

Thrift, Choice, and Dignity: ISH Team Brings Shopping Experience to Life

Bridgeway's Intensive Supportive Housing (ISH) team recently turned a simple idea into a meaningful, person-centered experience with a creative "Thrift Group" event for persons served.

Led by Natalie Quelopana-Castillo, BA, Senior Wellness Specialist, the initiative transformed donated items into a welcoming, thrift-style shopping experience. Participants were invited to browse, select, and take home items they needed or simply loved, creating a sense of choice, independence, and dignity that goes far beyond traditional distribution.

The ISH team came together to collect a wide range of donations, resulting in a well-stocked and thoughtfully organized setup that mirrored the feel of a true thrift store. The result was more than just a successful event. It was a day filled with energy, connection, and empowerment for those who participated.

The effort was a true team success, with contributions from staff across roles, from organizing and setup to leading activities and supporting participants throughout the day. As April, Director of CSS Supportive Housing, shared, "Without you all, this could not have been possible. It was an amazing day," recognizing both the collaboration behind the scenes and the impact on the individuals served.

Natalie's leadership and vision brought the concept to life, supported by a team deeply committed to creating meaningful experiences that reflect Bridgeway's values.

Thanks to the strong turnout and generosity behind this event, plans are already underway to bring the Thrift Group back and expand it to additional programs, ensuring even more individuals can benefit from this engaging and impactful experience.

A heartfelt thank you to Natalie and the ISH team for leading with creativity, compassion, and a clear focus on dignity, choice, and person-centered support.