

Bridgeway Welcomes A New Era

For more than 50 years, central and northern New Jersey families have relied on Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services for intensive home and community based mental health care for their loved ones. Over the years, primary care physicians, local hospitals, and human service organizations, have referred individuals for the specialized programs and services that have made Bridgeway a go-to mental health care provider.

Beginning July 1, 2021, after decades of service delivery as Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services, Bridgeway's name will become *Bridgeway Behavioral Health Services*.

“This name change reflects Bridgeway’s diversification of services and consolidation of facilities all at once. When our founding Board of Trustees and leadership staff were thinking of a name for the organization, more than four decades ago, Bridgeway was a much smaller organization, providing psychiatric rehabilitation programming to about 200 people in Union County” said Cory Storch, President and CEO.



Cory Storch, CEO

Over the past year, while New Jerseyans were forced to stay at home, the leadership at Bridgeway were preparing for a new era of integrated health care delivery marked by a new name and a new multi-use headquarters in Union.

Mr. Storch explained “You really can’t separate the mind and the body when it comes to providing high quality health care. Rather than maintain the status quo during the pandemic, we began preparing a 25,000 square foot building at 373 Clermont Terrace to house all of Bridgeway’s administrative offices, and five clinical programs, with room to spare for a primary care clinic.”

373 Clermont Terrace Projected Opening September 2021



We're Hiring! More from Neal Wesley, Recruiter, Inside ...

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www.bridgewaybhs.org

Spotlight on Excellence



Pictured left to right: Joe Perez, Cory Storch, and Amy Spagnolo

After three years as Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Amy Spagnolo will step down and resume her role as Trustee. When asked to remark about Amy's tenure as Chairperson, her fellow Board Trustees offered "Amy has unwavering dedication to Bridgeway's mission ... her leadership during the last incredible year was exceptional ... she led brilliantly during the most challenging time in recent memory ... Amy set us on a great direction for the future ... she is an inspiration and a role model for us all." Turning over the reins as Vice Chair is Mark Williams. He said "I really appreciate all I have learned from Amy's mentorship and leadership."

Bridgeway welcomes Joe Perez, Chairperson; Marlene Baldinger, Vice Chairperson; and Kate Conroy, Secretary, the newest representatives of excellence on the Bridgeway Board of Trustees.

An excerpt from a letter sent by a recipient of services addressed to Stephanie Simon, LCSW, NCPsA, CCS, DRCC, Director of Bridgeway Crisis Intervention Services in Jersey City:

I had contemplated counseling in the past but never saw it as a priority until I suddenly found myself alone in quarantine at the start of the COVID pandemic in the US.... The Bridgeway counseling program for people affected by COVID was brought to my attention by my mother who knew I was seeking counseling. To my surprise I was amazed at how quickly everything fell into place and how convenient it was to be able to do sessions over video chat. My counselor, Clarice, made me feel comfortable from the very beginning. I quickly built a sense of trust that allowed me to share how I was feeling. ... I am so grateful that my counseling experience in Bridgeway has allowed me to take such difficult times and turn them into opportunities of growth. Thanks to you, Clarice and the rest of your team that give of your time and talents to walk so many people like me through difficult times.



Stephanie Simon

Residents of Hudson County who want help through challenging times can get counseling, regardless of ability to pay, by contacting Stephanie's team. Call 201-885-2539.

Peter Pogany, owner of Rapps Pharmacy, has the distinction of being the largest single donor in Bridgeway's history. Peter has also served as Chair of Bridgeway's Golf Classic for 15 years running. This June, after taking a year off due to the pandemic, the golfers were back at the spectacular Echo Lake Country Club, raising funds to support the expansion of Bridgeway programs and services to fit an integrated care model that will serve more people with more services into the future.

Many thanks to all the corporate sponsors who supported Bridgeway's 2021 Golf Classic. Please contact Lisa Giannascoli, Director of Marketing and Development, for information about the 2022 Golf Classic at 908-635-7647, or by email at lisa.giannascoli@bridgewaybhs.org.

Thank you Sponsors!



Pictured L to R: Bob Edes, Connor Egan, Bill Egan, Peter Pogany

An Immediate Positive Impact

Bridgeway's HR department is hard at work making sure that the benefits and lifestyle offered at Bridgeway attract the best and brightest candidates to fill vital roles. Here are some of the reasons Bridgeway staff join the Bridgeway family, and stay for a long time:

- As a member of a Bridgeway multi-disciplinary team, staff have an immediate positive impact on people's lives
- High degree of sensitivity and support for the need for *work-life balance*
- Competitive pay with regular raises and bonuses
- Professional development of staff is a high priority for Bridgeway leadership
- Unique community-based positions offer independence and team support

View a list of current opportunities at Bridgeway by visiting www.bridgewaybhs.org and clicking on the Careers tab. Please contact Neal Wesley, Recruiter, by calling 201-306-3809, or by email cornelius.wesley@bridgewaybhs.org.

A Special Gift



This is JoAnn Loewy and her daughter Lauren Mendonca. Lauren was following in her mother's footsteps as a direct care wellness specialist, caring for people in Bridgeway's Supportive Housing program in Union County when her mother passed away due to Covid-19. When Lauren got vaccinated against the virus, she was wearing her Mom's CNA sweatshirt. In honor of JoAnn Loewy, Lauren has set up an annual \$1,000 fund to assist someone at Bridgeway who is pursuing a health care education. Please contact Lisa Giannascoli for more information: lisa.giannascoli@bridgewaybhs.org

Bridgeway Staff Awarded

Each year, the New Jersey Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association, NJPRA, recognizes excellence in mental health care professionals who are providing psychiatric rehabilitation services to New Jerseyans. Bridgeway is proud to announce that in June 2021, three direct care staff, and three supervisors were recognized!

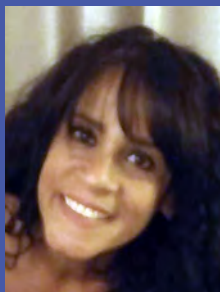
Direct Care Staff of the Year

Supervisors of the Year



Sharon
Teague

Co-Occurring Specialist, HOST Homeless Outreach "Sharon has been a leader in assisting the team with managing stressors related to social unrest and promoting utilizing these coping skills with person served."



Milagros
Pastrana-Cardona

Justice Involved Services, Team Leader, 15 yrs "Millie will meet someone on the day of release and walk them through the process of getting benefits, making sure they have a safe place to rest their head."



Raymond
Delgado

Dual Recovery Counselor, 18 yrs PACT I Elizabeth "Ray is quiet until he feels someone's rights have been violated. Then he will be the loudest advocate until the person gets what they need."



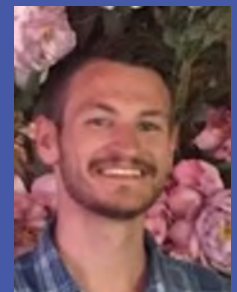
Yasmin
Paramo

Social Worker, MSW, LSW, LCADC PACT Team Leader Elizabeth "Yasmin is dedicated to providing intensive support to individuals. They call at all times of the day and night for her support."



Allison
Schmidt

Counselor, RIST Elizabeth "Aly always meets people where they are. She molds her clinical skills to the nuanced and individual needs of each person served."



George
Vessels

PATH-Homeless Outreach Team Leader Union County "George goes above and beyond to ensure all person served referred are assisted within 24hours."

Bridgeway's Unsung Heroes

In the forward to her book *Witness Awakening*, Marie McCarthy thanked God, her family, and her professional helpers, including Bridgeway staff person, Patti Packard, sexual assault therapist. Patti Packard, MSW, LCSW, is the Team Leader for three vital services offered by the Sussex Community Support Teams site in Newton, NJ, Integrated Case Management, Community Support Services and PATH Homeless Outreach. Patti applies her experience with domestic abuse and trauma work, Supportive Housing Services, Partial Care, Supported Employment and Psychiatric Emergency services to guide staff in service provision in Sussex County. She is an Adjunct Professor at Sussex County Community College, and has the distinction of being the first staff to work at the first Early Intervention Support Services site in NJ. She is also a Reiki Master. Patti exemplifies excellence at Bridgeway!



Patti Packard,
Team Leader



Jill Hampton,
Bridgeway Human
Resources Specialist

Jill Hampton is one of the people behind the scenes at Bridgeway who provides customer service to the staff so they can focus on providing mental health care. As Human Resources Specialist, Jill is the go-to person for all staff needs regarding payroll and benefits. That's not the only reason Jill is so popular! According to her co-workers, Jill's expertise and dedication are exemplary. Jill said "I feel that during the pandemic, we lost a connection to our staff. I think people feel more comfortable coming to you with questions when they can see you face to face. We've had to do staff orientations on zoom. Then again, we are more easily accessible now. Sometimes people just need someone they trust to talk to about things that effect their personal lives." Jill is excellent at explaining why Bridgeway is a great place to work. "Bridgeway makes employee benefits available after only 30 days compared to other organizations that make staff wait 90 days, or some even 6 months." Jill explains, "Another great reason to work for Bridgeway is our health reimbursement account. I really try to educate people." No matter how busy she is, Jill wants everyone to feel free to call her. While she has you on the phone, you are guaranteed to learn a thing or two!

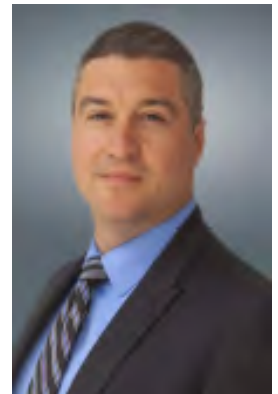
Bridgeway's Board of Trustees

Bridgeway's Board of Trustees has voted to seat a new Chairperson to lead Bridgeway out of the Covid-19 response phase, into the future of integrated mental health care. Joseph Perez will become the Chairman of Bridgeway's Board of Trustees on July 1, 2021, continuing a tradition of excellence most recently upheld by Dr. Amy Spagnolo. Joe has served as the Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee for several terms, getting to know Bridgeway's business from the inside. "Joe is exactly the right person at the right time," said Cory Storch, CEO.

Joe is a partner with WithumSmith+Brown, PC based out of the East Brunswick, New Jersey office. He has nearly 25 years of professional experience in public accounting. He currently specializes in providing accounting, audit, tax and consulting services to the Firm's not-for-profit social service organizations, healthcare institutions and Federally Qualified Health Centers ("FQHC") In addition, his practice includes audit and tax work for real estate entities that operate affordable housing projects, primarily in New York City.

Joe holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Rutgers University. He is a licensed certified public accountant in New Jersey and New York, and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJSCPA). Joe has participated in several committees at the NJSCPA and has served as chairman of both the Accounting and Auditing resource group and the Healthcare Interest Group.

Bridgeway's Board of Trustees is an all-volunteer group of 12 esteemed professionals. The Officers include: Vice Chairperson, Marlene Baldinger, RN, ARM, CPHQ, CPHRM, Risk Manager for Atlantic Health System; Secretary, Kate Conroy, V.P. of Strategic Partnerships at NJ Business and Industry Association; Trustees: Dr. Amy Spagnolo, Department of Psychiatric Rehabilitation and Counseling Professions at Rutgers University, Project Director for the New York State Academy of Peer Services ; Mark Williams, BSN, Retired; Charlie Neiss, IT Specialist, Retired; Josue Philistin, CPA, St. Peter's University; Guy Patterson, Captain Cranford Police Dept.; Lisa Lacon, MS, CRC, Director, Blessed Ministries, Inc.; Dr. Carol Ash, Chief Medical Officer at RWJ Barnabas Hospital in Rahway; Marcie Courtney, Esq., Principal Attorney, Post & Schell PC; Jim O'Connor, CBIZ Benefits and Insurance Services; Lisa Hunt, HR Professional, Rutgers School of Health.



Joe Perez, Chairperson