

Join Us on June 14th for Bridge to a Brighter Future!

Play a hand in support of LifeBridge

Bridge players of all levels are invited to our 7th annual "Bridge" event, a fun-filled day that includes delicious lunch buffet, prizes, and your choice of social or ACBL sanctioned duplicate bridge.

This popular tournament draws nearly 200 social and duplicate bridge players from Fairfield County and will be held on Tuesday, June 14, at new location - the Brooklawn Country Club. For those whose ticket purchases or donations total \$100 or more, there will also be an optional "bonus" bridge lesson from Joe Byrnes, an award-winning Bridge Instructor.

The event, co-chaired by LifeBridge Board members Katie Rust and Bob Filotei, will run from 10:30am to 3:30pm. There is still time to register! Click [here](#) to purchase tickets online, or call 203-368-5567 for a mailed invitation.



FreshConnections to Launch in June

LifeBridge starts fresh produce service in Bridgeport

LifeBridge is launching a new produce supply and delivery enterprise called FreshConnections that will provide affordable, fresh fruit and vegetables in "food desert" areas where many of Bridgeport's low-income residents live. The fresh produce will be purchased in bulk and then packaged into pre-ordered boxes and delivered to several centrally located sites in neighborhoods that don't have stores offering affordable fresh fruit and vegetables.



Our FreshConnections service is open to the public regardless of income and will operate on a subscription basis. Delivery sites will open sequentially over the summer and include a community center at PT Barnum, Hall Neighborhood House, and LifeBridge's office building at the corner of Fairfield and Clinton Avenues.

The Gary Crooks Community Center at PT Barnum is our first site and anyone who is interested is invited to our launch party on Wednesday, June 8, from 4 to 6 p.m. Light refreshments, including samples of our fresh fruits and vegetables will be featured. To learn more, please call or email Susan Tabachnick, the director of FreshConnections at 203-368-5523 or stabachnick@lifebridgect.org

FreshConnections will add additional sites throughout Bridgeport and, as it grows, will generate over 30 new full-time jobs either internally or through other related food-based partners and services. Click [here](#) to find out more!

Honoring a Lasting Impact

Joan and Ernest Trefz receive the first LifeBridge Community Impact Award

Ernest and Joan Trefz were honored with our first annual LifeBridge Community Impact Award at our May 5th "Food For Thought" breakfast. The purpose of the award is to recognize "an outstanding individual, business or organization whose vision, leadership, collaborative efforts, and commitment to making our community a better place to live and work has significantly advanced the quality of life, health and/or economic well-being of Greater Bridgeport."



Ernest Trefz, Larry Ganim, Joan Trefz

Bill Hass, President and CEO, noted that the Trefz's were ideal recipients for the award "...because they have earned the respect and admiration of our community for the time, energy, and leadership they have given to countless boards and commissions in Bridgeport, and our gratitude for their extraordinary philanthropic support to a wide cross section of community organizations".

Both Joan and Ernie, who attended the event with numerous family members and friends, expressed warm appreciation for the award. "I love the name LifeBridge," Joan Trefz said, "because it [the agency] is a bridge to a better life."

Merger Expands Services for Fairfield County

Fairfield Counseling Services joins LifeBridge

Fairfield Counseling Services Inc. (FCS) has merged with LifeBridge, effective April 1. The merger will enable LifeBridge to provide behavioral health services to an additional 1,100 adults, adolescents and families-making it possible for us to assist more than 4,000 people a year. The combined specialized expertise of both programs will also enhance services to clients in LifeBridge's other core programs. As a result of the merger, three FCS board members have joined the LifeBridge Board of Directors: Chris Lyddy, Elizabeth Zezima, and former FCS Board president Joan Sloan.

The announcement was made at a celebration at Fairfield Town Hall in Fairfield in early April. Now part of LifeBridge's Behavioral Health Program, FCS was established in 1969 and has grown from a drop-in center to a state licensed psychiatric and substance abuse outpatient clinic. FCS will continue to operate under its current name with the same staff at its current location, 125 Penfield Road in Fairfield.

Representing the Town of Fairfield at the announcement event, Chief of Staff Tom Dubrosky said, "You are the providers. You are key to those who don't know where to turn. The town appreciates all the good work Fairfield Counseling and LifeBridge does."



Second Annual Food For Thought Event a Big Success

Navy SEAL Speaker brings teamwork message home

More than 250 guests, including leaders and representatives from over 56 local corporations, businesses, government and nonprofit organizations, came together to support LifeBridge at our second annual Food For Thought event on May 5 at the Holiday Inn in Bridgeport.

This year we were honored to present Ernest and Joan Trefz with our first "LifeBridge Community Impact Award" which recognizes outstanding people, businesses or organizations that have helped make the greater Bridgeport community a better place to live and work.



Bill Hass, LifeBridge President & CEO, John Choate, Bob Matthews and Larry Ganim, Event Co-Chairs

In keeping with the event's theme of collaboration, the keynote speaker John Choate, CEO of Procinctu Group and former Navy SEAL, inspired the audience with an engaging presentation during which he described the qualities required to form a successful team. Stressing the importance of "deep listening" and effective communication, Choate's remarks earned a standing ovation and provided everyone with a lot of "food for thought"!

This successful event was co-chaired by LifeBridge board members Bob Matthews and Larry Ganim, and raised over \$75,000 for programs and services.

Click [here](#) to learn more about LifeBridge and the people

we serve.

Save the Date for Our Community Block Party!

Friday, July 22, 2016

Contact: **LifeBridge Community Services**
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www.LifeBridgeCT.org

