

A Community Support System

www.bridgesmilford.org

Phone 203.878.6365 Fax 203.877.3088

Barry Kasdan, *President/CEO*
bakasdan@bridgesmilford.org

Robert H. Morgan, *Chief Development Officer*
rmorgan@bridgesmilford.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Claire C. Phelan, *Chairperson*
John Biancur, *Vice Chair-Administration*
William J. Sidarweck, *Vice Chair-Programs*
Shaun M. Mee, *Treasurer*
Margaret Jerrell, *Assistant Treasurer*
Robert H. Boynton, Esq., *Secretary*
Raymond Vitali, *Past Chairperson*

Kathy Anderson	Rachel Merva
Michael Buckley	Charles Montalbano
Tom Casey	Robert Russo
Joan Cretella	Michael Storz
George R. Gerhard	Hon. Beverly Streit-Kefalas
Michelle LeMere	Timothy Walsh
Nick Maida	Ann B. Yost
John McGill	Rev. Arthur Yost

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.

SUMMER 2008

Letter from the President/CEO



Dear Friends,

I know that every single person reading this letter is feeling the effects of rapidly increasing costs of just about everything. This is a pain we all feel collectively. While no one can escape the perils of our troubled economy, it seems to bring the greatest hardship to those struggling with mental health and addiction related issues.

Bridges relies on the State as its primary source for funding. And yet, with inflation pushing the costs of providing services ever higher, funding for this fiscal year remains at 2007 levels. The obvious consequence would seem to be cutbacks to critical services to so many within our community.

Unwilling to surrender the well-being of the people of Milford, West Haven and Orange, Bridges seeks to fill in budgetary gaps by pursuing grants from various sources. To date, those pursuits have met with considerable success (more on that later in this newsletter).

In the current economic climate, it seems maintaining the scope of our services at last year's level would be a laudable goal. Anybody familiar with the dedicated staff at Bridges would have to know that simply treading water would never be good enough. Our goal is to expand the scope of existing programs and add new, relevant programs as needed.

Amidst all of this talk about finances, for Bridges, a positive bottom line has never been a measure of success. Instead, it is measured by how many people who need our assistance we are able to help. It is measured in how many individuals struggling with addiction we assist down the path of recovery. It is measured in how many unemployed people we assist in getting, and keeping, meaningful jobs. It is measured in how many kids at-risk of dropping out of school we help find academic achievement.

Although we define success in human terms, rather than monetary terms, statistical data tell us every dollar spent on mental health and addiction care services represents seven fewer dollars spent on law enforcement, emergency medical treatment and similar services.

Barry Kasdan

Bridges Awarded New Grants

Bridges received a \$125,000 grant from the Connecticut Health Foundation to fund the development of a plan to reduce the number of children in Milford entering the Juvenile Justice System. Bridges, as the convening agency, is partnering with the Milford Board of Education and Department of Public Health to accomplish the goals of the 18-month grant.

The Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut awarded Bridges \$25,000

to fund behavioral health counseling and community support services for older adults (60+) in Milford, Orange and West Haven. The money is earmarked to fund behavioral health counseling and community support for seniors.

Bridges' Open Door Social Club received \$7,802 from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to develop leadership skills among its governing officers.

Continued on next page ...

... continued from front page

Our Jail Diversion Program was awarded \$19,800 grant from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to fund an initiative to train individuals who have prior involvement in the criminal justice system to become consumer advocates.

The Ethel and Abe Lapes Foundation gave \$500 to assist with costs associated with Bridges Across Ages Mentoring program.

“Folks on Spokes” adds Metric Century

Folks on Spokes is a non-competitive bicycle tour along the beautiful scenic coast of south central Connecticut ranging in distance from five miles up to the new Metric Century. The course is well marked and includes four fully-stocked rest stops. Maps are provided.

“Folks on Foot” is a 5K (3.1mile) non-competitive walk or run from Fowler Field to Fort Trumbull Beach and back.

Entry fees, if received by September 12, are \$25 for adults for the rides and \$12 for the walk. Children 12 and under accompanied by a registered adult is \$5. All participants receive an event tee shirt and a complementary lunch. Music will be provided by “The Federation.”

Once again, the event will feature the “Community Challenge” award. Milford, Orange and West Haven compete for the most new participants, with the winner’s trophy showcased for the year in their town.



949 Bridgeport Avenue
Milford, CT 06460

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 Developmental Services, CT Dept. of Social Services, CT Health Fdn., United Way of Milford, City of Milford, Milford Board of Education, Town of Orange, U.S. Department of Education.

Bridges is accredited by Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitative Facilities (CARF), for its clinical programs, community support services and residential programs. Bridges is licensed by the State of CT Dept. of Children & Families, and CT Dept. of Public Health.



Members of The Federation. Left to right: Duane Berge, Drums & Vocals, J. Dale Rose, Bass & Vocals, Gnorm, Guitar & Vocals

Participants raising money from sponsorships, will receive awards from Tony’s Bikes & Sports in Milford ranging from gift certificates to a free bicycle, depending on amounts raised.

Both FOS and FOF begin and end at Fowler Field in Milford. Check-in begins at 7 a.m. for the Metric Century and 50-mile rides, up to 11 a.m. for shorter distances.

For further information or for sponsorships go to www.bridgesmilford.org or contact Ann Loesch at Bridges (203) 878-6365 ext. 359, e-mail aloesch@bridgesmilford.org.

Mentors Needed

The Across Ages Mentoring Program, sponsored by Bridges, is looking for adult volunteers over the age of 45 who are willing to serve as positive role models for middle school aged youth. Volunteers will receive training and support throughout the program. To learn more contact Lisa Biagioni at Bridges at (203) 878-6365 x331.

News in Brief

In Memoriam: Jan Holloway

Jan Holloway, whose career at Bridges spanned four decades, two organizational name changes and the acquisition of our permanent home, passed away June 27, 2008. In an interview published in the Bridges 50th Anniversary Journal, Ms. Holloway was asked about how Bridges had changed over the years. Her response: “Actually, what hasn’t changed is most important. The passion and commitment that the Bridges’ staff brings to everything they do is just as apparent now as it was the first day I walked through the door.”

She will be deeply missed.



Proud participants of Bridges’ Across Ages Mentoring Program march in Milford’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #46
Milford, CT 06460