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GREGG STOCKEY NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **Bridge Youth & Family Services Board of Directors Promotes from Within**

Thursday, June 26, 2008, Palatine, IL When Peter Cunneen passed away on February 4, The Bridge Youth & Family Services experienced both a personal loss and a void in leadership. Gregg Stockey, then Associate Director, was appointed Interim Executive Director. It was Gregg's guidance and grace under pressure that helped pilot the agency through this recent crisis. During that time a search committee conducted a meticulous investigation designed to identify the finest individual available to guide The Bridge as Executive Director.

On Wednesday, June 25, The Bridge's Board of Directors, chaired by Stephen Whited, recognized Gregg's accomplishments, qualifications and leadership. After a search that drew over 100 resumes from impressive candidates nationwide they chose Gregg Stockey as Executive Director. "After a rigorous selection process that lasted almost five months, it is clear Gregg is the best choice for the position," Whited remarked.

Gregg Stockey began his career as a Youth and Family Counselor for Omni Youth Services in Wheeling Township. There he helped implement a Serious Juvenile Offender program, a Peer Counseling program in conjunction with Wheeling High School, and an Outdoor Adventure program that is still ongoing. He holds a Masters Degree in counseling psychology from Illinois State University and earned credentials as a Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor. After several years in private practice, Gregg came to The Bridge where Peter convinced him to come aboard full-time.

Gregg was instrumental in the initiation of substance abuse counseling in partnership with area schools, and the development of the Early Childhood program at The Bridge. As Associate Director his duties included the supervision of all of the programs at The Bridge. These included the Prevention Team, Crisis Team, and Family Team. He will continue these duties as he continues to lead the agency. As a future path, Gregg sees partnerships with other organizations using research based interventions and program models.

In addition to his devotion to The Bridge, Gregg is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys camping and fishing. He recently published a book of memoirs, *Guests At The Buck Falls Club*. Gregg is married to Bonnie Collins, and they have one son, Matt. Congratulations Gregg, and thank you for your service to the community.

The Bridge Youth and Family Services provides parenting skills and education, counseling, youth advocacy (mentoring) and crisis intervention. Established in 1965, The Bridge is a comprehensive, community-based charitable organization serving youth through age 17 and their families in northwest suburban Cook County. For more information, visit www.bridgeyouth.org.

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