

Community Corner

Peabody Autism Nonprofit Gets Grant From Flutie Foundation

The funds were used to purchase six 10.5-inch iPads for Bridgewell's Rosewood III Day Program in Billerica.

By News Desk, News Partner | Aug 13, 2018 1:57 pm ET

From Bridgewell: Bridgewell, a nonprofit providing social and human services that empower people with disabilities and other life challenges to live safe, self-directed and productive lives, is pleased to announce that it has received a \$4,488 grant from the Doug Flutie, Jr Foundation for Autism's Allison Keller Education Technology Program. The funds were used to purchase six 10.5-inch iPads for *Bridgewell's Rosewood III Day Program in Billerica*.

Bridgewell's Rosewood III Day Program, a day center for young adult with autism who are aging out of the public-school system, offers a hands-on learning experience that focuses on skills building, physical fitness and nutrition, community engagement, employment opportunities and technology. iPads have proven to be a beneficial tool for those on the Autism spectrum, lessening the symptoms of the disorder and contributing to an increase in social skills, communication and independence. With the addition of the iPads provided by the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism, Bridgewell will be able to further assist people attending their Rosewood III Day Program in growing the abilities they need to confidently, successfully and independently navigate life.

"The grant we received from the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism has provided us with additional tools to help participants of our Rosewood III Day Program reach critical milestones," said Laura McNamara, Director of Program Operations. "Providing people on the Autism spectrum with controlled access to modern technology can help in a variety of ways, including making them less prone to sensory overload, and we are grateful to the foundation for the opportunity to bring the new iPads into our classrooms."

The Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism awards grants annually through a competitive application and review process. The Allison Keller Education Technology Program grants that the Flutie Foundation distribute each year help to provide technology tools and training that improve learning outcomes and performance for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Bridgewell is a nonprofit social and human services organization dedicated to strengthening communities. Headquartered in Peabody, Mass., Bridgewell empowers people with disabilities and other life challenges to live safe, self-directed and productive lives. Bridgewell delivers support through community housing, day programs, outpatient treatment, recovery services, education and employment training. Bridgewell's staff of more than 1,400 professionals serves approximately 6,300 people and their families. Bridgewell is accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) and fully licensed by the state.