

# NeighborOpinion

## Make an investment

DEAR EDITOR,

The tentative agreement reached June 21 on a \$29.4 billion state budget restores some funding to nonprofits, but many organizations are left to operate with far less financial support from the state.

This new reality for nonprofits has the potential to diminish a network of support services that has taken years to build, but we at NewBridge Services Inc. recognize the state's dire predicament. We understand we can't keep shaking the state piggy bank for more money. Yet the need for services has not dried up like the funding; in fact, it's growing. So we're taking a new tack and suggest others do the same.

For 47 years, NewBridge has provided innovative and affordable behavioral health programs and education services. From children to adults, we give people: a place to live; guidance and treatment for stress, grief, mental illness and substance abuse; and advice about parenting, relationships and caregiving.

While we have historically relied on state funds, now we are asking those in the local communities that we serve to make an investment in us.

We are six months into our "Are You One?" campaign, our first major fundraising campaign ever, necessitated by the new fiscal reality. We are asking you to recognize your role as philanthropist and add your name to the list of those with ordinary lives who are making huge differences in others' lives in simple but meaningful ways. The state can no longer be the sole provider. Organizations, like NewBridge, need your help so that we can remain an effective and critical part of your community's support system.

I invite you to visit our website, [www.newbridge.org](http://www.newbridge.org), and learn more about what we do. Wishing you health and balance in your life.

**Robert L. Parker**  
Executive Director  
NewBridge Services Inc.  
Boonton