**THE BRIDGE WELCOMES VETERAN LEADER IN MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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The Board of Trustees and Staff at The Bridge has announced Louis A. Schwarcz as the new CEO of the organization beginning in July 2017. Mr. Schwarcz joins The Bridge with over 25 years of experience and knowledge in the field of mental health, most recently as CEO of the Mental Health Association of Morris County.

As a well-respected professional in Morris and Essex Counties and the mental health community throughout New Jersey, Mr. Schwarcz has been instrumental in developing many innovating programs for individuals and families with mental health and addiction challenges as well as seniors, caregivers and people with disabilities. He is noted for his creative, non-profit management professionalism. Mr. Schwarcz has held numerous leadership roles on both county and state committees and is known for his compassionate and unyielding advocacy for individuals and families seeking support and guidance in addressing mental health and addiction.

Bob Masella, Bridge President says, “The Bridge has come so far since our founding. We provide a safe environment for adults, adolescents and children in our community to get the help they need through our programs. The Board and I welcome Lou to The Bridge and are confident that he will lead the organization in fulfilling and growing our mission in the communities of Essex and Union counties.”

The Bridge, founded in 1971, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that works to promote mental health and addiction services through counseling and educational programs. Located in both West Caldwell and Irvington, The Bridge serves over 1,000 clients annually through outpatient counseling, school-based counseling and family preservation services. The Bridge’s mission is to work toward creating sustainable families by advocating for those in need. Our work is dedicated to - Healthy Minds. Healing Hearts. Peaceful Communities.

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