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**Spring/Summer 2004**



*Mike Rush, Children's Services staff, mans the HMEA booth at the International ABA Conference*

## ■ HMEA Has Strong and Involved Presence at International ABA Conference

From May 28 to June 1, HMEA had a home-away-from-home at the Sheraton Boston Hotel where the annual Association for Behavior Analysis International Conference was held. With over 3,000 attendees and more than 500 workshops, symposiums, and poster presentations, HMEA was well represented by employees attending the events and presenting results from their Simmons College course work. Thanks to the hard work of **Jan Bolton, Michele Mayer, Linda Conley, and Brian Doyle**, HMEA was also front and center in the exhibit area with a well-crafted booth which displayed a new HMEA banner, the HMEA quilt, and flyers for each division reflecting the new HMEA look.

According to Michele Mayer, Vice President of Children's Services, *"This was a unique opportunity for HMEA to be seen and recognized as a leader in the field of ABA especially for Children's Services. I had many applicants for jobs and the end result is we not only learned a lot but also we were able to share some of our expertise in this field."*

The HMEA presentation booth served as a focal point where all HMEA employees could gather, and as a recruiting station as many people expressed interest in our services. In addition to Michele Mayer, the following people presented either papers or posters at the event: Family Support Coordinators/Children's Services, **Nancy Van Stone, Dale Fila, and Laurie Richardson**. Clinical Director/Adult Services, **Bill Geary**, Senior Behavior Specialist/Adult Services, **Rob Shapiro**, Director of Professional Development/Adult Services, **Sue O'Shea**, Director of Children's Services, **Brian Doyle**, and Assistant Directors of Children's Services, **Lori Piniarski, Heather Lewis and Kara Muirhead**. ■



Dawn King (on right) receives her award from Representative Karyn E. Polito, R-Shrewsbury

## ■ HMEA Case Worker honored at legislative breakfast

**Dawn King**, who is a case worker in the Family Supports' IFFS program, was recently honored at the annual DMR Central Region Citizen Advisory Board recognition breakfast. The advisory boards, family groups, self advocacy groups, the Autism Resource Center, and several other sponsors hosted a legislative breakfast at Worcester State College. Dawn's local legislator presented her with a citation from the House of Representatives.

The awards this year focused on direct support staff who had made a significant impact in getting access to health care for the families they support. Dawn is the mother of a young child with special health care needs; she also works for DPH in the Early Intervention Leadership Program. She advocates on a daily basis for families of special needs children, in order to ensure that they receive the health care that they need. Her nomination letter tells of a child whose medical issues prevented him from staying in school. Local medical providers were at a loss to correct the situation, and it was only through Dawn's persistent advocacy and support for the Mom to continue her advocacy efforts that surgery was eventually successful. The child now regularly attends, and is able to remain in, school. *Congratulations* are in order for Dawn! ■

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**Log on to our all new HMEA website:**

[www.HMEA.org](http://www.HMEA.org)

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Linda Conley, *Special Projects Coordinator*

Contributing Editors: Michael Moloney, Karen Slowick, Michele Mayer



Seated left to right Kris Magnuson, Billy Huang, Liam Chagnon, Keith Perzanoski, Richard Briggs and Karen Chagnon

## ■ Panel Presents to Children’s Services Staff

It’s not often you get the opportunity to tell it like it is, but that is what happened this spring as a panel of three individuals who receive support from HMEA Children’s Services Staff gathered to share their experiences with life and how the staff of HMEA helped them overcome obstacles in either school, getting a job or social interactions.

According to **Brian Doyle**, Director of Children’s Services, “This was something they said they wanted to do and we just provided them with the forum. It is a valuable learning tool for the therapists and those we support and hopefully we will do it again next year.” ■

## ■ Budget Cuts Avoided!

Governor Romney’s state budget cut 12 million dollars of day services across the state. At HMEA, many people were threatened with the loss of their programs. Fortunately, families and staff strongly advocated and the dollars have been restored by the legislature. We would like to thank all of our legislators for their support while making these difficult budget decisions. ■

## ■ Get information faster – have your copy of the HMEA Newsletter e-mailed

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by e-mail, please let us know at [hmea@hmea.org](mailto:hmea@hmea.org). This would save HMEA on postage, printing and assembly time. Time is valuable and if you want the news fast, send us your email so we can get you information in a timely manner. ■

## ■ HMEA’s new web site is unveiled

HMEA is proud to announce the all new web site that was released in June. Visit [www.hmea.org](http://www.hmea.org) and take a tour of the agency. There are video clips from the new agency video and all new materials as written by the staff at HMEA.

This is a result of 9 months of intensive efforts by the staff of HMEA and Joan Mikalauskas a member of the HMEA Board of Directors and a Web Administrator at UPS. ■



HMEA’s Diversity Committee (from left to right) Jule Gomes-Noack, Bob Bezanson, Jan Bolton, Jeanclare Manjong, Candace Amangoua, Karen Slowick, Maria DeJesus, Mrero Mgeni and Doug MacPherson (missing from the picture are Shirley Flores, Mike Moloney and Kevin Salera)

## ■ HMEA presents at “Diversity in Action” Conference

**Mike Moloney**, President and CEO of HMEA, was a guest panelist at the recent “Diversity in Action” Conference held at Bentley College, sponsored by the Department of Mental Retardation. Other speakers included Jeanne Morrison, Director of Diversity for the MBTA; Robert Fleming, Director of Institute for Linguistic and Cultural Skills in the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation and Marcia Okun, Ph.D., author of the book *Understanding Diversity*.

Mike presented the work of HMEA’s Diversity Committee, which consists of staff from many levels of the organization and has been in existence for the past four years. Diversity is really about attracting and accommodating staff who are competent, committed and caring in a human service field that does not and will not have enough qualified applicants. Mike described HMEA’s relative success in the areas of vacancy, turnover and staff satisfaction. ■



*Ron Barnes (right) Director of IT at HMEA, leads the Pawtuxet Rangers in the Opening Ceremonies*



*AND "They're Off..."*



*Host, Gail Huff (WCVB-TV Channel 5 Reporter) and HMEA's CEO Mike Moloney*



*Hundreds of walkers passed through the "Archway of Balloons" at the start of the 5K Walk*

# HMEA Independence 5K

*uniting commu*

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*Kids enjoying the "Kids Corner" organized and run by HMEA's Children's Services division*

# Run/Walk in the Park...

## Community & families

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*Some 'happy' walkers as they approach the home stretch!*



*Host, Gail Huff presents two time "Overall Winner", Wayne Levy, with his trophy*



*Family & Friends cheer on the runners and walkers at the finish line*



*SPLASH!! Children's Services Director, Brian Doyle waits as he is about to be 'dunked' in the Kid's Corner dunk tank*



*Heather Cutler (center), staff at Hopedale Employment with Eva Thurber (right), and Heather's husband Shawn and baby Nathan*



*Samantha sits proudly on her new Celebrity Scooter while her mother Yvonne beams with delight*

## ■ **WCVB-TV and Channel 5's CommonWealth 5 Team Up with HMEA**

Last winter WCVB TV Channel 5's award winning news show *Chronicle* did a special on the many donations people supported by HMEA receive as a result of their charitable arm called CommonWealth 5. Comm 5 is an interactive initiative that combines the power of television and the Internet to connect volunteer benefactors with local non-profit organizations.

Recently a \$5000 scooter which had been used only a few years by a couple in Hanson, Massachusetts was donated to Samantha...a young woman with developmental disabilities who receives support from HMEA's Home First Program. She lives in Shirley Massachusetts. As a result of this donation linking families from opposite corners of Massachusetts, Samantha has a new life.

In a letter written by the caseworker who supports Samantha and her family:

*"Thanks again, for arranging for Samantha to get her scooter. She went right outside to practice and is catching on quickly. I spoke with her mother, Yvonne late yesterday. Samantha had not gotten out of it all day, and she had*

*no desire to do so. I am so happy for her; this will open the door to many opportunities. This is a terrific program that HMEA is a part of. I share in your joy of giving."*

Commonwealth 5 is a powerful and yet very simple program of giving which allows donors to give to the charity of their choice as members of Commonwealth 5. For more information regarding this program simply log onto [TheBostonChannel.com](http://TheBostonChannel.com). ■

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## ■ **Matching Gifts...untapped support for HMEA**

A corporate matching gift is a donation from a company to a charity designated by a donor of the charity. Many (but not all) companies provide an incentive for their employees to donate to a worthy cause by matching the donation at either half, 1:1 or sometimes even as much as two times the amount donated by the employee. This additional source of revenue can be extremely helpful to the mission of the charity. To find out if someone you know works for a company that "matches gifts" have them call their human resources or personnel department. For more information on this and other donation opportunities call Doug MacPherson, Director of Development or visit [www.hmea.org](http://www.hmea.org) and link to "Giving to HMEA". ■

## ■ **Results of staff survey nets HMEA \$14K in Grant money from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation**

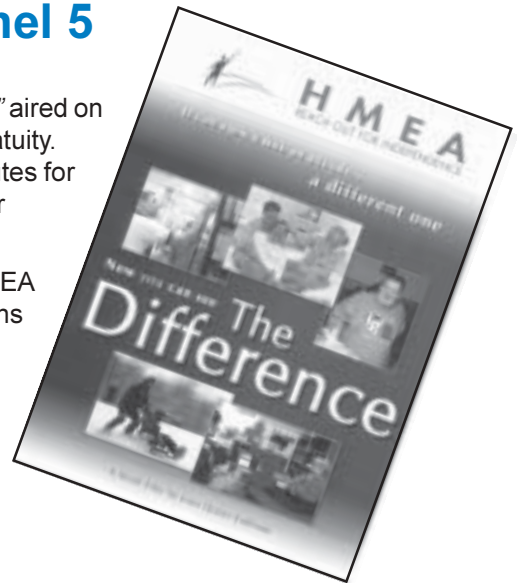
HMEA returned an astounding 94% of staff surveys over the past two months that qualified each of the agency's four divisions to receive grant money from the Institute for Linguistic and Cultural Skills, which is part of the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation. The surveys were distributed either electronically or manually to every regular staff member at HMEA. They were returned anonymously to an independent consultant for tabulating. As an incentive, the HPHC Foundation made grant money available to each division based upon a percentage of surveys returned.

The grant money will be used on diversity initiatives in each division with the review and approval of HMEA's Diversity Committee and the Institute. Results showed that 99% of the staff felt their work was important to the people supported by HMEA and 90% of the staff were proud to work at HMEA. ■

## ■ HMEA video airs on WCVB Channel 5

On Sunday June 6, the new HMEA agency video titled "The Difference" aired on WCVB-TV channel 5 as a result of the station's community service gratuity. The original short film, which is 44 minutes long, was edited to 28 minutes for the special half hour airing by producer Joan Quinn Eastman – a former HMEA board member.

The Difference is a short film about the many creative supports HMEA provide 1200 adults and children with developmental disabilities. Portions of the video can be seen on the agency's web site at [www.hmea.org](http://www.hmea.org). ■



*Brian uses the computer at Hopedale Employment Services Technology Center to practice name and community site recognition as part of his daily activities*

## ■ Microsoft Grant helps HMEA open three Technology Centers

Through a Technology Enrichment Center (TEC) Grant funded by Microsoft New England, HMEA has been able to open three technology centers with a minimum of three computers in each one.

The grant for almost \$40,000 included software and licenses along with cash for the purchase of hardware.

**Ron Barnes**, HMEA's Director of IT said, "It's an amazing program that unites Microsoft's technology and the needs of people with disabilities. Our clients can use the computers to search for jobs, practice money management skills, or even download games for enjoyment... it's a whole new world for them and Microsoft is leading the charge to open the doors for them." ■

## ■ HMEA's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Golf Tournament set for August 23rd

The 10th Annual Jack Nicolas/HMEA Benefit Golf Tournament will be held on August 23rd at the TPC Boston in Norton, Massachusetts. The tournament is a mere 10 days from the opening rounds of the Deutsche Bank Championship where the best golfers in the world will compete for \$5,000,000 in prize money. According to TPC Boston club manager Jim O'Mara, "The course will be in PGA Tournament condition and the facilities will be in full swing as we ready for the arrival of the championship players."

Players will have their choice of medal or scramble tournament play. Registration is \$400 per golfer and includes greens fees, cart, tournament gifts, a hearty brunch and an overflowing dinner buffet to satisfy even the most discriminating palate and voracious hunger. In addition, the ever-lively auctions (both silent and live) will be hosted by tournament chairman Jack Nicolas with many unique and valuable items.

Over the 10 year history of this tournament more than \$125,000 has been raised, benefiting 1200 adults and children with developmental disabilities throughout central and southeastern Massachusetts. If you are interested in participating, call (508) 528-8635 Doug MacPherson (x288) or Linda Conley (x228) immediately as the field is already very full. Or, for registration and/or sponsorship information visit HMEA's web site, [www.hmea.org](http://www.hmea.org), and follow the link to the golf tournament. ■



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## ■ Help HMEA Tomorrow by Leaving a Legacy today

HMEA is a member of Leave A Legacy™ of Central Massachusetts whose mission is to inspire all people to make gifts through their wills to causes and organizations they care about most.

When you Leave a Legacy™ today, you make a difference in the lives that follow.

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5. Contact the organization(s) of your choice to learn about opportunities for legacy giving.
6. Leave a specific dollar amount or a percentage of the assets in your will to a charity of your choice.
7. Name a charity as the beneficiary of your pension or a life insurance policy.
8. Consider using non-cash assets for your legacy gift.
9. Encourage family and friends to leave gifts to charities in their wills
10. Remember that almost everyone has the capacity to Leave a Legacy™

For more information on making gifts to HMEA visit [www.hmea.org](http://www.hmea.org) or call Doug MacPherson Director of Development at 508-528-8635 x288.