

Stories of Perseverance Fill the 2015 NewBridge Jobs Plus Commencement

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“They helped her realize that she is smart. The teacher at NewBridge believed in Tammy, and she began to believe in herself,” said Decker’s mother, Laura.

Chavez received a \$1,000 scholarship in memory of Jim Ryan, one of the founders of NewBridge Services.

“I am very proud of my son. Very proud!” said Rosita Chavez. “When I got sick, he took care of me. He made sure the electric bill was paid, and that we had heat. After working long shifts, he came home and made dinner for me,” she said. “He took on all that for me.”

In all, 55 young adults attended NewBridge Jobs Plus and earned their New Jersey high school diplomas during the 2014-15 academic year. Graduates hailed from Boonton, Butler, Dover, Hackettstown, Hopatcong, Jefferson, Madison, Montville, Mount Olive, North Caldwell, Parsippany, Pequannock, Randolph, Riverdale, Rockaway, Roxbury, Succasunna, Wharton and West Milford.

NewBridge Jobs Plus receives funding from: the Workforce Investment Board of Morris/Sussex/Warren Counties; Affinity Federal Credit Union; John Bickford Foundation; Community Foundation of New Jersey; Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders; Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation; Provident Bank Foundation; TD Bank Charitable Foundation; Charles Emil Thenen Foundation; United Way of Northern New Jersey; Wells Fargo; and Wyndham Worldwide.

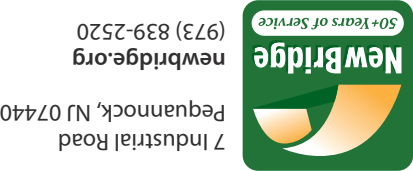
Join the NewBridge Legacy Society and Leave the World a Better Place

By making a planned gift to NewBridge, you’ll join a remarkable group of people who’ve made a lasting philanthropic mark in this world. Members of the NewBridge Legacy Society leave a specific dollar amount or asset to NewBridge in their will, or make a residual bequest, which provides NewBridge a portion of their estate after other bequests and expenses are paid.

Other options include naming NewBridge as a beneficiary of an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or life insurance policy, or deeding property to NewBridge. Planned gifts can provide tax benefits to your estate. For more information, please contact NewBridge Chief Development Officer Pam Palumbo at ppalumbo@newbridge.org or (973) 686-2246.

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Classroom at NEW Service Center in Parsippany to be Dedicated to NewBridge Founder at September 29 Open House

All are invited to NewBridge Services’ open house at its new Morris County service center in the Troy Office Center in Parsippany-Troy Hills, from 4-6 p.m. on Tuesday, September 29.

At 5 p.m., NewBridge will dedicate one of the two NewBridge Jobs Plus classrooms to the memory of founder Jim Ryan and his wife, Marie, both champions of people with mental illnesses.

The decorated World War II Army veteran recognized the need for community-based mental health services in Pequannock Township and surrounding towns, and worked with his pastor at the First Reformed Church of Pompton Plains and three others to create the Pequannock Valley Mental Health Center in 1963. The PVMHC later changed its name to NewBridge Services to reflect its expanded services and coverage area.

Ryan served as president of the NewBridge board of trustees and on other committees, and remained an avid supporter until his death in 2005, at age 84.

“My father was a very caring and loving individual who would do anything to help others,” said Ryan’s daughter, Debbie King. “My father believed in the organization, and the work that (NewBridge CEO) Bob Parker and all at NewBridge do to help others.”

King said she and her two brothers “are very proud that the classroom will be dedicated in the memory of our father.”

King and her husband, George, donated \$5,000 to support NewBridge Jobs Plus, the successful alternative education program that helps young adults earn their high school degrees and prepare for careers. Bloomingdale’s, King’s employer, contributed a \$5,000 matching grant.

“My husband and I are happy to be able to have the resources to support and carry on my father’s commitment to this organization,” King said.

“We’re proud to continue to build on Jim Ryan’s vision to build strong communities,” said NewBridge CEO Robert L. Parker. “We hope our supporters, volunteers, clients and the whole community will celebrate NewBridge bringing services deeper into Morris County.” NewBridge’s new center is located at 1259 Route 46 (eastbound) in Building 2.



Clinician Deborah New, a licensed social worker, shows some of the toys used in play therapy.

Fall 2015



Dear Friend,
I’m happy to share great news with you: NewBridge’s new service center for Morris County opened last month in Parsippany-Troy Hills, offering our clients a large, centralized location and allowing us to help even more people in need.

The 15,320-square-foot facility in the Troy Office Center off Route 46 has 20 counseling rooms and spacious group therapy rooms, and it’s the new home to our drop-in center for clients and NewBridge Jobs Plus, our successful alternative education program.

The center’s opening together with the 13,000-square-foot location we opened last fall in the Haskell section of Wanaque Township have increased NewBridge’s presence in Morris and Passaic counties.

We have been working intensely over the past year to ensure NewBridge is well positioned to serve our communities at a time when the health care system is changing so dramatically. We have made significant investments in our information technology to meet federal health care requirements and changes to state funding formulas, and expanded our evidenced-based practices.

This is our time! Our strong reputation for innovative programs and community responsiveness coupled with our new facilities will propel our growth through these turbulent times in health care.

And we have you to thank. Your generous support allows us to help seniors remain in their homes. It allows us to treat people with mental illness and counsel those who are going through a tough time. To help people addicted to alcohol and drugs recover. To teach kids resiliency skills to navigate their world. To help young adults earn their high school degrees and prepare for careers. And to provide good, safe and affordable housing for individuals with special needs. And more!

All of us at NewBridge are grateful for your continued support. Thanks to your investment in NewBridge, we continue to advance the well-being of our clients, their families and our communities.

Sincerely,
Bob Parker
Robert L. Parker

Helping Schools and Students Become Bully-Proof



While bullying in New Jersey schools has been on the decline, thousands of students each year are still victimized – and thousands more are the perpetrators.

Of the nearly 20,000 allegations of bullying investigated by schools during the 2012-13 school year, New Jersey schools confirmed a third of them – a total of 6,515, according to the most recently released Department of Education statistics.

“These are not isolated incidents, and they can cause emotional scars that last long into a bullied child’s life,” said NewBridge Services Director of Community Response and Education Mary Vineis. *“As for kids who bully, studies show that as adults, they are more likely to have problems holding down a job, struggle in relationships, become dependent on alcohol or drugs, and get in trouble with the law,”* Vineis said.

“As the new school year begins, parents can help protect their children by teaching them empathy and by working with schools and the wider community to create a culture that rejects bullying and promotes inclusiveness,” Vineis said. NewBridge has been providing anti-bullying and related programs in schools for decades, and Vineis said the demand for them is increasing.

“You will always have kids who have a need to dominate others, but the ability or inability for them to do that comes from the community and its reaction to it,” Vineis said. *“When you have a culture where that’s not acceptable, you have far less incidents of bullying.”*

One of the most important approaches for schools is to implement rules that delineate acts of bullying and the consequences of those acts.

NewBridge Readies for 20th Annual Golf Outing on October 6

The 20th Annual NewBridge Golf Outing supporting the NewBridge Jobs Plus alternative education program has a new twist: ladies can opt to enjoy a golf clinic, yoga practice and lifestyle seminar instead of playing 18 holes.

The festivities will be held Tuesday, October 6 at the picturesque Preakness Hills Country Club in Wayne, kicking off with a gourmet lunch at 11 a.m. and followed by a shotgun start at 12:15 p.m.

While golfers are on the links, ladies who sign up for **Looking Good, Feeling Great, Learning Golf** can check out the **Health & Wellness Expo** starting at 3 p.m. A class on **yoga/stretching** for golf starts at 3:15 p.m., followed at 4 p.m. with the **women’s beginner golf clinic**, taught by a member of the Ladies Professional Association.

All guests will convene at a 5:30 p.m. reception to enjoy cocktails and a delicious dinner, raffles and contests.

Proceeds support NewBridge Jobs Plus, a program for young adults who didn’t get the support needed to succeed in traditional high school. With nearly a 90 percent success rate, NewBridge Jobs Plus has helped well over 3,000 young adults earn their diplomas and prepare for careers since 1983. But dozens of young adults are turned away each year because the program is overwhelmed by requests for help.

“Kids need to be educated about what’s appropriate behavior and what is hurtful,” she said. *“When those rules are fairly applied, that goes a long way toward creating a pro-social culture.”*

Incorporating conflict resolution and coping skills into the school curriculum is also key. *“When kids are engaged in school, they feel they have more power and say, and they take pride in what goes on there,”* Vineis said.

“At home, parents can seize on teachable moments,” she said. If their child talks unkindly about another child, *“call him on it. Ask him how he would feel if someone were saying something like that about him,”* she said. Doing so *“provides an opportunity for him to have empathy.”*

The growth of social media websites and software applications has contributed to cyberbullying. Vineis suggested that parents ask schools to provide seminars on the latest apps that are being used in bullying. Parents need to become aware of the risks of children having cell phones.

“Giving your child a cell phone so you can keep in touch with each other can offer a sense of security, yet it can also be a gateway for bullying,” Vineis said. *“There have to be checks and balances that go with that.”*

Beyond bullying, NewBridge provides in-school programs on: positive coping skills; respect/tolerance/diversity; conflict resolution; drug/alcohol resistance (including Fatal Vision goggles); and suicide prevention.

As part of the School Culture and Climate Initiative, a collaboration between the United Way of Northern New Jersey and the College of Saint Elizabeth, NewBridge goes into schools in areas of northern New Jersey affected by Hurricane Sandy and other natural disasters to assist students and staff. NewBridge trains students how to cope with traumatic stress, and its clinicians counsel students with chronic mental health issues.

“As a community of golfers, we can turn dropouts into self-sufficient members of society so they avoid the trap of poverty and homelessness,” said Jeff Gillman, co-chair of the NewBridge golf outing committee.

Reservations for 18 holes of golf, cart rental, lunch, dinner, contests and prizes are available for \$425 per player. Reservations for Looking Good, Feeling Great, Learning Golf are \$160 per participant.

Sponsorships range from \$200 tee sponsors to \$10,000 event sponsors. Register at newbridge.org by clicking on Events and Registrations or by calling (973) 686-2230.



Prudential Financial Executive Joins NewBridge Board of Trustees

Kelly K. Browne’s job at Prudential Financial is to ensure the Fortune Global 500 runs efficiently and is protected from internal and external threats. Now Browne, vice president for internal audit at Prudential Financial, is using her expertise to help NewBridge Services as the nonprofit’s newest trustee.

“I had been looking for an opportunity to apply my skills to a cause I could connect with,” said Browne, who joined the NewBridge board of trustees in July.

NewBridge trustee Marie Episale, a longtime family friend, had suggested Browne consider volunteering with NewBridge. Before committing, Browne visited NewBridge’s group home, its drop-in center for people with mental illness, and the NewBridge Jobs Plus alternative education program.

“Everywhere I went, I was blown away by the dedication, the kindness and the spirit with which the NewBridge employees conducted their work,” Browne said. *“That spoke volumes to me.”*

She was especially impressed with NewBridge Jobs Plus, which helps young adults earn their high school diplomas and prepare for careers.

Stories of Perseverance Fill the 2015 NewBridge Jobs Plus Commencement

When Ricardo Chavez’ mother became seriously ill, Chavez picked up extra shifts at a restaurant to help cover the family’s bills. But that decision meant he missed too many days at Hopatcong High School to graduate on time.

Chavez, 18, left high school and enrolled at NewBridge Jobs Plus, where he completed coursework and earned his New Jersey high school diploma, with plans to go to college and graduate school for business administration.

“I never thought I’d go to college, but NewBridge helped me see my potential. Without NewBridge, I probably would have ended up in a dead-end job,” said Chavez, who proudly donned a cap and gown at the NewBridge Jobs Plus Class of 2015 graduation, held June 18 at the Wyndham Worldwide headquarters in Parsippany.

More than 200 parents and friends cheered as graduates took to the podium and shared tales of overcoming hardships they endured in high school when they found their niche at NewBridge Jobs Plus.

NewBridge Jobs Plus is the longest-running alternative education program in Morris County and has helped well over 3,000 young adults earn their high school diplomas and prepare for college, trade schools and careers since 1983. The program is **FREE** to young adults living in Morris, Sussex and Warren counties.

“You’ve graduated from ‘I can’t’ to ‘I did.’ You are on the path of success,” NewBridge trustee and Wyndham Worldwide executive Ryszard (Rich) Paliwoda told the graduates. The son of Polish immigrants, Paliwoda was the first in his family to graduate



“It’s like you’re resetting people’s life trajectories, and that is a really big deal to me,” Browne said. She met NewBridge Jobs Plus 2012 graduate Kristen Iattarelli, who had dropped out of Kinnelon High School because she felt overcome by anxiety there.

Iattarelli earned her high school degree through NewBridge Jobs Plus and then an associate’s degree at County College of Morris. Now she’s pursuing her bachelor’s degree in criminal justice at Morrisville State College in New York.

“It’s exciting to see how far she has come, and what a difference NewBridge has made in her life,” Browne said.

Browne grew up in Wayne, and attended Douglass College at Rutgers University. She earned a bachelor’s degree in economics, and has worked for Prudential Financial since graduating. She holds numerous certifications in risk management and has served many years as a mentor in a women leadership development program.

Browne met her husband, Kevin, a New Providence dentist, 32 years ago, when they worked together at a lumberyard. The couple lives in Chatham Township with their 15-year-old yellow lab, Raspberry.

not only from high school in the U.S., but also college and graduate school.

Paliwoda in his keynote address urged the graduates to challenge the status quo to better the world, to look within themselves to figure out how to change a situation, to learn from experiences, both good and bad, and to “pay back with your leadership.”

“I was kind of lost, and I didn’t know what to do,” said Montville resident Tammy Decker, who was five months pregnant when she enrolled at NewBridge Jobs Plus last September. Decker, 18, excelled at NewBridge and became inspired to pursue a career as a drug and behavioral therapist. ➤



Rosita Chavez celebrates her son Ricardo’s graduation