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**Bridges Outreach and CSPNJ Announce Launch of 24/7 Street Outreach Partnership  
with the City of Newark to End Homelessness**

**NEWARK – January 15, 2025** – Bridges Outreach, Inc. and Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey (CSPNJ) are proud to partner with the City of Newark to enhance support for people experiencing homelessness. Announced at a press conference on January 15, this innovative initiative builds on Newark’s internationally recognized homelessness efforts under “The Path Home” strategic plan to end chronic homelessness. The partnership introduces 24/7 street outreach, with teams from Bridges and CSPNJ providing overlapping coverage during key shifts (4 p.m.–12 a.m. and 12 a.m.–8 a.m.). Staffed by highly trained Outreach Specialists, many with lived experience, and guided by clinical leadership (LCSW), this program offers comprehensive, round-the-clock support to Newark’s most vulnerable residents.

“Since April 1, 2020, Bridges has been on the streets of Newark every night in effort to connect with residents experiencing homelessness. Our partnership with the City of Newark has led to significant outcomes for some of our most vulnerable neighbors and this expansion represents the continued commitment to solving chronic homelessness in Newark. It is a shining example of what’s possible for communities aiming to solve homelessness and it is something we’re immensely proud to be part of,” **stated Richard Uniacke, Bridges Outreach President.**

“We are proud to expand our services in the City of Newark by partnering with Bridges on this important initiative,” **stated Pamela Baker, Chief Impact Officer, CSPNJ.** “We provide empathetic and compassionate outreach in part by utilizing person-centered / person-first

language. CSPNJ staff receive extensive training in areas such as trauma-informed care, de-escalation, and harm-reduction training including identifying when/how to administer NARCAN. We also conduct training to explain the importance of low-barrier and Housing First to reinforce the best practices."

**Lasheema Sanders-Edwards, Wellness and Recovery Regional Coordinator at CSPNJ explains,** "I am someone who has been homeless, suffering from mental health conditions and substance use. Outreach has personally empowered me to become an agent of change in my community. I have begun to foster social connections within my community which has dramatically helped me as a peer by providing individualized support that extends beyond immediate service. The outreach teams who consistently dedicated their time to help empower me to seek services and get the help I needed is why I am here today. The key is the consistent outreach for those who have lost hope in services."

"We are here to mark another milestone in Newark's 'The Path Home' initiative, which, to date, has introduced several new and innovative strategies that has helped reduce street homelessness. Today we celebrate one of those strategies with the expanded staff and broader services for precise, responsive, care for those without the safety and comfort of a roof over their head," **stated Mayor Ras J. Baraka in a press release from the City of Newark.**

As a 24/7 Street Outreach Partner, Bridges Outreach, Inc. leverages 36 years of experience meeting people where they are and reducing barriers for Newark's homeless population through consistent street engagement, including 7-night shifts with CSPNJ, 4-overnight shifts, and 2 weekend day shifts weekly. Bridges enriches the "Housing First" approach by offering mobile case management, clinical assessments by Bridges' LCSW, live online benefits applications, and continued support through its Project Connect drop-in center, in Newark. Collaboratively, Bridges partners with CSPNJ on HMIS documentation, quality control, trauma-informed care, shelter placements, and benefits access. Together with CSPNJ and the City of Newark, Bridges focuses on meeting the City's most vulnerable residents where they are to deliver lasting outcomes through "The Path Home." Beyond this, Bridges employs its evolving Impact Model— built over 36 years of excellence—to sustain its bespoke, client-focused approach, ensuring no barrier remains insurmountable.

CSPNJ complements these efforts with its peer-based outreach model, fostering a trusting, low-barrier environment where individuals are respected and understood regardless of active substance use or mental health challenges. CSPNJ incorporates harm reduction strategies and a Housing First philosophy, emphasizing that housing is a human right without prerequisites. With extensive expertise from statewide outreach programs, CSPNJ has expanded its homeless engagement in Newark, building on successful projects like the IHPS and Diversion & Prevention programs across Essex County. CSPNJ's largest collaborative outreach project, in

partnership with NJ Transit, dedicates 30 weekly hours to engaging homeless individuals at transit hubs, significantly reducing homelessness at these locations. This experience equips CSPNJ to identify and serve unsheltered individuals effectively, connecting them to critical resources such as its Better Life Community Wellness Center and Peer Wellness Respite in Newark.

If you know of someone experiencing homelessness, or who is at risk of being homeless in the City of Newark and they would like non-emergency assistance, please call 211 or text PATH HOME or PATHHOME to 855-11. For more information about this initiative, contact Annel Montero-Mitchell at 934-216-4271 or [amontero.mitchell@bridgesoutreach.org](mailto:amontero.mitchell@bridgesoutreach.org).

### **About Bridges Outreach**

Bridges Outreach, Inc. is a leading nonprofit corporation solving homelessness through street outreach and intensive case management focusing on health, housing, and independence. Bridges forms relationships with those experiencing homelessness while meeting their most urgent needs. Bridges partners with Municipalities, Counties, State and Federal Government to develop systems in which experiences of homelessness are rare, brief and non-recurring. In 2024, Bridges documented 9,780 street outreach engagements and successfully housed and stabilized more than 480 people. For more information, please visit [www.bridgesoutreach.org](http://www.bridgesoutreach.org) or reach them at (908) 273-0176, or [info@bridgesoutreach.org](mailto:info@bridgesoutreach.org).

### **About Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey (CSPNJ)**

A statewide behavioral health agency incorporated in 1984, CSPNJ has established itself as a respected innovator of housing, Community Wellness Centers, employment, and economic development services that promote the wellness and recovery of people with the lived experience of behavioral health conditions. Starting with just three drop-in centers to what is now a statewide network of programs, CSPNJ is a nationally recognized leader in the design and delivery of wellness and recovery-oriented services, offering opportunities for people to live, learn, and work in the community of their choice. CSPNJ is celebrating its 40th year of operations in 2025, having provided supportive housing and community wellness centers for decades as well as homelessness services for over 10 years and outreach services for the past 5 years. CSPNJ is a HUD-approved Public Housing Agency that provides mainstream and CoC housing vouchers for over 20 years. For more information about CSPNJ, visit [www.cspnj.org](http://www.cspnj.org).