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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The BRIDGE School at Rye Brook Honors Graduates with Guest Speaker NYS Senator Shelley B. Mayer

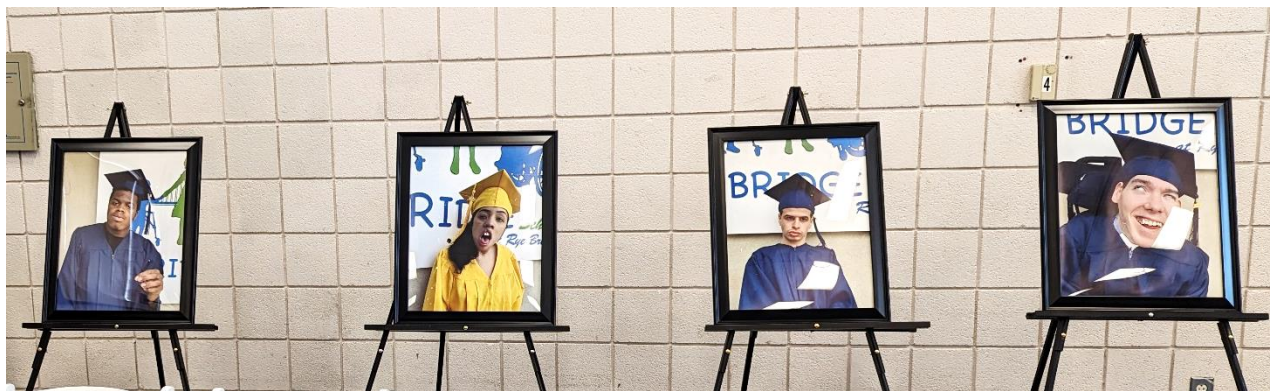
RYE BROOK, NY – Cerebral Palsy of Westchester’s BRIDGE School at Rye Brook, a NYS Department of Education-approved special education center serving students with disabilities, ages 5 to 21, held its graduation ceremony yesterday morning. Four graduates in formal cap and gown attire were surrounded by their peers from the BRIDGE School, as well as staff, family, and friends, for this special day. Hosted by Principal Barry Wasser, the ceremony opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by members of the school’s Adaptive Boy and Girl Scouts. Principal Wasser offered a special tribute to a member of the graduating class who sadly passed away last week. Musical performances were provided by CPW’s Vocal Groove Ensemble. Guest Speaker NYS Senator Shelley B. Mayer spoke on behalf of the State of New York, congratulating the graduates on this wonderful achievement, wishing them luck in all future endeavors, and honoring them with a certificate of special recognition.



Left Image: NYS Senator Shelley B. Mayer. Photo by Honora Banks. Right Image: (L-R) Graduate Trinity P., Senator Mayer, BRIDGE School teacher Jean Viviano. Photo by Hannah Kirk.

Senator Shelley B. Mayer remarked, *“The graduates have shown remarkable dedication, determination, and perseverance in reaching this milestone. I congratulate them, and I hope they take pride in all they have achieved as they set out on their chosen paths. I also recognize the BRIDGE School faculty and staff, the mentors, and the families for their tremendous support of the class of 2023 . . . Thank you to Cerebral Palsy of Westchester and Principal Wasser for inviting me to be a part of this great occasion.”*

During the program, six students from Cerebral Palsy of Westchester’s BRIDGE School program were



Graduation portraits of CPW BRIDGE School Graduates (L-R) Christian J., Trinity P., Andrew H., Christopher C. Photo by Honora Banks.

awarded the Triple “C” Award. Each year through the Triple “C” Program, NYS Attorney General Letita James recognizes students for their milestone achievements, acknowledging Commitment, Character and Courage.

A slideshow closed out the ceremony, highlighting the graduates’ journeys at the BRIDGE School over the years. Teachers offered words of encouragement to each of the graduates and Principal Wasser presented framed diplomas. Congratulations BRIDGE School Class of 2023!

The BRIDGE School at Rye Brook, a division of Cerebral Palsy of Westchester, is a special education center serving students with multiple disabilities. It offers a comprehensive program that connects families, students, and educational professionals to help each student reach their academic potential and discover what the possibilities are for them beyond the school setting.

Now in its 74th year, **Cerebral Palsy of Westchester’s** mission is to advance the independence, productivity, and full citizenship of people living with all developmental disabilities including autism, neurological impairments, intellectual disabilities, epilepsy, and cerebral palsy. CPW’s main campus is located in Rye Brook, NY, housing a special education school, an adult day habilitation program and recreation programs. CPW operates the United Preschool Center in White Plains, as well as seven group homes throughout Westchester. Through a comprehensive network of educational programs, day services, residential sites, therapeutic services, employment training, recreation programs and advocacy the agency helps thousands of children and adults in Westchester and Fairfield Counties live more productive and satisfying lives. The organization’s motto is: *Realizing Tomorrow’s Potential . . . Today!* For more, visit cpwestchester.org.

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For more information and high resolution images, contact Tia Levinson, CPW’s Director of Development and Public Relations, at 914-937-3800 ext. 353 or email tia.levinson@cpwestchester.org.

Please see more images on next page.



The four CPW BRIDGE School Graduates receiving their diplomas (L-R) Christian J., Trinity P., Andrew H., Christopher C.



CPW's Vocal Groove Music Ensemble



Scouts leading the Pledge