

The Daily Item

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Lynn firm to fete Vitali

LYNN -- Lifelong Lynn resident, attorney Samuel A. Vitali will receive Bridgewell's Excellence in Service Award for his work on behalf of developmentally disabled adults and those facing other life challenges.

Vitali will receive the award at Bridgewell's "Imagine the Possibilities" fundraising gala to be held on Nov. 6 at the Seaport Hotel in Boston.

Bridgewell is a leading provider of services to adults with disabilities on the North Shore and in the Merrimack Valley.

For more than 30 years, Vitali has worked tirelessly with Bridgewell in advocating for individuals with disabilities to have the right to live in the community with respect and dignity. He played a key role in assisting Bridgewell in the early years of the deinstitutionalization movement to establish new group homes for people with disabilities.

He also represented Bridgewell in the landmark case *Watros V. GLMHRA*, appearing before the Supreme Judicial Court, which allowed the conversion of a carriage home to a group home for autistic adults in the Town of Winchester. More recently, he represented Bridgewell in obtaining site plan approval from the City of Lowell for the construction of 12 units of permanent housing for chronically homeless adults.

For more than 15 years, Vitali was a Bridgewell board member and contributed significantly to the growth and accomplishments of the company. In addition, Vitali has represented Twelve Step of New England in developing sober living opportunities within the community. He has worked with Lynn Economic Opportunity, Inc., and North Shore Elder Services.

"In our many residential and day programs, 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 confer this honor on Sam Vitali because his work goes to the heart of the needs of the population who Bridgewell serves."



Vitali