

## **Stronger Together: Bridgeway Honors the City of Summit and Summit Police Department**

**Partnership connects people to care, supports recovery and strengthens the communities we serve**

At Bridgeway Behavioral Health Services, we know that strong communities are built through strong partnerships. When behavioral health providers, local government and law enforcement work together, people experiencing mental health challenges, substance use concerns or homelessness have more opportunities to connect with the care and support they need.

That is why Bridgeway is proud to honor the **City of Summit, represented by Mayor Elizabeth Fagan, and the Summit Police Department, represented by Chief of Police Ryan Peters and Sergeant Kathleen Maggiulli**, at our 2026 Chairperson's Dinner on October 22.

Our growing partnership with Summit demonstrates what can happen when organizations that serve the same community bring their expertise together.

Bridgeway and the Summit Police Department recently formalized a partnership to support individuals experiencing behavioral health challenges, substance use disorders and homelessness. Through Summit's **Addiction, Coordination & Treatment (A.C.T.) initiative**, the partners provide compassionate outreach, follow-up after a crisis and connections to treatment, housing assistance and other community resources. In May, Summit appointed Sgt. Maggiulli to the newly created A.C.T. Officer position, designed to reduce opioid-related harm and connect vulnerable individuals with treatment, recovery services and support.

For Bridgeway, **George Vessels Jr., MSW, Housing Director for Homeless Outreach Services, and Diana Vazquez, Homeless Outreach Specialist**, have helped build this collaboration with Sgt. Maggiulli. The partnership was highlighted during Summit Community Night in July, where Bridgeway joined Summit Police to connect with residents and share information about available behavioral health and homeless outreach resources.

As George said about the partnership, **"By working alongside the Summit Police Department, we can build trust, connect individuals with meaningful resources and create pathways toward stability and recovery."**

### **A Shared Commitment to Community Well-Being**

Mayor Elizabeth Fagan's leadership has placed significant emphasis on public safety, community health and collaboration. A family medicine physician for more than 20 years, she became mayor in 2024 after years of civic involvement in Summit.

In 2024, the City established the **Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness**, bringing together government, nonprofit organizations, businesses and residents to identify both short- and long-term approaches to homelessness. Importantly, its mission includes connecting people

experiencing homelessness with case management, housing resources, medical and behavioral health care and other assistance.

That philosophy closely reflects Bridgeway's own approach: look beyond the immediate crisis, understand what a person needs and help create a pathway to longer-term stability.

Chief Ryan Peters and Sgt. Kathleen Maggiulli bring that same commitment to the Summit Police Department. Chief Peters joined the department in 2007 and served in numerous operational and leadership roles before becoming Chief of Police in May 2025.

Sgt. Maggiulli has served Summit since 2003 and has built a career that includes patrol, investigations, crisis intervention and community policing. In February 2025, she became the **first woman in Summit Police Department history to attain a supervisory rank**. Her subsequent appointment as Summit's A.C.T. Officer has placed her at the center of the department's efforts to connect people with services when behavioral health, substance use and homelessness intersect with public safety.

## **More Than a Summit Partnership**

Bridgeway's relationship with Summit reflects a much broader commitment to working collaboratively with law enforcement throughout New Jersey.

Through **Crisis Intervention Team training**, Bridgeway helps bring behavioral health and law enforcement professionals together to strengthen crisis recognition, de-escalation and response. Bridgeway also participates in **ARRIVE Together**, partnering with law enforcement in several counties to respond to or follow up after behavioral health crises and connect individuals with appropriate care.

These relationships matter because police officers are often among the first people called when someone is in crisis. Behavioral health professionals bring a different set of skills and resources. When those systems communicate and collaborate, they can support safer interactions, stronger connections to treatment and better opportunities for people to remain successfully in their communities.

The City of Summit and Summit Police Department have embraced that collaborative approach, and Bridgeway is grateful to be their partner.

**We are proud to honor Mayor Elizabeth Fagan, Chief Ryan Peters and Sgt. Kathleen Maggiulli on October 22, and we look forward to continuing to strengthen a relationship built on trust, compassion and a shared commitment to the people and communities we all serve.**