

WANTED: Good Men and Women to Join NewBridge's Board of Trustees

You believe in NewBridge. You've seen that it has the power to transform lives, helping people overcome despair and find fulfillment. You feel fortunate about your life's path and driven to help others and strengthen your community.

Are you ready to take your support to the next level?

Become a member of NewBridge Services Board of Trustees. NewBridge is recruiting individuals to become leaders of a 53-year-old nonprofit that serves 8,500 children, adults and seniors every year.

NewBridge trustees are highly respected community members who use their expertise to make the organization more effective and raise its profile. They are team players and problem solvers committed to NewBridge's mission to bring balance to people's lives through counseling, housing and education.

The nonprofit respects trustees' time, making the every-other-month board meetings and other commitments productive and enriching. As a board member, you would serve on at least one committee suited to your experience and interest. The four standing committees are finance, governance, development/fundraising, and housing/real estate.

All NewBridge trustees make a commitment to provide financial support, giving to the Annual Fund and attending the golf outing and the gala. As NewBridge ambassadors, you would be asked to introduce NewBridge to friends, family members and colleagues who may also wish to become donors.

Fundraising has taken on vital importance as government funding of crucial services shrinks. Last year, donations made up 10 percent of NewBridge's operating budget. Without those fundraising dollars, NewBridge would have been forced to turn away 850 people desperate for help.

When you become part of the NewBridge family, you help people recover from mental illness and addiction. You ensure children learn resiliency so they're less likely to fall prey to bullies, or begin using alcohol or drugs. You help seniors remain as independent as possible, and give young adults who struggled in high school a second chance at academic success. You help families get through hard times, and communities overcome crises.

If you can see yourself in this role, please contact NewBridge Director of Development Vicki Hess at vhess@newbridge.org or 973-939-2427 for more information.

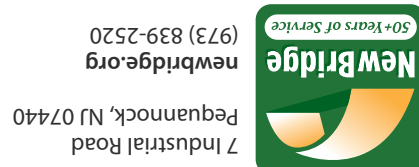
Sharon Hollick
Jeff Gillman
Emeritus

George Sous
Rich Paliwoda
Nancy O'Donnell

David Crapo
Janice Christensen
Kelly K. Browne

Robert L. Parker, CEO
Marie Episale, Secretary
Francis McEnerney, Treasurer
Betty Cass-Schmidt, Vice President
Anne Wolfe, President

**NewBridge 2016
Board of Trustees**



NewBridge

newbridge.org

Fall/Winter 2016



Dear Friend,

A mental health crisis is looming in New Jersey, and it ultimately will affect ALL of us, not just the tens of thousands of people with mental illness who face losing access to treatment.

I know that sounds like an extreme assertion, but other states are already experiencing the dire fallout of an underfunded mental health system. In Michigan, for example, 10,000 people lost services when that state moved to fee-for-services funding of mental health, the process New Jersey is now undergoing.

Based on financial projections, most providers in New Jersey will have to eliminate services, and some agencies will shut their doors.

The new funding system not only underfunds key services like medication management, it makes no provisions to help people who have insurance but cannot afford their deductibles and copays. **The bottom line is, only people who are on Medicaid or who can afford to pay out of pocket will get treated.**

Even before the fee-for-service plan is implemented, the safety net that has existed for nearly four decades

has shown signs of fraying due to a near-freeze in mental health funding over the past eight years.

New Jersey emergency departments treated 117,000 more patients in 2015 than in 2014, and 46 percent of that increase involved patients with a mental health or substance abuse diagnosis, according to the New Jersey Hospital Association's latest annual report.

People who cannot afford treatment at community providers will wind up in our state's emergency rooms, jails and state psychiatric hospitals. That carries a heavy ethical and financial price tag!

I ask you to take action! Please contact your legislators and demand they adequately fund the community mental health system. (Go to <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/SelectMun.asp>.) New Jersey must **increase key reimbursement rates, fund a sliding scale payment system** and make funds available for **clients who cannot meet their insurance deductibles and copays.**

NewBridge needs your help to avoid a catastrophe. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Parker



TAKE ACTION!

CONTACT your legislators and **DEMAND** an adequately funded community mental health system.

NewBridge Jobs Plus Graduate Honored by Statewide Organization

A 2016 NewBridge Jobs Plus graduate who turned his life around has been honored by the Garden State Employment and Training Association. Anthony Justo in September received a STAR (Student Training Achievement Recognition) award at GSETA's annual conference in Atlantic City.

Speaking at a luncheon, the 25-year-old described his troubled youth and how he began using drugs and stealing to support his habit. He faced a state prison sentence for a 2012 robbery, but the victim, a chaplain, asked a judge to send Justo to drug court instead. Justo said the program — along with his faith in God — helped save his life.

After seven months at a state treatment facility (he had already served 14 months in jail), Justo went to the Morris/Sussex/Warren Workforce Development Board (WDB) and Employment and Training Services (ETS), which connected him with NewBridge Jobs Plus. *"Going back to school at age 24 wasn't easy, but everyone at NewBridge Jobs Plus made me feel welcome,"* he said. *"They helped me earn my high school diploma and start a new chapter of my life."*

The Parsippany resident is a certified peer recovery specialist helping people who overdose on opioids, and he's pursuing a career in social work. He works full-time at a restaurant and is studying to become a personal trainer. *"None of this would have been possible if it wasn't for all of you who showed me love when I couldn't love myself,"* Justo told the GSETA audience.

The WDB and ETS nominated Justo for the award, which is given to people who overcome barriers and complete their education and gain sustainable employment. *"We commend him for his accomplishments and look forward to hearing about his continued successes,"* said Donna L. Buchanan, ETS director of program operations.



"Going back to school at age 24 wasn't easy, but everyone at NewBridge Jobs Plus made me feel welcome."

Golf Glory

Thank you to everyone who participated in NewBridge Services' 21st Annual Golf Outing on October 10th at the Knoll Golf Club West in Parsippany. More than 110 golfers hit the links to help raise nearly \$50,000 to support NewBridge programs. The event was part of the Liberty Mutual Invitational, a nationwide series of tournaments that benefit select charities. The day also featured the second-annual women's Golf Clinic and Health & Beauty Retreat, which included golf instruction, yoga practice, skincare sessions, and networking.



NewBridge Jobs Plus Grads Ready to Pursue Professions

Meghan Graham had missed too many classes due to sickness to graduate on time from Roxbury High School, so last February she enrolled in NewBridge Jobs Plus and earned her New Jersey High School diploma.

"I feel it's one of the best decisions I've ever made," said Graham, who plans to pursue a career in social work. NewBridge helped her apply to County College of Morris and to file for financial aid.

Graham was among 35 young adults to don a cap and gown at the NewBridge Jobs Plus commencement on June 23. Parents and friends cheered as graduates took to the podium at the Wyndham Worldwide headquarters in Parsippany and shared tales of overcoming hardships endured in high school before finding their niche at NewBridge Jobs Plus.

"We at NewBridge are so proud of how far these young men and women have come, and are confident their fortitude will propel them to successful, fulfilling lives," NewBridge CEO Robert L. Parker said.

NewBridge Jobs Plus is the longest-running alternative education program in Morris County and has helped well over 1,000 young adults earn their high school diplomas and prepare for college, trade schools and careers since 1983. The program, located at the NewBridge Parsippany Center, is free to young adults living in Morris, Sussex and Warren counties, and transportation is provided to Morris County residents.

Alyce Haygood left Mount Olive High School and found success at NewBridge Jobs Plus.

"I used to feel like I was the only one who struggled in high school, but here I discovered I wasn't alone," she said. As Haygood prepares to study massage therapy at Fortis Institute in Wayne, she has inspired her 21-year-old sister, Kaylen to attend NewBridge Jobs Plus to pursue her high school degree.



NewBridge Jobs Plus associate **Jaquorah Marrow** received the \$1,000 Lakeland Bank Scholarship Award and Yesenia Alize Stocky received the \$1,000 James Ryan



Memorial Scholarship Award, given in honor of the NewBridge founder.

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; Lakeland Bank; 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.

A Lasting Legacy

Leave your mark on the world by supporting the good work of NewBridge Services.

You can help secure NewBridge's future by joining the NewBridge Legacy Society. Members 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 Director of Development Victoria Hess at vhess@newbridge.org or 973-939-2427.