

## YOU Did Something incredABLE

On May 20, the HMEA community, our friends, advocates and supporters, came together to raise awareness and much needed funds for people with developmental disabilities supported by HMEA.

**Gene Lavanchy**, of Fox 25 News, kicked off the opening ceremonies which included a greeting from **Mike Fallon** of Dell EMC and remarks from **Nick, Ron and Pete Cardi**, of Cardi's Furniture and Mattress. One of the highlights of the opening ceremonies each year is the presentation of the Kelly Mendall /Sam Walton Walmart Spirit Award which is given to someone who shares the spirit, zest for life and enthusiasm exhibited by Kelly Mendall who was a highly spirited greeter at Walmart for many years before her passing. This year, the award went to a woman in one of HMEA's residential programs who has overcome numerous health issues and was determined to make the best of it. She has maintained her enthusiastic outlook on life and set an example to others to overcome life's obstacles.

It truly was an incredABLE day with nearly 2,000 people participating in fundraising; including 235 volunteers, 225 runners, 1500 walkers, and numerous other guests and families enjoying all the fun activities at the event. From the jam-packed Kids Corner with games, interactive Bongo drumming, snacks, bubbles, music and more to the Wellness Tent, train rides, touch-a-truck, cookout, and information booths...there was something for everyone.

**HMEA's incredABLE 5k brought in nearly \$200,000 which will go right into programs that support people with disabilities** to live more independently in their homes and communities, at work, and in school. Fundraising monies will help to purchase things like YMCA memberships, educational curriculum, supplies for art, horticulture, and music

therapy, assistive technology devices, and so much more.

**A great big THANK YOU to all our incredABLE supporters for making this event a huge success and making a difference in the lives of so many people!**



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**HMEA's incredABLE 5K 2019**

**Sunday, May 19, 2019**

## Dell EMC Holds 7th Benefit Golf Tournament for HMEA



One hundred and forty-four golfers took to the links at Blissful Meadows Golf Club in Uxbridge, MA on June 6th, helping to raise a net amount of almost \$8,000 which will directly benefit the programs at HMEA. Since Dell EMC has been running the tournament, over the past seven years, they have raised a net of \$50,000 for HMEA.

## Red Sox Hosts Disability Awareness Night

**How awesome is the Boston Red Sox organization?** Each year they hold a special nighttime game with on field pre-game ceremonies showing support for people from all walks of life with various disabilities.

Titled “**Disabilities Awareness Night**” (DAN), the Red Sox reach out to HMEA to help organize the evening with identifying individuals with disabilities from different organizations to participate in the pre-game on-field ceremonies. Participants were an Honorary Bat Girl, Honorary Bat Boy, someone to throw out the first pitch, someone to sing the national anthem, someone to help place the bases around the diamond, and finally someone to belt out, “*PLAY BAAAAAALL*” to 38,000 fans at Fenway Park.

Special recognition was given to **6 US Paralympians** who each have participated in the International Paralympic Games in recent competitions, with the most recent being the Pyeongchang 2018 International Paralympic Winter Games in South Korea.

**This year, 40 individuals and staff from HMEA were invited to the game to see HMEA’s participants take part in the festivities.**



HMEA staff & supported individuals enjoy the baseball game from right behind the ball pen.



US International Paralympian, Eli Wolf, throws out the first pitch



## Healing Racism

The **Healing Racism Institute of Pioneer Valley** partnered with HMEA to offer the **Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity** experience to a group of HMEA employees on April 24.

The experience is a film that is divided into two sections that inspire dialogue around the issues of race and diversity in our communities. The discussion was facilitated by **Waleska Lugo-Dejesús**, Director of the Healing Racism Institute of Pioneer Valley, and **Heshima Mojo**, musician, singer, and advocate.



HMEA staff attend Cracking the Codes

**HMEA employees felt that Cracking the Codes was a powerful vehicle for a deeper conversation on racial inequity, history of discrimination, white privilege, and internal and external factors.**

The **Healing Racism Institute of Pioneer Valley** (HRIPV) is a community-based effort that envisions a racism-free Pioneer Valley. HRIPV has convened business, nonprofit, and philanthropic leadership in engaging the community in a process to recognize the impact of racism in our region and empower individuals to take action to eradicate it.

For more information about Cracking the Codes and resources provided by the Healing Racism Institute of the Pioneer Valley, visit their website at [www.healingracismpv.org](http://www.healingracismpv.org).

“We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color.”  
~ Maya Angelou

## HMEA's Tech Circle

**As we move further into the twenty-first century, technology is becoming an even bigger part of our personal and work lives.** New advances in technology are helping people with disabilities to communicate and live more independently, allowing clinicians to gather real time data, and automating business practices for greater accuracy and efficiency.

**Here at HMEA, technology helps to drive our mission and ultimately ensures a greater quality of care and services for our supported individuals.**



Recently, **Kelly Charlebois**, from our TechACCESS of RI

program, **Ron Barnes**, VP of IT, and **Stephanie Guitard**, VP of Business Development, formed a new group called **Tech Circle**. This group will focus on technology and bringing Smart Home and Assistive Technology to the people we support, their families, and our employees.

HMEA staff from all divisions have been invited to join Tech Circle. Meetings will happen bi-monthly or quarterly, at various locations and times, and will utilize technology (i.e. Skype/Facetime) to meet. Groups will work on various projects that will help spread the word about technology, “test” our devices in programs, homes or with families we support, and much more.

## Thank You for Your Support

We would like to thank all of our fiscal year 2018 supporters! Your generosity helps us to provide quality programming for our supported individuals with disabilities.

Your donations have helped us to purchase assistive technologies, new educational curriculum, YMCA memberships, bus passes, environmental accommodations, art, horticulture and music therapy supplies and sessions, and a whole lot more!

**For a full list of all supporters for FY18, go to [www.hmea.org/donate](http://www.hmea.org/donate)**

## HMEA Grants for FY 18

This past year was a very successful one, with HMEA receiving over \$185,000 in funding from 22 grantors supporting many programs, ranging from the Autism Advantage @ Work pilot, Darnell School curriculum enhancement and physical renovations, staffing and supplies for the new Quality and Learning Program for staff, day and employment programs, and residential renovations too. Many grantors are repeat funders as HMEA has become very familiar to them and the supportive reporting enables the grantors to get updates on just how their funds were used to benefit HMEA.

### Special thanks to the following funders:

Avelina Charitable Foundation

Avidia Bank Charitable Foundation

Boston Scientific Foundation

Charles River Bank

DCU for Kids

Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care

Health Foundation of Central MA

Ida Ballou Littlefield Memorial Trust

Mansfield Bank Charitable Foundation

Middlesex Savings Charitable Foundation

Nypro Foundation Winning Home, Inc.

Price Chopper's Golub Foundation

Robert L. Corkin Charitable Foundation

Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation

Rollstone Charitable Foundation

Schwartz Charitable Foundation

Shriner's of Rhode Island Charities Trust

Sophia F. Romero Trust

Sullivan Family Foundation

TJX Foundation

Webster Five Foundation

Wiesler Family Foundation

## Dell EMC Holds Charity Kickball Tournament for HMEA



On June 21st, eight teams consisting of 10 players each from **Dell EMC's Services Leadership Development Program (LDP)** in Hopkinton, competed in a Charity Kickball Tournament with fundraising money being designated to HMEA.

*"The Services LDP program has put on a Charity Kickball Tournament for the past 5 years. This year, we wanted to recognize the meaningful work that HMEA has done and selected them as the charity for our fundraising efforts. The Kickball tournament was a huge success, there was lots of fun to be had for the participants and it is always great to give back!"*, Emily Casale, Services LDP Lead.



## The Horace Mann Promise Society

Leave your legacy and support the future of HMEA

Become a founding member of  
the Horace Mann Promise Society



At some point in one's life there comes a moment to determine how you want your and/or your family legacy to be remembered. After caring for loved ones, many people choose to make a Legacy Gift through their will to causes and organizations they care about.

**Wouldn't you like your legacy of giving to live on?**

Many people think you must be wealthy to have an estate and leave a legacy gift. That's not true.

We have four real-life gift plans, that we know of, that will occur on the passing of four constituents of HMEA:

1. A life insurance policy will be given to HMEA
2. The estate of an individual supported by HMEA will be transferred to HMEA
3. Real estate property will be given to HMEA
4. A percentage of a person's assets is bequeathed to HMEA

**There are so many ways to leave your legacy.**

**For details on becoming a founding member** of The Horace Mann Promise Society, contact Doug MacPherson, VP of Development, at 508-298-1105 or [dmacpherson@hmea.org](mailto:dmacpherson@hmea.org).

"Let us not be content to wait  
and see what will happen,  
but give us the determination  
to make the right things happen."  
~Horace Mann

## 5K Walk/Run for Autism Acceptance

April is National Autism Awareness month and at **HMEA's Autism Resource Central**, the calendar was filled with Autism Awareness events. On April 28th, they closed the month with their **5K Run & Walk for Autism Acceptance**. This is a day to celebrate autism acceptance with family, friends, and supporters. **Fifteen-hundred people attended the event**, held at **DCR's Quinsigamond State Park** in Worcester, and **85 teams** walked or ran on a beautiful spring day. **Team Strength** was the top fundraising team having raised \$25,000 and **Team Ryan** was in the lead for most team members at 81.

This year, they are grateful to the **Worcester Police Department** for closing Lake Avenue for the 5K Run & Walk ensuring the safety of runners and families walking with little ones. An army of volunteers worked tirelessly all day to cover all the bases, making sure everything ran smoothly. **BCI** made sure the Kids' Corner was spectacular, **Strategic Behavioral Solutions** donated lunch, **Wegmans** donated water and bananas, and **Table Talk Pies** donated pies for everyone to enjoy.

The event had a great turn out with over **20 sponsors, 1,500 attendees, and the event raised \$135,000**. These funds will be used to further the work of HMEA's Autism Resource Central to provide autism support and services to families in central Massachusetts.

**Thank you to all our donors,  
supporters, and volunteers!**



## Two HMEA Employees Honored

### Legislation and Appreciation Award

“What’s your vision?” was the theme of this year’s **Center of Hope Legislative Breakfast**, held at the **College of the Holy Cross**, on June 12. For **Pat Lynch**, that vision includes families having all of the supports they need to care for their disabled children at home.

Pat was presented with the **Legislation and Appreciation Award** for her ten years of dedication and support of over five hundred families in Central Massachusetts. She has successfully supported families to access Mass Health, ARICA benefits, SSI, Health Care for All,

Health Law Advocates, Section 8 and other subsidized housing supports. In her nomination, she was described as, “**a tireless advocate** who empowers all the families that are referred to this

*program to learn how, with her compassionate guidance, to advocate for necessary services. Pat works with every family to build their trust and empower them to work with teams of support whom they’ve often given up on or don’t trust.”*

This spring a family with seven children, four of whom use wheelchairs and have significant challenges, moved into their brand new fully accessible home, thanks to Pat. She was instrumental in supporting this family through the **Habitat for Humanity** application process and even provided hours of labor both during and outside of her work at HMEA. With help from our friends at **Cardi’s Furniture and Mattress** and Pat’s on-going support, this house has become a home that meets the needs of the entire family.

**Congratulation on your award, Pat, and thank you for your dedication to finding resources and advocating for families who have children with special needs.**

### Elin Howe Award of Excellence

At the **Central MA Citizen’s Advisory Board Legislative Breakfast**, on May 11, the **Elin Howe Award of Excellence** was awarded for the very first time. This new award is in honor of former DDS Commissioner, **Elin Howe**, for her passion for promoting and expanding family support, self-advocacy, shared living and self-determination.

HMEA’s **Celia Brown**, Program Coordinator for Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change, became the very **first recipient of this award** for her efforts in ensuring the legacy of Elin Howe and other Human Services workers.

Her supervisor, **Pat Lynch**, said of Celia in her nomination, “*Celia has always been passionate about her work to support individuals and families who have challenges due to disability. In the past year she has worked tirelessly to develop and expand the Family Leadership Program in Central Massachusetts. Through her work, she has expanded the possibilities for over one hundred and fifty people! Celia not only has worked to improve the lives of individuals and families she has become a mentor to many in her field and a respected resource among her peers for information and advice; always providing thoughtful insight.*”

**Congratulations Celia, on this much deserved award that gives due credit to your dedicated and respected career and professional contributions to the field of Human Services!**



Pat Lynch, with Michael Moloney, accepts her award from State Representative Jim O'Day.



Celia accepts her award cheered on by her son and husband.



## Caring Force Rally

A sea of 600 people in gold Caring Force t-shirts flooded the MA State House on April 11th in support of two bills that would make working conditions better for thousands of Human Service workers in Massachusetts.

**The Caring Force**, which was created by the Massachusetts Council of Human Service Providers and now has 25,000 members, is the first-of-its-kind grass roots human services advocacy movement, empowering a diverse group of individuals who want to see a stronger human services sector



HMEA staff and supported individuals attend the Caring Force Rally

in Massachusetts. Members include Human Service workers, elected officials, friends and family of service recipients, clients/consumers, business partners, and community supporters.

The rally is hosted by HMEA's CEO, **Michael Moloney**, and **Michael Weeks**, Providers' Council President and CEO. Twenty-five employees of HMEA attended the rally accompanied by the individuals they support, who are passionate about advocating for the staff who care for them. People from all over the state made the journey to Boston that Wednesday afternoon and despite the challenges that transportation can bring, their efforts will pay off for this worthy cause.

Each year, a Caring Force bear is presented to a Senator and a Representative for their support and advocacy for Human Service workers and the people they support. This year, **Senator Sal DiDomenico** and **Representative Trisha Farley-Bovier** were presented with the **2018 Caring Bear Award** for their support of the community-based human services sector in the Commonwealth. **Representative Jeffrey Roy**, who introduced one of the bills focused on at the rally and is a champion for people with disabilities, received the Caring Bear Award at a past rally.



HMEA CEO Michael Moloney and Providers' Council CEO Michael Weeks present a Caring Force bear to Senator Sal DiDomenico

The two bills of focus at the rally were: **Establish an Education Loan Repayment Program**, which would create an education loan repayment program for direct care workers that would allow them to receive up to \$150/month or up to \$1,800 per year for up to 48 months to repay a qualified education loan that was used to attend an institution of higher learning; and **Eliminate the Pay Disparity Between Human Services Workers** that would set a schedule to fully eliminate the pay disparity between state workers and those employed by private, community-based human services nonprofits who are doing similar work.

After the rally, attendees had the opportunity to speak directly with their State Representatives about the concerns and challenges within the Human Services field. There is still more work to be done and the Caring Force members are ready to do the work, speak to their representatives, tell their stories and advocate for each other.

## Go Caring Force!



Michael Moloney, Representative Trisha Farley-Bovier, Michael Weeks

**Your gift helps HMEA provide essential services**, like early intervention, employment programs, school to work transition and respite care, that our children and adults with Autism and other developmental disabilities need so they can reach for independence.

Whatever donation you are able to make, your gift could purchase:

**\$25 or more** - educational toys for Children's programming

**\$50 or more** - weekly art therapy classes for a month

**\$100 or more** - computer programs and equipment to enhance a person's ability to communicate

**\$250 or more** - intensive job coaching supports for individuals beginning a new job, and so much more!

**Please consider giving generously to HMEA's FY '19 Annual Campaign.**

<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 <input type="checkbox"/> \$300 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50   Other: \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to make a recurring gift of \$ _____ per month to the HMEA FY '19 Campaign.
In honor of (please print): _____ In memory of (please print): _____
<b>Payment Method</b>
Check made payable to: <b>HMEA</b>
Credit Card: <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> Amex
Card Number: _____ Expires: _____ CID #: _____
Name on Card: _____
Signature: _____
Your Name: _____
Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____
Billing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to receive more information on becoming a Founding Member of the new Horace Mann Promise Society.
<input type="checkbox"/> A Matching Gift Form is enclosed (see your Human Resource department for a matching gift form).

**To make a donation on line, go to [www.hmea.org/donate](http://www.hmea.org/donate)**