

## Bridgewell Gala Registers Boost in Attendance and Funds Raised



November 10, 2011 — Bridgewell, a Lynnfield-based provider of services to adults with developmental and psychiatric disabilities in eastern Massachusetts, announced that it raised more than \$288,000 at its recent annual gala, an increase of \$50,000 over the amount it raised at last year's event.

"We are thrilled by the outpouring of support for the people whom Bridgewell serves," said Bob Stearns, president and CEO of **Bridgewell**. "The gala's incredible success is a recognition that those individuals are truly society's most vulnerable. Donors recognize the importance of investing in our mission to allow for those with disabilities and other life challenges to develop to their fullest potential."

Attendance at the event, held at the Seaport Hotel in Boston, also increased, from 270 to 324.

Stearns attributed the boost in revenues and attendees to "the celebrations of our honorees, increased number of sponsors, including lead sponsors Citizens Bank, McGrath Enterprises, and Caruso & McGovern, and the growing investment in Bridgewell's commitment to support individuals with disabilities and other life challenges."

Bridgewell presented its 2011 Visionary Leadership Award was presented to Lt. Gov. Tim Murray for his longtime efforts to provide housing opportunities for the homeless and for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Longtime Boston sportscaster Bob Lobel was honored with the organization's Excellence in Service Award in connection with his off-air charity work, for **Children's Hospital Boston; The Genesis Fund**, which fills the gap between coordinated medical care and typical health insurance coverage for children born with birth defects, genetic diseases and intellectual disabilities; and, for 15 years, the **Charles River Center**, which serves people with developmental disabilities.

Channel 5 Eyeopener's Bianca de la Garza hosted the gala, which featured a silent auction and a live auction that featured exotic trips and sports events.

Bridgewell provides residential and day services, affordable housing and homeless services, clinical services, recreational services as well as employment training and educational services, in 18 communities Massachusetts. It has 1,000 employees and serves more than 3000 individuals with developmental disabilities, mental illness, and other life challenges.