

## SteadyCare outfits Bridgewell's Special Olympic Team

October 10, 2006

With a \$5000 donation from SteadyCare, Bridgewell was able to outfit its entire team of Special Olympic Athletes with uniforms and track suits. Historically, volunteer coaches and staff have become involved in frequent, time-consuming fundraisers so that each athlete would have a uniform at the Special Olympics games. With SteadyCare's generous donation, Bridgewell's coaches and athletes had more time to practice, resulting in 42 gold, 26 silver and 19 bronze medals, as well as 11 participation ribbons at the Summer games, which took place in June at Harvard University.

Bridgewell's Special Olympic team is comprised of over 65 individuals with developmental disabilities, and competes in both the summer and winter Special Olympic games in Massachusetts. Coached by seven volunteer staff from Bridgewell and 20 chaperones and assistants which include staff, family members and friends, the team continues to expand and grow each year. Head coach Kelli Hyland said, "Coaches from other teams and family members are always asking where we purchased our uniforms and how we were able to afford such beautiful attire. Receiving this donation took a lot of pressure off the volunteers and brought our team together with a feeling of being and looking like a true team." Bridgewell CEO Robert Stearns adds, "We were very pleased to receive such a generous donation from SteadyCare in support of our Special Olympic team. We are very fortunate to have such strong supporters like the Cliffords."

Bridgewell Board member Phil Clifford, CEO and Founder of SteadyCare and wife Pattie Marrin Clifford, SteadyCare President and co-founder, were the actual donors on behalf of SteadyCare. "It was an honor for us to contribute to these hard-working and dedicated athletes. They demonstrate incredible pride, spirit and unity; these uniforms are simply the finishing touch. We are thankful to have shared in their victory!"

### **About Bridgewell**

Bridgewell is a private, nonprofit organization providing services to people with disabilities in 18 communities north of Boston including Lynn, Saugus, Peabody, Wakefield, Danvers, Beverly, Melrose, Swampscott, Medford, Salem, Lowell, Chelmsford, Dracut, Tewksbury, Billerica, Haverhill, Lynnfield and Merrimac.

Bridgewell specializes in serving 3000 people a day with mental retardation, mental illness, dual diagnosis, the homeless, the elderly and children. Because of the scope of its programs, Bridgewell is able to focus on the individual and respond quickly to the changing needs of its clients. To learn more about Bridgewell, visit [www.bridgewell.org](http://www.bridgewell.org).

### **About SteadyCare**

SteadyCare's call-in technology enables human services agencies to supervise and monitor awake overnight staff. SteadyCare provides comprehensive reports and third party verification that staff

members are awake and alert taking care of patients. SteadyCare is in use by several agencies within Massachusetts.

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