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Bridgewell to honor psychiatrist and attorney at November gala

Bridgewell, a leading provider of services to adults with disabilities on the North Shore and in the Merrimack Valley, will honor two distinguished figures on November 6 at the Seaport Hotel in Boston. Psychiatrist Donald C. Goff, MD will receive Bridgewell's *Visionary Leadership Award* for his leadership, advocacy and innovation in clinical research on the management and treatment of schizophrenia. Attorney Samuel A. Vitali will receive Bridgewell's *Excellence in Service Award* for breaking local barriers to placing homeless, substance dependent and mentally ill people in community homes.



Dr. Goff is Director of the Schizophrenia Clinical and Research Program at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Professor of Psychiatry at the Harvard Medical School. He is also Medical Director of the Freedom Trail Clinic at the Erich Lindemann Mental Health Center in Boston, Massachusetts.



Mr. Vitali has represented Twelve Step of New England in placement of sober living opportunities in the community. More recently he successfully challenged the refusal of the City of Lowell to approve housing for homeless persons. He has also worked with Lynn Economic Opportunity, Inc. and

North Shore Elder Services.

"In our many residential and day programs and our behavioral health clinics, we are all about connecting people with possibilities, helping them achieve their fullest potential throughout their lives," said Bridgewell CEO Robert Stearns. "We are pleased to be able to honor Donald Goff and Sam Vitali because their work, each in its own way, has been crucial to our being able to fulfill our mission."

"Dr. Goff's research on the treatment and management of schizophrenia, and bringing this work into the community, is essential in providing the best possible treatment to the many mentally ill individuals whom Bridgewell serves, and, without efforts like those of Mr. Vitali, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to place clients in residential settings where they can achieve their full potential" he added.

For information on the gala, go to www.bridgewell.org and click on Special Events.

Bridgewell, based in Lynnfield, is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and helping individuals with developmental and psychiatric disabilities to direct their own lives, achieve personal and professional success and remain active participants in society. Bridgewell provides residential and day services, affordable housing and homeless services, clinical services, recreational services as well as employment training and educational services, throughout the North Shore and Merrimack Valley areas of Massachusetts. To learn more about Bridgewell, go to <http://www.bridgewell.org/>.