KOCHMAN

The Bronx's new health hub got even healthier.

Affinity Health Plan has signed a lease to move into 95,000 square feet of office space at the Metro Center Atrium—a massive mixed-use complex nearing completion at Pelham Bay's Hutchinson Metro Center. The low-income insurance provider will be the Atrium's largest tenant after it completes its move from its headquarters at 2500 Halsey St. Affinity joins a legion of healthcare tenants at the complex, which is part of the larger, 42-acre Hutch Metro Center office park.

Montefiore Medical Center, Calvary Hospital, Fresenius Medical Care North America and Hanger Prosthetics are among the healthcare tenants that have already signed leases at the Atrium.

And the developer says he's not surprised that yet another healthcare company has chosen to lay

down its roots at the Hutch.

"The Metro Center Atrium has emerged as the premier location for healthcare companies and medical practices looking for state-of-the-art space in a convenient and central location with first-class amenities," said Joseph Simone, of Simone Development.

The Atrium, after it clears its review process with the Department of Buildings, will bring together many healthcare tenants who before were scattered throughout the borough. The health organizations are attracted by the amenities at the site, as well as the suburban levels of parking, said one member of the development team.

"We knew there was a need for medical practitioners to relocate to a full-service complex," said Joe Kelleher, president of Simone Metro Properties. "And here, with the ease of coming and going, there's nothing like it."

Doctors and patients will cer-

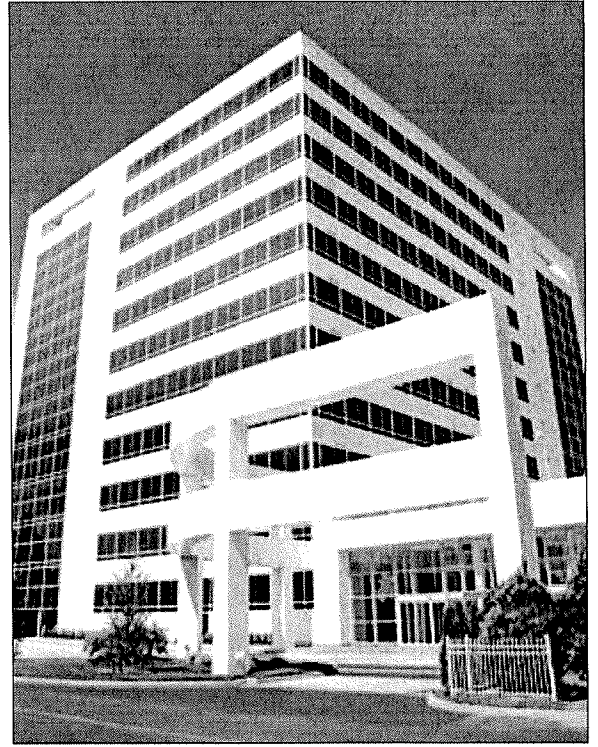
tainly have plenty to do before and after appointments. The Atrium also includes a 1,500 square-foot Dunkin' Donuts on the ground floor, and a 50,000 square-foot LA Fitness health club long-delayed but set to open any day now.

The facility will also host the borough's first Marriott Inn hotel. Simone will also be announcing a "family-style" restaurant opening at the Atrium, as soon as the lease is finalized.

The 370,000 square foot Atrium also includes a Children's Corner day care center.

It's all a far cry from what the site looked like in 2001, when Simone first snapped up the land, which was once an abandoned mental health treatment center.

Now the Hutch hosts the 460,000 square-foot 1200 Waters Place building, the nine-story Tower One next door, the Atrium, and a 280,000 square-foot office park called Tower Two, which is currently under development.



The Atrium at the Hutch Metro Center has found its flagship tenant - a 95,000-square-foot headquarters for insurance provider Affinity Health.

File Photo

## Throgs Neck LLers on a tear in upstate NY

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Throgs Neck Little League's 12U Allstars (12 and under) team is really on a tear.

The District 22 team defeated a powerhouse team from the South Shore of Staten Island 8-1 to win Section 5 of the Little League Tournament, which covers New York City and Nassau County, on Thursday, July 17.

They have now moved on to the New York State Little League Baseball Tournament in upstate Cicero, New York, where the early results as of press time have been equally as good.

According to TNLL president Frank Eisele, the Throgs Neck All Stars defeated a team from Whitestown, N.Y., near Syracuse N.Y., by a score of 7 to 1 on Monday, July 21.

Then, on Tuesday, July 22, they defeated another

team from the Buffalo, N.Y. area 5 to 3 behind two home runs, said Eisele.

"It is nice to see our boys are doing well," he said, adding the parents are excited. "One of our mom's streamed the game live."

Parents and boosters are getting behind the boys from the Bronx, and team manager Mike Hangan said that it was a team effort all the way.

"It is not a one-man show," he said. "It is all about the team playing together and working hard for the same common goal. It is a team sport."

He said that the team was confident.

"The team is ready to go play," said Hangan. "They are not afraid of anyone, and they are confident that they are going to be able to defeat anybody."

It was the first time

since 1967 that a team in the District 22 12U age range, which covers the east Bronx, has gone this far in the little league tournament baseball, said Hangan.

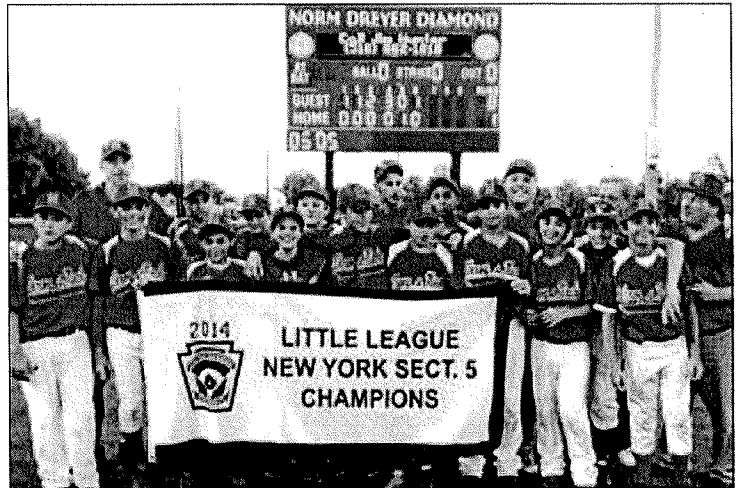
The last time that happened was with another Throgs Neck Little League team that three years later, in 1970, went to the finals of the little league World Series, said Eisele.

The Little League World Series is held every year in Williamsport, PA.

Hangan said that he was congratulated by the manager of the 1967 team Joe Routan.

"He said go get 'em and beat my record," said Hangan, who lives in Throgs Neck and who said he has been with the TNLL for about 10 years.

Hangan sees the strengths of his team as pitching and power hitting.



The team celebrates winning the New York Little League's Section 5 championship.

Photo courtesy of Donna Colon

"The believe, they work very hard, and they are not afraid of anybody," he said.

Update: The Throgs Neck Little League team is advancing to the semi-finals of the State

Tournament. They will play a team from Wappingers Falls, New York on Thursday, July 24.