



*Connecting Individuals with Disabilities to Their Community*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Community Bridges Announces Project SEARCH Graduation Ceremony**

(Concord, New Hampshire) – Community Bridges is proud to announce the graduation of the 2010-2011 Project SEARCH class. The program’s partner, Concord Hospital, will host the ceremony on June 13, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm in Conference Room A. All of the graduates have successfully completed a one-year high school transition program at Concord Hospital where they were provided with training and education in the healthcare field.

To graduate the program, students had to first attend classes 5 days a week to learn employability skills and then complete three to four internship rotations at Concord Hospital. Accommodating up to 12 students a year, the Project SEARCH program end goal is for each student to obtain gainful employment through the skills he or she has learned.

“We are extremely proud of this year’s Project SEARCH class,” states Roy Gerstenberger, executive director of Community Bridges. “The training the students have received at Concord Hospital will allow them to enter the workforce with several specialized skills that high school students do not typically receive. We are thrilled that Concord Hospital has chosen to continue the partnership with Project SEARCH and hope that these students’ future employers recognize the benefits of the training provided.”

Established to open doors to individuals who may not otherwise have the opportunity to learn the skills needed to be actively employed, Project SEARCH serves as an alternative for students in their last year of high school. To qualify for the program, students must be 18-21 years of age, eligible for New Hampshire Vocational Rehabilitation and area agency services, and in their senior year of high school. Additional eligibility requirements include meeting all academic requirements for graduation, basic communication skills, and the ability to access independent transportation.

### **About Project SEARCH**

Established over 13 years ago at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center by Erin J. Riehle, MSN, RN., Project SEARCH serves people with disabilities through innovative workforce and career development. Through this process they educate employers about the potential of this underutilized workforce while meeting human resource needs. The program is dedicated to workforce development that benefits the individual, community, and workplace. The program can now be found in hospitals throughout the US and overseas.

### **About Community Bridges**

Community Bridges connects individuals with disabilities and their families with resources that help them achieve positive growth and change. By managing a support network of community resources, Community Bridges matches individuals with disabilities to opportunities that help them realize their greatest potential through an individualized plan.

Serving individuals with disabilities of all ages and financial backgrounds, Community Bridges is a not-for-profit organization that solidifies funding and fosters relationships with a trusted network of organizations throughout the community to ensure the best opportunities for individuals in the areas of Early Childhood Support, Residential and Day Services, Career Development, Homecare Services, Self-Directed Services, and Individual and Family Support. For more information call 603-225-4153 or visit [www.communitybridgesnh.org](http://www.communitybridgesnh.org).

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