

Bridgewell to honor Beverly man for 43 years of service

By News Staff



Gary LaPierre, of Beverly, will be honored for his 43 years of work at Bridgewell.
Courtesy photo

PEABODY — A Beverly man who worked for Bridgewell for 43 years will be honored by the nonprofit social and human services organization next week.

Gary LaPierre will receive the Visionary Leadership Award at Bridgewell's Imagine the Possibilities Gala and fundraiser on April 5 at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel. The event will also honor the Rubin family of Bernie & Phyl's Furniture with the Excellence in Service award.

LaPierre is retiring after working in a variety of roles in direct care and in training for 43 years for [Bridgewell](#), the Peabody-based agency that recently celebrated its 65th anniversary.

“The impact that Gary LaPierre has made on our employees and our organization is truly exceptional,” Bridgewell President and CEO Christopher Tuttle said. “Almost every one of our 1,400 employees at Bridgewell has been impacted by his passion for training, born out of an in-depth understanding of the support needs of the people we serve.”

Tuttle announced that the agency’s supervisory skills training, which was developed and enhanced by LaPierre over many years, will be renamed the LaPierre Leadership Academy. The training focuses on developing managers’ leadership skills and broadening their knowledge of the organization as they grow professionally.

“It has been an honor and a privilege to have had the opportunity to make a positive impact in people’s lives during my 43 years at Bridgewell,” LaPierre said.

The Rubin family of Bernie & Phyl’s Furniture will be recognized for their support of Bridgewell, including by helping furnish the agency’s residential programs.

“We have been in business for over 40 years and could not have done it without tremendous support from our community,” said Jake Rubin, who works in merchandising and community outreach for Bernie & Phyl’s. “Our way of saying thank you is to continue supporting our community through positive initiatives, and inspiring others to do the same.”

Bridgewell supports people with disabilities and other life challenges through community housing, day programs, outpatient treatment, recovery services, education and employment training. Its staff of more than 1,400 serves approximately 7,000 people and their families.

Sponsorship information and tickets for Bridgewell’s gala and fundraiser are available at <https://bridgewell.org/donate/gala/>.