



The Arch Bridge School at Wellspring EXPANDS PROGRAM

Receives Full Program Approval and Commendations

July 9, 2009—The Connecticut State Department of Education has granted full program approval to Wellspring's Arch Bridge School for its special education program. The approval is for the period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2014.

The five year approval follows a lengthy process that included an in-depth review by the State Department of Education in January and February of this year. Arch Bridge School at Wellspring provides special education services to residents of Wellspring's programs along with day students from the local community. **The approval allows The Arch Bridge School to expand its program to serve 51 students between the ages of 6 and 21 in grades 1 through 12 who struggle with emotional issues.**

"We provide an intensely therapeutic school program while maintaining high academic standards. We have the ability to offer math from primary school level right through Calculus and lab sciences to students at the High School level," shares Susan Scott Schoenbach, Director of Education at The Arch Bridge School at Wellspring. "I enjoyed the opportunity to present our program to people who are aware of what is available statewide for those students with emotionally based special education needs. I think that what we offer is special and unique."

The Arch Bridge School is located at Wellspring's Main Campus in Bethlehem, CT. Serving the community since 1990, Arch Bridge is a member of the Connecticut Association of Private Special Education Facilities (CAPSEF), and is approved by the Department of Education as a nonpublic special education program.

"I appreciate the support of the Connecticut State Department of Education in approving and commending the Arch Bridge School at Wellspring because it is a special program that serves very well the needs of children with emotional issues," shares Harvey Newman, Wellspring's Chief Executive Officer. "Arch Bridge School deserves recognition as the premier school of its kind in Litchfield county."

To schedule a tour or learn more about Wellspring and The Arch Bridge School please call 203-266-8000 extension 8027 or visit us online at www.wellspring.org.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IDENTIFIED THESE FIVE AREAS IN THEIR COMMENDATIONS

"The Arch Bridge School demonstrates its commitment to parent-school collaboration in its mission and in its practices. Parent support groups provide instruction and guidance to enhance parenting skills and to provide parents with an opportunity to share information and experiences with other parents. Regular communication with each student's parent(s)/guardian(s) is assured through telephone and written communication. The carryover of the school's behavior management system into the home and/or residence provides for the consistency and predictability that is critical to each student's social-emotional and behavioral development;

Collaboration and communication among staff is viewed as a strength of the program in that it assures that each student is discussed by an interdisciplinary team at least weekly. This is further demonstrated by a meeting of all education staff each morning and each afternoon, providing for a consistent and constant flow of information regarding students' progress and needs;

A comfortable, safe environment is provided for students and staff. Teacher-student rapport was noted as positive as was an atmosphere of mutual respect;

The Relational Model, that is, the treatment philosophy of the residential, clinical and educational programs is clearly infused throughout all aspects of the program, providing for an integrated approach to the education of students within a residential treatment center; and

The school maintains high academic standards for the students it serves, while simultaneously providing the structured and supported environment that promotes high student achievement for the student population served by this program."



Wellspring is licensed by the State of Connecticut for residential and outpatient services, accredited by The Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) and approved by the State Departments of Education in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey. Since its beginning in 1977, Wellspring has progressively expanded its services to provide:

- residential treatment for children ages 6-12, adolescent girls, young adults, and adults
- extensive outpatient services
- a therapeutic state-approved special education school for residents and community day students.

wellspring

21 Arch Bridge Road, Bethlehem, CT 06751 www.wellspring.org 203-266-8000

Wellspring is a nonprofit psychotherapeutic and educational center dedicated to healing through relational approaches. Our peaceful woodland setting supports a healing environment where residents, students, clients, and their families can feel safe to face themselves, their issues and their relationships, allowing them to return to home, school, and community to lead healthy and meaningful lives.