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Contact: Cari Palmer
Director of Development & Advancement
Phone: 339-883-2157
Email: cpalmer@bridgewell.org

BRIDGEWELL AWARDED NEW THREE-YEAR CARF ACCREDITATION **Agency leads in services to adults with developmental disabilities**

June 23, 2011 — The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) International has announced that Bridgewell has been accredited for a period of three years for its community housing, respite services, supported living, community employment services, including job development and job-site training programs. Bridgewell is one of the largest Massachusetts agencies that the international accrediting body has awarded in Massachusetts.

“We are enormously proud of this accreditation,” said Bridgewell CEO and President Bob Stearns. “It is clearly a vote of confidence in the standards we embrace, the quality of services we provide, and the extent to which our community identity expresses our mission and vision.” Chris Vacarro, Board Chairman adds, “Bridgewell’s 3 year accreditation from CARF demonstrates the high quality of services that Bridgewell provides to individuals with disabilities in Bridgewell’s care.”

This comprehensive accreditation represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization’s substantial conformance to the CARF standards. An organization receiving a Three-Year Accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated to a team of independent national surveyors during an extensive on-site visit that its programs and services are of the highest quality, measurable, and accountable.

Bridgewell “is respected for its ethics, its reputation of going the extra mile for persons served, and its flexibility,” according to the final CARF report. “Bridgewell is a valued community resource as both a service provider and a business partner.”

CARF’s final report also indicates:

- The leadership group is exceptional
- The tenure of many staff members speaks to their commitment to the organization’s mission and vision. (Those new to the field bring “great excitement, enthusiasm and new ideas. This mix allows for an atmosphere that encourages growth and development.”)
- Human resource management is highly evolved and a true organizational strength that supports employee satisfaction, loyalty and retention.
- Staff members have many opportunities for personal and professional growth
- The high level of professionalism among staff members, along with a collaborative, respectful working condition, was evident.

- The organization is commended for its community involvement and its efforts to promote and facilitate community integration of the persons served.

Bridgewell, a private, non-profit organization based in Lynnfield, helps thousands of people 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, recreational, employment training and educational services in eastern Massachusetts.

Bridgewell programs are in Beverly, Billerica, Chelmsford, Danvers, Dracut, Haverhill, Lowell, Lynn, Lynnfield, Medford, Melrose, Merrimac, Peabody, Salem, Saugus, Swampscott, Tewksbury and Wakefield.

To learn more about Bridgewell, go to www.bridgewell.org.

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served. Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and now known as CARF, the accrediting body establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services.



Photo credit: Bridgewell resident Shelly with Dracut Program Director Carol Gerard

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