

SPRING GALA FEATURES COMMUNITY AWARDS & AUCTIONS “Magic Moments” to Occur on May 20th



Gary M. Johnson

Every now and then we all live a “Magic Moment” that stays with us forever. Wouldn’t it be nice to recapture that feeling and share it with friends and family?

On Saturday, May 20, 2006, many of us will share a whole evening of Magic Moments when we come together for Bridges’ Annual Awards Dinner and Auction Gala at the Omni Hotel in New Haven. Elegant surroundings, wonderful food, and the company of friends, neighbors and business colleagues are assured. Awards will be presented to the following people: Robert Macklin of the Milford Bank; Gary Johnson of United Way of Milford; Mayor James Richetelli of Milford; John Barrett of Barrett Outdoor Communications. **Awardees not pictured include: Bruce Barrett of Barrett Outdoor Communications; Linda Knoedler, Charlie and Dawn DeMaio and Elaine Brown, volunteers at the H.O.P.E. Soup Kitchen in West Haven.** If one particular honoree plays a special role in your life, you will want to be among those who pay tribute to them at the event.

Live and silent auctions will run throughout the evening as will music for listening, dancing or singing along. Brian Smith of WICC will keep things rolling as Master of Ceremonies, courtesy of the station and Brian himself. What an evening it will be! Up for bids at the auctions will be an assortment of sports memorabilia (some autographed), original art and a huge selection of exciting items that will appeal to the taste of everyone. Gold jewelry, baskets stuffed with goodies... too much to list here.

A souvenir journal will include messages to the honorees and other greetings and ads. To insert your message, or for more information, please see page 6.



Robert V. Macklin



Hon. James L. Richetelli, Jr.



John E. Barrett

If you would like to receive an invitation to this once-in-a-lifetime Magic Moment, please contact Judy Goldwyn at (203) 878-6365 ext. 322 or jsgoldwyn@bridgesmilford.org.



FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO



Barry Kasdan

A Call To Action

This column was going to talk about the exciting news of our recent acquisition of the property next door. But let me hold on that for the next newsletter.

I have chosen to rewrite my message for this month to address a very urgent and potentially troubling development with the state budget, our source for over 80% of Bridges' funds.

Governor Rell and the Appropriations Committee have recommended a 2% cost of living increase in the budget that funds our programs for Fiscal Year '07.

Well, not really 2%, since it is effective in October '06, and our fiscal year begins on July 1. The 9 month difference would bring the increase down to 1.5%.

If that was not bad enough, an egregious piece of legislation enacted last year calls for an 18% administrative cap on grants. This poorly conceived legislation was reviewed by the states' Office of Legislative Research which identified serious problems with it. Most striking was the fact that there were no standards identified, no methodology used and no agreement between funding sources as to how it would be implemented. The bottom line is that there is no standardization in the hundreds of grant-funded agencies, each of which calculates their costs with no analysis or oversight by the state. Administrative costs, however defined, fell into a range of 0% to 40% across agencies in Connecticut. That by itself

tells you that a problem exists. If nothing is done quickly, grants will be cut. For Bridges that could be over \$200,000 dollars in positions and services that will be curtailed.

But let's go back to the 2% (really 1.5%) cost of living increase. Combine these two items together and we have an increase closer to 0%. So now we are talking about even greater losses of services to our local communities. Services that the State of Connecticut contracts with us to provide, yet somehow cannot understand its obligation to sustain at reasonable funding levels.

- We urge everyone: our Board, staff, families, consumers and friends to **contact the Governor and local legislators immediately** to say that the 2% is not adequate for the community providers to operate at full capacity. We are in **great need of a cost of living increase at 4.5% to maintain full service.**
- We are also urging the Legislature to correct the deficiencies or eliminate the 18% A & G Legislation that will dictate cuts for Bridges and other non-profits across Connecticut.

Please call, write or e-mail your area legislators today. Time is short and the risks are alarming.

Very truly yours,

BRIDGES WEBSITE "LIVE" THANKS TO IT DIRECTOR



Cathy Slavin

How does a girl who was raised in Greenwich, who has degrees in biology and medical technology become the Director of IT at Bridges? We wondered about that, and asked Cathy Slavin to tell us about it. In 1979, Cathy was working as a medical technologist at Yale-New Haven Hospital. As part of her job, she was asked to troubleshoot department equipment, including computers. It was the start of a love affair between Cathy and computers and she decided to move

into the field so she could do what she loves.

Hired into a work/training program, at Burndy Corp. in Norwalk, Cathy quickly learned her trade and moved up the ranks as a programmer. A job at Dun and Bradstreet gave her the opportunity to join a pioneer team innovating new technological applications to telemarketing. When she left D & B she was Manager of Systems, and became a great deal more knowledgeable about how computers work, and what they can do.

Cathy came to Bridges in September 2004 at a time when

the agency's reliance on computers was expanding rapidly. The one-person department needed to grow proportionally to keep up with the many and varied needs of Bridges' staff. Since she arrived, Cathy has implemented the installation of a new server and other security upgrades to make Bridges HIPAA-compliant, and improved the billing system.

"I felt welcome from the very first day," Cathy said. "Not only is the staff a wonderful group of people, but they appreciate the role of technology in their ability to do their jobs more efficiently."

Now, Cathy is very happy to announce that Bridges went "Live" on April 6th with a website that has been under construction for many months. "Information about the agency with links to other services was the first priority," she said. "When we were able to offer links to some of our fund-raising events and put our newsletter online, it was time to go live. Now we have a good balance of information about programs and services along with information about upcoming events. It's what people have been asking us for, and we're glad to have it up and running," Cathy said. Although she reminds us there are still links "under construction," Bridges' web site is up and running in time for Folks on Spokes/Folks and Foot 2006. "That will make a lot of people very happy," she says.

PLANNED GIVING AT BRIDGES

As Bridges confronts future challenges, we know that the generosity of those who support the agency will make a major difference in our ability to serve our clients. That is why we provide the following gift opportunities for you to consider:

BEQUESTS

A bequest is the simplest and most direct way to ensure perpetual support. A bequest transfers specific property or assets to Bridges' Endowment when your estate is settled. You may bequeath all or a portion of your estate to the agency. You may choose to direct that the residual value of your estate or a percentage of it to go to Bridges' Endowment after other terms of your estate plan have been fulfilled.

GIFTS OF LIFE INSURANCE

A life insurance policy purchased at some point in one's life may not continue to hold its importance as circumstances may change. A gift of an unneeded life insurance policy to Bridges' Endowment may prove a benefit to a donor by providing an opportunity to make a significant gift, simplifying estate planning and reducing estate taxes.

GIFTS OF REAL ESTATE OR PERSONAL PROPERTY

Gifts of valuable personal property, a second home or other real estate require careful planning. We would be happy to discuss the benefits to you and to Bridges of such a gift.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS

A Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust and a Charitable Remainder Unitrust are similar, yet different, gift plans by which you may secure for yourself and/or your spouse an income for life or for a specific term of years while concurrently making a significant gift to Bridges' Endowment. In each case your gift to Bridges is placed in Trust. With a Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust, you will receive an annual income based upon a fixed percentage of the trust's initial value. With a Charitable Remainder Unitrust you will receive an annual income based upon a fixed percentage of the trust's current value. The advantages of these charitable trusts may provide for increased income, capital gains and estate tax savings, and combined with a life insurance trust may allow may increased assets to be passed on to loved ones. At the termination of the either charitable trust the final principal is a gift to Bridges' Endowment Fund.

We recommend that you obtain the professional counsel of a gift and estate planning attorney to benefit you and the organizations you care about the most. We can work with your attorney or other advisors to assist you.

There are many other options to consider: A gift of cash; living trust; closely held stock; charitable lead trusts, and many more. To take your first step toward deciding which option suits your circumstances, call Robert H. Morgan, Chief Development Officer at Bridges at (203) 878-6365 ext. 419 in confidence.

Bridges...A Community Support System, Inc. does not engage in rendering legal or tax advisory service. For advice and assistance to specific cases, the services of an attorney should be obtained. The purpose of this column is to provide accurate and authoritative information of a general character only. Advice from legal counsel should be sought when considering wills, trusts, or other charitable gifts.



*To access Bridges' website log onto
www.bridgesmilford.org*

ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST FEATURE OF MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

On May 10th, Bridges' Annual Photo Contest will culminate when winners are announced at a reception at NewAlliance Bank on the Green in Milford. The public is invited to attend between 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. at the bank.



2005 Winner-1st Place
Brenda Harvey's
Magnolia Garden, Charleston, SC

Responding to last year's unprecedented volume of entries, the committee, headed by Milford Photo's Lee Berchem, is considering alternatives for increasing wall space at the bank. The contest entries will hang at the bank for weeks after the reception where people are invited to come in and see the show. Winners will be designated after they are announced on the 10th.

The photo contest was initiated in 2001 at the suggestion of Bridges staff member David Jacob as a way to recognize Mental Health Month throughout the communities of Milford, Orange, West Haven and surrounding communities served by Bridges. As the state-designated mental health and addiction services agency for the region, Bridges serves thousands of adults, children, adolescents and families each year, helping them toward recovery from a wide variety of behavioral issues.

Photographers of all ages and all levels of ability are invited to submit entries.



PHOTO CONTEST AND SHOW Entry Requirements and Restrictions

1. Black and white and color prints will be accepted.
2. Each photographer may submit up to **3** entries.
3. The subject of each entry must be an original photograph related to the theme
"MAGIC MOMENTS"
4. Prints must be matted, framed and wired for hanging, either horizontal or vertical. Frame outside dimensions must be no less than 8" x 10" and no more than 16" x 20". Unframed photographs, slides and formats other than prints will not be accepted.
5. Entries will be accepted at Milford Photo, 22 River Street from Thursday, April 27-Saturday, April 29, 2006 only.
6. All prints must be identified with the name of the photographer, address and telephone number on the back of the mat, along with the title or subject of the photograph.
7. Prints will be hung at NewAlliance Bank for approximately 3-5 days prior to the reception and one month after the reception. All submissions must be available for that time.
8. A fee of \$6.00 will be charged for each individual submission to cover costs associated with this event.

Checks should be made out to
"Bridges...A Community Support System, Inc."
and accompany submission.
Inquiries (203) 878-6365 ext 322

PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City and Zip _____

Telephone: Day _____ Evening _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Number of photos submitted _____ Amount enclosed (\$6 each) \$ _____

A maximum of **3** photographs per artist will be accepted. I hereby certify that I am the photographer of the submitted photo(s). I understand that Bridges and its sponsors will not be liable for any claim, loss or damage to my photographs. Bridges may use my name and images of my photograph for advertising or other purposes connected with this contest.

Signature _____

1. Title _____

3. Title _____

Location _____

Location _____

2. Title _____

Location _____

Please identify each submission on the back with your name, address and telephone number. Entries will be accepted at Milford Photo from April 27-29, 2006. Fee must accompany entry. Entries to be donated to Bridges should be marked accordingly. Other photographs must be picked up at Milford Photo between June 8-10, 2006. Store hours: M-F 9-7, Sat. 9-4.

For information call
(203) 878-6365 ext 322

BRIDGES RECEIVES HONORS AND AWARDS

SPEAKER AMANN SELECTS BRIDGES FOR “DRUG FREE AMERICA” AWARD

Speaker of the House James Amann was honored by the Florida-based foundation, Drug Free America on February 17th. The Moxie Award was presented to Amann and State Representative Toni Boucher at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.

In addition to the award, the Drug Free America Foundation contributed \$1,000 each for drug treatment for two children in Connecticut, one in Speaker Amann’s name and one in Representative Boucher’s name. Amann designated Bridges as recipient of the award in his name saying, “...the dedicated people at Bridges are the real heroes in the first line against drug use and addiction.”

Accompanying the Speaker at the presentation was Barry Kasdan, President/CEO of Bridges.



(L to R) Barry Kasdan, President/CEO; Speaker of the House, James Amann; Calvin Fay, Executive Director of Drug Free America; State Representative, Toni Boucher.

BRIDGES PROGRAM TAKES FIRST PLACE IN CONNECTICUT ELKS COMPETITION

Several months ago, a phone call from Bridges’ friend and supporter, Jim Victor, started a series of events that resulted in a very welcome grant for Bridges’ Horticultural Therapy program.

Victor, active in Milford Elks Lodge, described the Connecticut State Elks Special Charity Award in which each of the four districts offer two grants to charities in their area. Milford Elks is one of nine lodges in the Elks’ Coastal District. There are 35 Lodges and 22,000 Elks in the state of Connecticut. The Elks have over a million members nationwide. Their focus is on God and country and their priorities are on veterans and youth.

If Bridges’ had a program that might benefit from the \$1,500 or \$1,000 grant, he suggested that a proposal be prepared for submission. Christa Jacaruso and Keri Krissik, who run the Horticultural Therapy program for adult clients, were enthusiastic about the potential for funding prior to the start of the gardening season. A proposal was written and hand delivered two days later.

The review took several weeks, making its way from Milford Lodge, headed by Don McNulty, to State Vice President of the Coastal District Alan Baranyai and finally to the state level, President Frank Hegedus. Both Jim Victor and David Field of Milford Lodge were in touch by telephone and optimistic about Bridges’ Horticultural Therapy program’s chances of being funded.

During the week when spring officially began, the phone call came. Milford Elks were happy to say that Bridges’ Horticultural Therapy Program will be funded with the \$1,500 top grant this year. Bridges’ sincere appreciation goes to the Elks Lodges, local and state, and to the men who helped facilitate the grant for this program.

CONNECTICUT HEALTH FOUNDATION GRANT FOCUSES ON CHILDREN’S NEEDS

Bridges, in partnership with the Children’s Division of the Connecticut Community Providers Association (CCPA) recently received a grant that will promote a statewide advocacy initiative on behalf of community based children’s mental health services. Both Bridges and CCPA have a long history of involvement and leadership in advocating for the behavioral health services at the local, regional and state levels. The partnership represents a creative synergy between the lead provider agency and a state-wide trade association.

The advocacy campaign will be aimed at overcoming a historical lack of understanding of the need for and importance of children’s mental health services within the continuum of care of community services. The situation resulted in poor planning and decision making that lead to chronic under-funding that has put the systems in gridlock.

Public information and education will support the need for adequate funding to both sustain and enhance community based children’s mental health services in Connecticut. The funds will be used to develop and mass produce print and visual materials showing national and state mental health data along with personal stories to illustrate the importance of children’s mental health services within the continuum of care of the health care system. The goal is to garner recognition of the problem and public support of programs that will address it.



SAY IT IN WRITING

We'll put it in writing for you in the Magic Moments Gala Souvenir Journal. Just give us the words!

Your message, whether to congratulate one of Bridges Community Service Award honorees, to thank someone or wish them well on an occasion, will be a permanent record and will be distributed to each guest at the Magic Moments Gala on May 20th.

You don't have to be there to receive your copy of the journal. We'll save one for everyone who purchases an ad. Please cut out the form and send it to Bridges Gala, 949 Bridgeport Avenue, Milford CT 06460 with your payment.

Congratulate an honoree ~ Send a message to an individual ~ Send a message to Bridges ~ Advertise your business

Yes, Please put my message in the Souvenir Journal (Copy Sizes Are Below)

___ Cover (as available) \$200.00	4 1/2" x 7 1/4"	___ Quarter Page \$25.00	3 1/2" x 2" (business card)
___ Full Page \$100.00	4 1/2" x 7 1/4"	___ 10 Word Greeting \$10.00	(text only listing)
___ Half Page \$ 50.00	3 1/2" x 4 1/2"	Deadline for all Journal material is April 28.	

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Message: _____

Enclosed is my payment in the amount of \$ _____ .

Charge my message to my credit card: # _____ Mastercard VISA Discover Card

Name on Card _____ Expiration Date _____

Specs: Journal will be printed in one color; camera-ready copy should conform to stated sizes; please print clearly if you are handwriting your message.



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SAVE THE DATE
FOLKS ON SPOKES
FOLKS ON FOOT
September 17, 2006

Address Service Requested

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MISSION STATEMENT

Bridges provides a comprehensive range of outpatient mental health, addiction, community support and home-based services for children, families and adults residing in Milford, Orange, West Haven and their surrounding communities.



Serving the Communities of Milford, Orange and West Haven
Bridges is supported by: CT Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services
CT Dept. of Children & Families - CT Dept. of Mental Retardation
CT Dept. of Social Services - CT Health Fdn. - U.S. Dept. of Juvenile Justice
United Way of Milford - City of Milford
Milford Board of Education - Town of Orange
Bridges is accredited by CARF for integrated behavioral programs.