



In Response to Current Events

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

June 11, 2020

Dear NEV Colleagues and Supporters,

New England Village is committed to equality and fairness. We stand in unity with our Black employees, their families, and Black communities in the fight against racism, which has resulted in the murder of George Floyd and countless other innocent Black victims of racial violence.

New England Village is proud to stand in solidarity with all who are peacefully marching and protesting for change. The only way we can eradicate racism is with education, understanding, and mobilization. It is past time that we as a nation transform ourselves, and ensure the senseless violence that claimed the lives of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and so many others, ends once and for all.

As an organization that supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, we place the highest emphasis on treating every individual with dignity and respect. We are blessed to have a diverse and inclusive culture that extends to the staff we employ. To tolerate the injustices that have been placed on Black lives and to fail to advocate for change does not reflect our values. This is not a political stance—it is a humanitarian one.

In unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MAR", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael A. Rodrigues
President and CEO



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Michael Rodrigues

New England Village Announces Michael A. Rodrigues as President & CEO

(Pembroke, MA) –New England Village’s (NEV) Board of Directors concluded a thorough six-month search by selecting Michael A. Rodrigues as NEV’s new President and Chief Executive Officer effective January 15, 2020. Rodrigues succeeds Gail T. Brown, CRC, LRC, LCSW, who retired from New England Village after 7 years of service to the organization.

Mike Rodrigues has focused his life’s work on empowering children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to lead rich and fulfilling lives. Since March 2016, he had served as President & CEO of Thrive Support & Advocacy in Marlborough, MA. Prior to that, he was the Chief Executive Officer of Triangle in Malden, MA for fifteen years. Earlier work included senior leadership roles at Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries and other nonprofits, as well as private sector positions.

Mike holds a B.B.A. from the Isenberg School at the University of Massachusetts – Amherst. He is a member of the UMass Amherst Alumni Association Board of

Directors. Mike has received numerous recognitions throughout his career, including the Boston Celtics Heroes Among Us award.

“Known to all as a great communicator and relationship builder, Mike has a natural ability to connect with others, including individuals-served, staff, philanthropic partners, community supporters, donors, and other CEOs who share similar visions. We are excited to have someone of Mike’s caliber at the helm as we approach our auspicious 50th year of service to men and women with intellectual and developmental disabilities in 2022,” said NEV’s Chairman of the Board William F. Ray, III.

Mike is a man of varied interests. He is a member of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials MA Board 208 and has coached more than 1,000 games. Other hobbies include golf and tennis, but perhaps one of his more interesting passions is the Grateful Dead – he has attended more than 100 of their concerts from MA to CA! Mike, his wife Stacy, and their three children, Luke, Cassidy and Wes all live in Hopedale, MA with their English Bulldog Mac.

About New England Village

New England Village began its proud tradition of service to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in 1972, when the organization was founded by parents who wanted to create an enlightened new model of community living for their sons and daughters. Today, with multiple locations, modern facilities and a specialized team of highly skilled and dedicated human service professionals, New England Village serves more than 180 men and women, through a variety of innovative programs and customized supports. NEV embraces the philosophy that individual choice and self-determination should direct all of its services, and it is committed to empowering people to reach their full potential and pursue a life that is personally meaningful to them.

For more information on NEV, visit their website at www.newenglandvillage.org.