

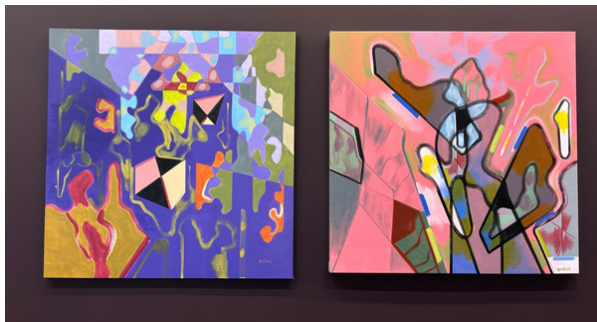


Building Bridges Through Art, Impact, and Community

November 2025 Newsletter

Art that Heals: Harvey Wilson's Work Transforms Bridge Rockaway

On Tuesday, November 4th, The Bridge community gathered to celebrate the installation of more than 100 original paintings and drawings by Brooklyn artist Harvey Wilson at Bridge Rockaway.



Wilson, whose work enlivens hundreds of homes and institutions across New York City, generously donated his artwork to fill the halls and shared spaces of the building, bringing color and inspiration to residents who now call Bridge Rockaway home. His expressive pieces, spanning decades of work, transform the space into a living gallery that celebrates resilience, emotion, and human connection.

The initiative was led by Jack Esterson, Principal at Think! Architecture + Design, who designed Bridge Rockaway and spearheaded the vision to integrate Wilson's art throughout the building. The result is an environment that feels welcoming and deeply human, one that reflects The Bridge's belief that healing and recovery are nourished not only by housing and services, but also by beauty and self-expression.



The event was a celebration of creativity and community, with residents sharing their positive feedback on the new additions. An inspiring example of how art can uplift spirits, Wilson's work serves as a lasting reminder that hope and beauty belong in every home.

Running for a Cause: The Bridge's First NYC Marathon Team

This November, The Bridge proudly participated as an official charity partner for the TCS NYC Marathon with three incredible runners, Divine Ehidom, Sophie Aziakou, and Brian Kim-Koutsis.

Joining over 59,000 participants, our runners not only crossed the finish line but also exceeded their fundraising goals, raising over \$3,000 each to support The Bridge's mental health and housing services. Their dedication and endurance embody the spirit of The Bridge, showing that with determination and community, every step can create a lasting impact.



The event was led by Bridge staff members Eric Severance and Michelle DeFeo, who played an essential role in bringing this effort to life. Both experienced runners themselves, Eric and Michelle aided our runners in all things marathon leading up to the race. Their leadership and enthusiasm helped make The Bridge's first marathon partnership a resounding success.



Our team was cheered on by Bridge staff and supporters along the course, proudly waving signs that celebrated every mile of their journey. Divine, a Care Coordinator at The Bridge, ran for the individuals he works with every day. Sophie, a member of our Junior Board, dedicated every step to Bridge clients, whose resilience inspires her to keep going. And Brian, a devoted friend of The Bridge, turned his passion for running into a powerful act of giving.

This milestone marks an exciting new chapter in The Bridge's fundraising efforts, bringing our mission to a citywide stage and inspiring others to take action, one stride at a time.

We're deeply proud of Divine, Sophie, and Brian for representing The Bridge with such strength and heart. Their commitment reminds us that whether on the road or in our communities, progress is built together, step by step.

Boos, Booze, and Big Impact: The Junior Board Halloween Fundraiser

On Friday, October 24th, The Bridge celebrated our annual Junior Board Halloween Fundraiser, *Boos & Booze* at Slattery's Midtown Pub. The much-anticipated event brought together friends, family, and supporters for a festive night, all in support of The Bridge's mission to provide mental health and housing solutions to vulnerable New Yorkers.



The event featured dinner, an open bar, and a lively raffle with prizes including tickets to The Edge NYC, 10 fitness classes from F45 Flatiron, a golf foursome voucher at the Engineers Country Club, and more. Our guests came dressed to impress, with costumes ranging from cowboys to astronauts to the Statue of Liberty, filling the room with creativity.



Boos & Booze is one of several fundraisers hosted by The Bridge's Junior Board, a dedicated group of young professionals who volunteer their time, energy, and talents on behalf of The Bridge. Through their commitment and enthusiasm, this year's event raised more than \$8,000 to support The Bridge's mental health and substance use services, supportive housing and community-based supports.



Fundraisers like *Boos & Booze* not only generate critical funds but also strengthen The Bridge's community of emerging leaders and advocates. Through the commitment of our Junior Board, we continue to build a stronger more compassionate New York for all.

Celebrating Excellence: The Bridge's Dawn Haywood Honored by the Association for Community Living

The Bridge is proud to celebrate Dawn Haywood, Resident Manager of the Rita Berger House, in her recent recipient selection for the Association for Community Living's (ACL) inaugural Excellence in Director Care Award. This distinction honors frontline professionals across New York State who exemplify compassion, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to the mental health community, qualities Dawn embodies every day.

At ACL's 46th Annual ACLAIMH Conference, Dawn was recognized alongside direct care workers from agencies statewide. In its announcement, ACL highlights the "quiet heroism" that defines the work of direct care staff, supporting individuals through crises, creating welcoming homes, and walking beside people on their recovery journeys, contributions Dawn reflects daily in her work at The Bridge.

Over the past 12 years, Dawn's unwavering dedication, compassion, empathy, and professionalism have consistently enhanced the quality of life for our most vulnerable clients.

She goes above and beyond daily, providing physical support and emotional comfort for every individual we serve. Her impact has been both profound and inspiring. Staff and clients at The Bridge are lucky to have her on our team.

Leaders across New York emphasized how essential direct care workers are to the state's mental health housing system. As OMH commissioner Dr. Ann Sullivan said, "Their compassion, skill, and persistence make recovery and independence possible for thousands of individuals across our state."

Dawn's recognition is not only a personal achievement, but also a celebration of the profound impact that dedicated everyday acts of care can have on individuals working toward stability, wellness, and independence.

We are grateful for Dawn's leadership, compassion, and unwavering commitment to The Bridge's mission.

Looking Ahead

The Bridge's Annual Gala




THE BRIDGE
GALA
2026
SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

The Metropolitan Club
1 East 60th Street • New York City

HONORING
Alvin Bragg
Manhattan District Attorney

THE BRIDGE serves over 5,000 adults who struggle with serious mental illness and substance use. We provide behavioral health services, supportive housing and community-based supports for vulnerable New Yorkers.

For more information, visit thebridge.org/gala2026
or contact Alyssa Kind in the Gala Office at
646-450-4948 or ak@kindeventsny.com

Support The Bridge

At The Bridge, we are committed to meeting people where they are by providing accessible and trauma-informed mental health services, as well as permanent supportive housing. Your support is needed to help The Bridge continue to provide these services to those in our community who need it most. **With your donation, you can help vulnerable New Yorkers build their own paths to healing, growth, and independence.**

[Donate](#)
