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**PALISADES CENTER WELCOMES BRIDGES
TO HOST ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY**

-- Honoring individuals who serve as mentors and supporters for those with disabilities --

WEST NYACK, N.Y.: For the first time, Palisades Center welcomes Bridges to host their annual awards ceremony to honor the American Disabilities Act!

The American Disabilities Act (or ADA) was passed in July of 1990 to provide a comprehensive national mandate and clear, strong and consistent standards for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities. This mission is the driving force behind the work of BRIDGES. Since its founding as an Independent Living Center in 1987, the agency has continued to pursue goals of recognizing and eliminating barriers faced by all people with disabilities to ensure access and inclusion.

“For BRIDGES staff this is one of our favorite days of the year. It is an opportunity to celebrate people who exemplify the Independent Living Center mission of providing advocacy and leadership towards an accessible, integrated community...for people with disabilities. With their support and others, we are working toward establishing a barrier-free society, improving access and enhancing the quality of life for all,” stated Carlos Martinez, Executive Director of BRIDGES.

Bridges annual event celebrates individuals who serve as mentors and supporters for those with disabilities. The honorees for this year’s ceremony include:

John Murphy who will receive the Senator Eugene Levy Memorial Independent Living Award; presented to an individual for his/her contributions to the lives of people with disabilities.

Brigid Pigott who will receive the William H. Mullin Memorial Systems Change Advocate Award; presented to an individual for his/her work towards making significant changes in the lives of people with disabilities.

Lenny Bloomfield who will be honored with the Keith B. Hayes Memorial Spirit of Mentoring Award; presented to an individual for his/her mentoring of others on their path to employment and independence.

Delcy De La Cruz who will be honored with the Will A. Morales Memorial Award; presented to a CDDA participant who is a role model in taking charge of their self-directed services.

Philip Rubin who will be honored with the Spirit of Recovery Award; presented to an individual who exemplifies the strengths needed to overcome the challenges of recovery in life and work.

What: 29th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act with Bridges Awards Ceremony

When: Friday, July 26th at 10:00 a.m.

Where: East Court, on Level One near H&M

“The advocacy and training that BRIDGES provides and the care and support they share here in Rockland is critical to our future success. All of our residents deserve the access and ability to live their lives to the fullest,” said

County Executive Ed Day. "I thank the Palisades Center for hosting this event, and I look forward to celebrating the mentors, advocates and individuals who have accomplished so much in our County."

"As we celebrate the 29th Anniversary of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), I'm pleased to recognize the 2019 BRIDGES Award honorees for their support and advocacy for people with disabilities. With my long standing relationship with this community, I know firsthand the value of BRIDGES' efforts to make significant changes in the lives of people with disabilities," said Township of Clarkstown Supervisor George Hoehmann. "It is my honor to continue to work alongside BRIDGES and all its staff and volunteers to improve the quality of life for all."

To register for the event, please visit www.bridgescelebratingada.eventbrite.com. Light refreshments will be available during the event. For further information contact Nanci Goldman, 845-624-1366 ext. 127, ngoldman@bridgesrc.org or visit www.bridgesrc.org. To learn more about the event and other happenings at the center, please visit www.palisadescenter.com.

About Palisades Center

Palisades Center is among the top ten most visited malls in America and is the premier shopping, dining and entertainment destination in Southern New York. Located just 30 minutes north of NYC, Palisades Center is a four-level shopping center offering over 225 brands, 16 sit-down restaurants, a bowling alley, ice rink, the world's tallest indoor ropes course, comedy club, and more. With its unique and diverse merchant mix, Palisades Center is the go-to place for local shoppers and tourists alike. To learn more, visit www.palisadescenter.com, www.facebook.com/palisadescenter, www.twitter.com/palisadescntr, or www.instagram.com/palisadescntr.

About Pyramid Management Group, LLC

Pyramid Management Group, owner of Palisades Center, is one of the largest, most innovative, privately-held shopping center developers in the northeast. Headquartered in Syracuse, New York, Pyramid's portfolio of retail-based, tourist and entertainment destinations dominate the northeast with 18 properties located throughout New York, Massachusetts and Virginia. For over 40 years, Pyramid has led the industry in combining the best elements of traditional retail with world-class dining, entertainment and hospitality, all under one roof. For more information, visit www.pyramidmg.com.

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