



HMEA News

Reach for Independence

HMEA's 28th Annual Awards Night

Celebrating Staff, Supported Individuals and Community Citizens for accomplishments, achievements and corporate partnerships

Over 325 friends, family members, supported individuals, community citizens and staff attended HMEA's 28th Annual Awards Night held recently at Lake Pearl Wrentham. At this celebration, held each year to recognize people affiliated with HMEA, we heard amazing, awe-inspiring stories about courage, achievement and accomplishment, and overcoming barriers to reach for independence, at work, home and in school.

The evening began with a rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner", sung by our very own **John Rano** from our residential programs.



Matt Popieniuck from DELL with Jule Gomes Noack, HMEA's President

Then awards were announced and **Matt Popieniuck** from Dell Technologies was presented the **Outstanding Corporate Volunteer Award**. Matt received the award for his leadership and commitment to helping HMEA sort through issues and help streamline processes, that ultimately resulted in more productivity. He

has said he loves that his work benefits the important work that HMEA does in supporting people with disabilities.

The **Eric Rodgers Memorial Award** was presented next to four individuals supported by the agency who achieved significant personal accomplishments

by overcoming barriers and challenges with courage and determination. The four recipients of this award were, **Demi Demakis** from the Hopedale Employment program, **John Martell** from a residential program, **Justin Daigle**, a student at the Darnell School and **Kelly Barzaga** supported through IFFS Family Supports program.

HMEA presented five **Citizens Awards** this year, which is presented to a person or group/organization not employed at HMEA, who has made a significant contribution to the people we support by going above and beyond expectations. The award winners were **Centro Family Support Services** in Worcester, **Jacqueline O'Brien**, a RN with the Department of Public Health in Attleboro, **Mary Paradis**, a pharmacist with Prescott Pharmacy in Worcester, **Susan Barbour**, Franklin Senior Community Center and **Sue George**, owner of Harvard Sweet Boutique in Hudson.



Ashley Griffin, an HMEA Residential Coordinator with Kwaku Achamfour, Manager

HMEA's Board of Directors Award winners were **David Crowley**, who is a teacher at the Darnell School, and **Kwaku Achamfour** who works in Adult Services. This award is given annually to staff who significantly enriched the lives of the people they support in the area of meaningful relationships, increasing community par

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participation, empowering people as decision-makers and teaching new skills.



Patrick Fay with Job Developer, Robert Riendeau from HMEA's TRACS program

Patrick Fay from the TRACS program and **Lisa Kakish** from Millbury Employment Program received the **Outstanding Employee Award** for their exemplary work efforts and ethics.

Up next was the recipients of the **HMEA Award**, **Jennalyn Giles**, a clinician and **Stacey Hansen**

from Children's Services. Both received this award for their consistent outstanding contributions and commitment to high standards.

This year's **Volunteer Award** was presented to **Crystal Guyette** from Sterling Employment



Jennalyn Giles with Michael Moloney, HMEA's CEO

Program. This is given to a person supported by the agency or the community for their volunteer contributions to HMEA or the wider community.

Rebekah Devine, RN was the recipient of the **Kevin McMullen Award**. This award is given to an employee who demonstrates a 100% commitment to

the people they support and who sees the best in every person and situation, and is a positive role model.



Crystal Guyette with Suzanne Wigen, HMEA's Career Options Coordinator



Plainville Day Habilitation Program Team

Two **Team Awards** were presented. **Plainville Day Habilitation Program** and **HMEA's Payroll and Human Resource Department** were winners of this award which is given to a group that works effectively together as a team in any program or department.



Payroll and Human Resources Department Team

The **Kathy Gilchrist Award**, which is presented to a therapist in Children's Services who demonstrates unyielding devotion to children and their families, who always goes the extra step to make sure that children experience success and who maintains a positive attitude at all times with children, families and other team members was awarded to **Hayley Smith**.

Jessica Pasquerillo received the **Shared Living Provider Award**. This award is given to a provider who enriches the life of an individual and who demonstrates commitment to the individual increasing community participation, supporting meaningful relationships and by providing a home.



Jessica Pasquerillo

And lastly, both **Patricia Lynch**, an IFFS Family Support Coordinator, and **Phyllis Schoof**, a Medical Coordinator, were both presented with the **Advocacy Award**. An award that is given to *a person or group who successfully advocates for him or herself or for others in order to affect change; self-advocacy or advocacy on behalf of another.*



Long term employees (from left to right)
Cindy Ridolfi, Jule Gomes Noack and David Placido

In addition to the award presentations, HMEA also honored two staff members for their **30 Years of Service**, **Jule Gomes Noack**, *President and COO* and **David Placido**, *Director of Shared Living*. And, **Cindy Ridolfi**, *Supervisor at the Plainville Employment Program* was also recognized for her **25 Years of Service**.

Congratulations to all our award winners and thank you to our long-term employees celebrating anniversaries this year!

Great Things are Happening in Children's Services



Kari Dunlop (left), Clinical Director and Michelle Mayer, HMEA's Chief Learning Officer

Kari Dunlop, Clinical Director at the Darnell School, earned her Ph.D. from Endicott College in August 2017, and was a member of their first cohort of Ph.D. students. Her dissertation focused on using technology to increase independent responding during vocational tasks, and

Michele Mayer, CLO of HMEA, served as one of

her committee members. Her other two committee members were Dr. Tom Zane and Dr. Mary Jane Weiss, both professors in the Ph.D. program at Endicott. Kari's research was conducted at the Darnell School with four students who completed novel vocational tasks using an iPad with a visual schedule app. Kari plans on presenting her dissertation research at the ABA International conference in the spring in San Diego, and hopes to have it published as a journal article in the near future.

Kari has worked at the Darnell School for over 8 years, and enjoys mentoring and training new staff and prospective BCBA's. She looks forward to continuing in her role at Darnell School while also helping Children's Services expand the number of BCBA's, offer more Continuing Education opportunities, and provide consultation as needed.



Stefanie Salome, Assistant Director in Children's Services (left) with and Stacey Hansen with her HMEA Award

Stacey Hansen, Regional Director of Boston, was presented with the HMEA Award at our 28th Annual Awards Night for her outstanding work in the Children's Services Division. In her nomination, her supervisor, Jolene Perry, said, *"From the day she started, Stacey jumped in with both feet and hit the ground running. She is adored by the children and families she supports, is a mentor to those she super-*

vises, and is seen as a leader by her colleagues. Through her never-ending enthusiasm and passion, Stacey represents all that HMEA stands for."

Stacey revealed her giving spirit early on when she volunteered to be the Kids Corner Coordinator at HMEA's incredABLE 5K only a few weeks into her employment with the agency. When Stacey came to HMEA, we had begun the "Big Data" initiative to enable therapists to collect data in real time on tablets that is then uploaded to Accupoint, our medical records database. She took an active role in learning the system and becoming the trainer for BCBA's and Direct Care staff. And if all that isn't enough to fill her time, she also volunteered to teach an Applied Behavior Analysis undergraduate class at Becker College.

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Hayley Smith holding her award with Franklin Children's Services staff, Lorraine Sawicki

Hayley Smith, Early Intervention Behavior Therapist, was awarded the Kathy Gilchrist Memorial Award at HMEA's 28th Annual Awards Night for her unyielding devotion to the children and families she works with. Her department team mates nominated her for the award because she is a reliable member of

the team who goes above and beyond to ensure her clients achieve their goals and have a positive experience. Hayley is so dedicated to the children and families she supports that she often works outside of her regular scheduled hours to make up missed sessions and is currently working two evenings a week to accommodate a family's schedule. Her co-workers say that one of her strengths is her ability to stay calm even when faced with difficulties and she always represents HMEA in a positive and professional manner.



Starbucks in Leominster recently presented Marissa Donati (second from left) a beautiful 10 year plaque, flowers, and a cake, and she has a 'personally' embroidered apron coming her way! Also in picture are Marissa's parents and her boss, Jamie

HMEA Holds 3rd Annual Employer Appreciation Brunch

In celebration of October as National Disability Employer Appreciation month, HMEA's Employment Division recently held a brunch to honor and thank over 50 employers who have hired HMEA supported individuals. Over 100 people attended the event at the Plainridge Casino, including employers who hire people with disabilities and HMEA employees.

Individuals gave moving and heartfelt stories of successful employment and appreciation to their employers.

HMEA's employment division supports over 200 individuals and has numerous Job Developers, Employment Specialists and Job Coaches who work with supported individuals to find meaningful, gainful employment throughout Central and Eastern Massachusetts.



(from left to right) Ed Reis and Todd McBride from DELL Technologies, Michael Moloney, HMEA's CEO and Doug MacPherson, HMEA's VP of Development and Public Relations

HMEA's Autism Resource Central's Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser

On August 18, 2017, HMEA's Autism Resource Central held their annual "Tee Up for Autism" Golf Tournament at Cyprian Keyes Golf Club in Boylston. One hundred twenty eight golfers played the challenging, but immaculate course.

Each year we see new participants and golfers who have become friends over the years as they have remained committed to our cause. The weather looked ominous, but the precipitation held off until all players were back in the clubhouse.

A dinner buffet sponsored by BCI and raffle drawing was enjoyed by all. In addition to a day of golf attendees enjoyed that day, they were given vouchers from Cyprian Keyes for another round of golf at the 18 hole course and a round at the 9 hole course at Cyprian.

The Center raised \$15,000.00 that will go towards furthering the mission of the center which is to provide autism services and supports for children, adults and their families in central Massachusetts. Over 3,400 families are registered with the Center, which is also celebrating its 20th Anniversary Year.



MassHealth Restructuring

In August, the Baker Administration announced that 17 health care organizations across the state have agreed to participate in a major restructuring of MassHealth. Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), will be financially accountable for cost, quality, and member experience for over 850,000 MassHealth members. Member enrollment in ACOs will be based upon their relationship with their current primary care provider to ensure continuity of care. All ACO models support MassHealth's commitment to invest in community based organizations, referred to as Certified Community Partners for behavioral health and long term services and supports.

"The ACO program represents a significant change in the way we contract and partner with providers," said Dan Tsai, Assistant Secretary and Director of the MassHealth program. *"Historically, MassHealth has operated under a fee-for-service model that leads to gaps in care and inefficiencies. Under this new model, MassHealth will be partnering with provider organizations directly to deliver coordinated, quality care to members."* (quoted from the Massachusetts Health and Human Services website)

In response to this new model of care coordination, HMEA has joined Seven Hills Foundation, Advocates, Boston Center for Independent Living, BayPath Elder Services and Brockton Area Multi-Services (BAMSI) to form a collaborative entity called, Massachusetts Care Coordination Network (MCCN). In May, MCCN bid on the Certified Community Partner Request for Response and was awarded a contract, which will begin in April 2018. HMEA's role in the MCCN will be to provide Autism Services in the Central Massachusetts area. This is a natural fit for our agency since we have been working toward becoming the lead agency for Autism Services and Resources through our Central Massachusetts Autism Summit, our Students for Higher® program and our Autism in the Workforce employment initiatives.



Vice President of IT Ron Barnes in background with Anthony Placido C4C Help Desk Technician

C4C - HMEA's Technology Frontier – Helping other nonprofits with their IT platforms

Since 2012, HMEA has been the fortunate recipient of generous donations from both EMC (now DELL) and Cisco of advanced technology equipment. The capacity was so great that after attending many conferences, and hearing from other non-profits that they indeed needed help with their own IT needs, the idea of starting our own company was born in 2015, to help other non-profits.

Cloud for Causes (C4C) is an Information Technology company that provides computer support and services to other non-profits and does so via HMEA's existing IT staff. The goal is to provide *"The Best Technology at prices you can afford!"*

As an IT company, C4C continues to grow by providing cloud services, help desk services, technical support, content management support, social media support and more to Massachusetts and Rhode Island based non-profits. C4C also electronically hosts a version of our Consumer Information Database (CID), for 28 other agencies and helps champion a consortium of users to suggest enhancements to the system. Our unique position as a non-profit allows us to "speak the language" of other non-profits. We personally know the challenges and opportunities that non-profits face and we are in a position to help guide them to success. C4C currently supports some 4,000 devices on our network across the United States.

This year, C4C will surpass the 1 million dollar mark in total revenue since its inception! The money earned goes back to HMEA's support programs. C4C helps other non-profits fulfill their own mission without having to worry about their IT needs.

Habitat for Humanity Update

During the heat of the summer, volunteers from Dell Manufacturing in Franklin joined HMEA staff to help build a brand-new handicap accessible home for a family supported by HMEA.

Family Supports Coordinator, **Pat Lynch**, was instrumental in encouraging and assisting the family with applying for a new home through Habitat for Humanity. In fact, Pat recently won an Advocacy Award at HMEA's 28th Annual Awards night for her outstanding advocacy for them and other families she works with.



The new home (pictured above) will meet the needs of the couples nine children, four of which have mobility challenges. According to Habitat for Humanity, the project is moving along quickly thanks to the many volunteers who have helped with the build and they expect that the family will be able to move into their new home in November. A great big **THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed to building the home!



Thank you Harvard Pilgrim Health Care for your generosity and hard work!

A Tradition of Giving

On a beautiful September day, 40 employees from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care visited one of our residential programs for their annual volunteer day. This is the 4th year in a row this group has generously given their time and talent to make improvements to this HMEA home. In the past they have done gardening, installed gravel to extend the driveway, painted the inside of the house, and painted the garage. We took advantage of the large group this year by putting them to work painting the two large wheelchair ramps and decks with deck sealer and giving the yard a fall clean up. The place looks great! Thank you Harvard Pilgrim Health Care for your generosity and hard work!



Beatles Tribute Band

Black Box Theater
15 West Central Street
Franklin, MA

More detail and ticket information to follow...

100% proceeds benefit HMEA

(Horace Mann Educational Associates, Inc.)

A Massachusetts non-profit agency supporting children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities



*All of us at HMEA
Wish You and Your's
a Very Happy and Healthy
Holiday Season!*

HMEA's Family Advisory Council

The FAC was established to provide HMEA management with feedback and recommendations on the services they provide to the individuals/families they service and support. We are just like you - family members/caregivers with individuals who currently receive services from HMEA. We have members covering all the Adult Service Areas HMEA provides: *Employment, Day Hab, Residential and Shared Living*. Our hope is to provide constructive feedback for HMEA to help them improve the quality of their services across the organization.

One of the best ways we can do that is by hearing from you: what are your issues, your concerns. We can't fix, what we don't know about, and you may know of issues that none of us have seen or experienced. So we would like to be another place for you to raise issues and get your voices heard. And if you've seen some part of a program or some individual that has had a very positive impact on you or your family, please tell us that as well – so that we can take what is working well and recommend it be extended across the organization. Periodically, we hope to include information in HMEA News to keep you informed of what we're working on. Listed below is our group's email address, as well as individual email addresses, just in case you would prefer to contact someone one-to-one. We look forward to hearing from you.

HMEA FAC Contact Information

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Grant Funding for HMEA Programs

HMEA programs, supported individuals and staff are the proud recipients of recent grants this Fiscal Year totaling \$50,100 with another \$169,568 pending.

We are deeply grateful to the following foundations and organizations who approved a grant for HMEA's programs:

- **DCU for Kids Foundation** for Darnell School curriculum expansion
- **Middlesex Savings Charitable Foundation** for HMEA's new employee training program
- **Sullivan Family Foundation** for residential enhancements
- **Boston Scientific Foundation** for HMEA's AED project
- **NYPRO Foundation** for Sterling Day Program
- **Avelina Charitable Foundation** for Plainville Day Program
- **Rollstone Charitable Foundation** for Sterling Day Program
- **Charles River Bank** for Music Therapy program

Let the training begin...



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, May 20, 2018

As a society, we've learned that we're all better off when everyone is included in the opportunities of this great nation.

-Ted Kennedy



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To learn more about HMEA, please visit us online at www.hmea.org

How do YOU “Reach for Independence”?

Independence can mean different things to different people, but the one common thread is that people strive to live their lives with independence and purpose.

Just imagine for a moment you had to face challenges simply to graduate school, or to be gainfully employed, or even to be able to contribute to a home and family to reach your independence. What would you do?

Reaching ones independence is not easy, but for people with developmental disabilities, like those supported at HMEA, achieving independence can be more difficult.

The programs at HMEA provide educational, employment and habilitation programs, and residential options to help transition individuals into the adult world. Individuals are given job and volunteer opportunities, classroom studies, and residential living solutions to help them reach a greater independence.

Please consider giving generously to HMEA’s FY ‘18 Annual Fund campaign. To give online please visit HMEA’s website...

www.hmea.org

HMEA FY ‘18 Annual Fund Campaign

\$1000 \$500 \$300 \$100 \$50 Other: \$ _____

I pledge \$ _____ to the HMEA FY ‘18 Campaign.

Please designate my gift: unrestricted

In honor of (please print): _____

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- I would like to receive more information on becoming a Founding Member of the new **Horace Mann Promise Society**.
- A Matching Gift Form is enclosed (see your Human Resource department for a matching gift form).