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Day spa in Mount Kisco holds reopening party

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MOUNT KISCO - The re-opening party at the Richard Scott Salon and Day Spa in Mount Kisco was not just a celebration of a new and improved building but proof of the strength of a community.

Salon and spa owners Ricky Mason of Cortlandt and Joseph Norris of Briarcliff Manor threw the party to showcase their newly renovated salon that re-opens to the public today. The original was destroyed by fire Jan. 20. Attending yesterday were frequent clients, local civic leaders, Richard Scott employees, and perhaps most unusual, other area salon owners who lent their space and support to the 38 employees displaced by the fire.

"Ricky and his staff have developed a relationship with their competitors good enough so that the other salons would take them in - that is so unique," said Mount Kisco Mayor Michael Cindrach.

The Richard Scott salon employees were relocated to Zazo Salon, Kids' Style, and Adam and Eve in Bedford Hills as well as Salon Elle in Mount Kisco. The Saw Mill River Club hosted the day spa employees.

"The other salons and spas have been very gracious," said Joseph Norris. "We are the bigger guys and they helped us out anyway. I would really like to thank them for being so good to us."

Lydia Cassia of Cortlandt, who runs Salon Elle, was one of these generous salon owners.

"When I heard about the fire, I called Ricky to offer my help," she said. "One hand washes the other because life is full of surprises. You never know what's going to happen to you, and in the process we've met some great people from Richard Scott Salon."

A feeling of camaraderie was certainly present Thursday night as guests sipped champagne, snapped photos and ate hors d'oeuvres in a crowded hairdressing area turned temporarily into a formal party room.

"What they did was quite impressive," Cindrich said, "it would have been so easy for Ricky to just move out of Mount Kisco."

Mason and Norris invested five months and almost \$2 million to renovate the salon. The 7,000-square-foot building on South Moger Avenue has been expanded and upgraded to include new salon and spa equipment, a more accessible reception area, a redecorated nail spa, flat screen TVs, a lounge area, a new spray tan booth, new waxing rooms, and space for couples' massages.

"The salon looks just beautiful," said frequent customer Diane Vickers of Mount Kisco. "When I heard about the fire, I was worried about everyone who worked here. It's really like a family."

Fire investigators suspect the Saturday night blaze was accidentally sparked by a chemical reaction in a pile of massage-oil covered towels at Richard Scott, located on the second floor of 15-17 South Moger Ave. No one was injured in the fire that also temporarily closed down Cosi and Sleepy's located on the building's first floor.

"When the fire happened, we were all afraid of losing our jobs," said senior receptionist Mary Leonelli of Eastchester. "But Ricky and Joseph were great and we were all back at a job within a few days. Now, I can't wait for us all to be back together again. It's been a long time."