Bridgeway Behavioral Health: A Legacy of Community Support in Sussex County By Ronald Allen, MA, CCDP-D Director, Bridgeway Behavioral health Sussex County Community Support Teams

Bridgeway Behavioral Health's Sussex County Community Support Teams were proud to be featured once again at the New Jersey State Fair, affectionately known as the "Farm and Horse Show." Our presence at this beloved annual event spans decades, reflecting our deep roots in the Sussex County community.

Over the years, our program members have actively participated in fair competitions—from arts and crafts to gardening, floral arrangements, and vegetable displays—celebrating the spirit of rural life and community engagement. The **Bridgeway Partial Care Day Program** has long been the driving force behind our fair involvement, exemplifying how our services foster meaningful integration into community life.

A History of Healing and Empowerment

Bridgeway's commitment to Sussex County dates back to our early days as part of the **Newton Memorial Hospital system**. In **1979**, our first day program members joined **Sussex House**, arriving from state and local hospitals, boarding homes, and families seeking structured support. These programs offered a vital bridge between emotional illness and active, productive living—through clinical, educational, and social services.

In **1988**, we expanded our reach with the introduction of **Case Management Services**, supporting individuals with chronic mental health conditions. This growth led to the development of:

- Supportive Housing Programs for skill and resource development
- PATH Homeless Outreach for those finding themselves without safe housing
- Integrated Case Management Services (ICMS) for hospital-to-home transitions
- Employment/Career Services to help individuals find, get, and keep competitive jobs

Expanding Our Impact

In 2010, five of our Sussex County programs officially joined **Bridgeway Behavioral Health Services**, marking a new chapter of growth and innovation. Since then, we've added:

- Outpatient Counseling Services, including talk therapy and medication management
- MCORT (Mobile Crisis Outreach Response Teams), providing 24/7 crisis support through the 988 helpline—bringing help directly to those in need with peer support, professional stabilization, and community referrals

Rooted in Community, Growing with Purpose

Just as Sussex County has evolved as a vibrant rural community, Bridgeway has grown to meet the changing needs of its residents. Our programs promote wellness, recovery, and connection, empowering individuals to lead fulfilling, independent lives.