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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.

Support Bridges Through Planned Giving

Bequests provide an easy and direct way to give to Bridges' Endowment Fund. Interest from this fund will help ensure the finest in mental health and addiction services for years to come. For information on bequests and other planned giving vehicles, please contact Robert H. Morgan, Chief Development Officer at Bridges at (203) 878-6365 ext. 419.

SPRING 2007

Letter from the President/CEO



Dear Friends,

For those who haven't already seen or heard, Bridges has a new tagline and logo to commemorate our 50th Anniversary.



The tagline and logo are designed to work with and bolster the message delivered by our very recognizable corporate name – "Bridges ... A Community Support System, Inc." When used with the existing Bridges logo, *Pathways to Health, Hope & Recovery* signifies that, while our mission remains unchanged, we have reached a significant milestone and adapted to the changing needs of our community.

I am sure a thousand words or more couldn't come close to communicating our dedication to the community and

the multitude of ways we help. Still, any opportunity to add depth to the ongoing conversation we must continue to have with all of our stakeholders is welcome.

So as we looked forward to 2007 and our golden anniversary, we recognized that – once again – the time had come to refine our message. We began the process with open minds but always knew that the dramatic step of changing our name wasn't the solution we were looking for.

Developing a new messaging platform began with a simple question: do the communities we serve truly understand who we are and all of the ways we can help? That is to say, if there is even one person out there who could use our help but doesn't know it is available, that is one too many.

I hope that the entire community finds the same inspiration, courage and compassion, I see in the new tagline and logo. I also trust we all recognize that Bridges' most vital message will always be delivered by continuing a half-century long legacy of service.

Barry Kasdan

Join Us for Bridges' 50th Anniversary Gala

On Saturday evening, May 19, 2007 people united by their connection to Bridges will come together to honor the organization for its half century of commitment to the community.

Held at the beautiful Grassy Hill Country Club in Orange the black-tie-optional

event includes a gourmet meal, dancing to live music and a silent auction. Attending the gala – themed "Pathways to Help Hope & Recovery," is a great way to show support for Bridges and – at the same time – have a great night out.

To purchase individual tickets, sponsor a table or for more information, contact Ann Loesch at 203.878.6365 ext. 359 or aloesch@bridgesmilford.org.

Let Your Voice Be Heard

Speak out on behalf of Bridges and all of Connecticut's community healthcare providers

Bridges and other similar non-profit organizations operating in Connecticut have a simple agenda: to provide the people of our communities with the best possible health care services.

Unfortunately, the recently proposed state budget does not include any "Cost Of Living Allowance" (COLA) to help us keep pace with continuously rising expenses. Faced with inflation, rising salaries and other operational expenses, a zero-percent increase in the two-year budget will lead to a deficit of close to \$500,000 in the first year and \$1,000,000 the second.

On March 29, a coalition of supporters 1,200 strong held a major public event at the Legislative Office Building to request that our state legislators support a 7% to 5% COLA in the biennium budget. The message delivered was: this isn't about money; it is about preventing any holes in an important safety net for the most vulnerable among us.

And while, we feel that we made our point



Tom Monahan of Channel 30 news interviewing Heather Gates, President/CEO of Community Health Resources and Senator Jonathan Harris at the rally.

and our message was heard, we know the struggle continues. The most persuasive voice in support of giving Connecticut's community health care providers an adequate increase in funding belongs to the people. That is why we ask you to contact your local legislators and let them know that you back our request for funding that will allow our efforts to continue undiminished. So, please take the time to write a letter or pick up the phone and let your opinion be known.

News in Brief

Bridges Kicks Off 50th Anniversary Celebration

First Event Draws Big Crowd

On March 5th a standing-room-only crowd of local dignitaries, staffers and friends gathered to mark the official start of Bridges 50th Anniversary celebrations. After short speeches by Barry Kasdan and Ray Vitali, the mayors of West Haven and Milford and the first selectman of Orange presented Bridges with proclamations.

Theme for 2007 Photo Contest: Pathways Entries Accepted Now

Themed for Bridges 50th Anniversary celebration, Bridges annual photo contest is now underway. For entrance forms, call Ann Loesch at 203.878.6365 ext.359 or stop by NewAlliance Bank – Milford Green Branch, 68 Broad St. or Milford Photo, 22 River St., Milford.

May is Mental Health Month

May 2 Annual photo contest reception, NewAlliance Bank on the Green in Milford.

May 19 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner, Grassy Hill Country Club, 441 Clark Lane, Orange.

September 16 Folks on Spokes/Folks on Foot, Fowler Field, Milford.



949 Bridgeport Avenue
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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. Bridges is licensed by the State of CT Dept. of Children & Families, and CT Dept. of Public Health.

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