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Winter 2004



(from left to right) Stacey Considine, Sandy Beaton, Laurie Richardson and Kara Muirhead

■ HMEA Children's Services Division Opens New Office in Raynham

"Autism is on the rise!" The diagnosis and treatment of autism continues to be covered extensively, reaching mainstream publications regularly. To help meet this need, HMEA has expanded its services into the southeastern part of Massachusetts. On January 5th Assistant Directors for HMEA Children's Services **Kara Muirhead** and **Stacey Considine**, and Family Support Coordinators **Sandy Beaton** and **Laurie Richardson** moved into the new office in Raynham. Kara explains that HMEA routinely receives referrals for professional service from this part of Massachusetts. *"While we were able to meet this growing need, we were not doing it as efficiently as we would have liked. By opening up this office it allows us to be closer to the kids and their families and their schools – it provides everyone with peace of mind."*

Another reason this area was a strategic choice for HMEA was that now they could approach colleges in the southeast part of the state with Psychology majors such as Wheaton, Bridgewater and Stonehill and recruit students who live locally for part or full time therapist positions. In addition the Raynham office allows the staff to focus their attention on Early Intervention Centers like the ones in Fall River and Brockton whose catchment areas incorporate nearly all of Southeastern Massachusetts. HMEA currently has families in Dighton, Hingham, North Attleboro, South Attleboro, Mansfield, Somerset and many other towns in this area.

About 20 therapists will be assigned to the Raynham office where they will work with families in the southeast region of the State. HMEA realizes how important it is to be where the children's families and schools are located, so its future growth efforts will be in areas where HMEA can provide the very best support to the family and make sure each child comes out the winner. ■



■ Mark Scuzzarella Named to HMEA Board

Mark Scuzzarella of Franklin, MA was recently named to the HMEA Board of Directors. He has a strong background in Human Resource management, policy development and managing diversity. His experience on other non-profit boards, such as *Child Abuse Prevention Network*, and as a volunteer teacher for inner city schools as part of the Junior Achievement program, makes him a strong addition to the board. He currently sits on the Open Space Committee of Franklin. ■



**The 10th Annual Jack Nicolas/HMEA
Benefit Golf Tournament
August 23, 2004
The TPC of Boston in Norton**

Take on Tiger Woods – two weeks prior to his appearance at The Deutsche Bank Championship Tournament at the TPC, you could be playing the very same holes as Tiger will be!

Call **508.528.8635**, ext. 288 to reserve your spot. This tournament sold out last year and we had to turn people away -- so DON'T DELAY! ■

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Contributing Editors: Ron Barnes, Michelle Bellerose, Susan Darnell, Joan Quinn Eastman and Karen Slowick

■ HMEA Well Represented at Leadership Conference



Tom McAdams (left) with Mike Moloney, HMEA's President and CEO at the MASS Conference.

The MASS (*Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong*) Conference held this winter was attended by over 300 people. The featured speaker at the conference was advocate and Executive Director of Northeast Independent Living Center, Charlie Carr, who spoke about his life and advocacy issues facing all of the attendees. DMR Assistant Commissioner Larry Tumino addressed the crowded room on the department's commitment to resolving advocacy issues and supporting self-advocates throughout the state.

HMEA attendees were **Debra Bergeron, Tom McAdams, Brenda Brothers, Marie Beaudoin** and **Steve Feeley**. HMEA's CEO, **Mike Moloney** and Training Coordinator **Michelle Bellerose** also attended the conference.

The mission of MASS is *"To empower self-advocates through education so we make choices that improve and enrich our lives"*. ■



(from left to right) Marie Beaudoin, Michelle Bellerose, HMEA's Training Coordinator, and Brenda Brothers all attending the MASS Conference.

■ HMEA is First Recipient of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation Diversity Grant

For the past three years, **HMEA's Diversity Committee** has worked closely with the Diversity Department of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care. In January, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation incorporated the Diversity Department into its foundation. Bob Fleming, former Director of Diversity, has been named Director of the new foundation department: *"The Institute for Linguistic and Cultural Skills"*.



HMEA is the first grant recipient of the newly formed Institute! The grant money is targeted for Diversity initiatives at HMEA and corresponds to percentage returns of the annual staff satisfaction survey, which is done in May each year. Proposals for diversity projects must be submitted by HMEA, and approved by both HMEA's Diversity Committee and the Institute.

The relationship between HMEA and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care's Diversity Department has been a cooperative, educational and rewarding one. HMEA's Diversity awareness and training has been lauded as forward thinking in its scope and implementation and the receipt of this grant will further enhance HMEA's Diversity program. ■

*"Humankind has not woven the web of life.
We are but one thread within it.
Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.
All things are bound together.
All things connect."*

—Chief Seattle

■ Come for a “Walk/Run in the Park”...

3rd Annual HMEA Independence 5K Walk/Run set for May 23 – Register online: www.hmea.org

The committee has already met three times and the donations and sponsorships are starting to come in. Once again, **Gail Huff** from WCVB Channel 5 will host the event with her husband state Representative Scott Brown and their two daughters. **Gene Lavanchy** from Fox 25 will also be on hand to help with the program and to participate with his family. According to CEO Mike Moloney, “You can never start too soon and this year we hope to see a tremendous growth in the number of participants – especially in the walk.” Last year the Walk/Run raised \$16,000, all of which was allocated to the program sites and residences for items that had been cut out of the budget, as well as other supports like community trips and program or residential furnishings. Reigning course champion, **Wayne Levy** from the BAA and the Boston Celtics will return to defend his title in the race.



The award-winning Franklin Police Color Guard lead the Pawtuxet Rangers into the park to open the 2nd Annual Independence 5K ceremonies



Former NE Patriot All-Pro Middle Linebacker Steve Nelson firing the cannon that began the race last year!

The HMEA Independence Walk/Run is a 5K walk in the Franklin Industrial Park and a 5K race on a USATF certified course (MA03004RN) with time splits. Participants in both the walk and run will get a tee shirt, plus trophies for first place in all race divisions, medals for 2nd and 3rd. Water bottles will be given to all walkers who complete the course. Other festivities include a food court, games, raffles, kids corner, family activities and even **Ernie the Keebler Elf** will be available during and after the event.

In addition, the **Pawtuxet Rangers** from Rhode Island, a revolutionary war reenactment group, will be on hand again to perform with their fife and drum corps, as will the celebrated Franklin Police color guard with a 21 gun salute and bag pipe performance to honor the armed forces over seas.

EMC of Franklin and **Wal*Mart** from Woonsocket will be present as major sponsors of this event.

Race registration forms, Walkers’ Pledge sheets and more information on the Walk/Run in the Park is available at www.hmea.org or by calling 508.528.8635, Linda Conley, ext. 228, or Doug MacPherson at ext. 288. ■

*“And, the Walkers Are Off...”
People from HMEA’s programs and from the communities we serve came out to enjoy “A Walk In The Park” last year.*



Partying for the Holidays at HMEA...

Residential Services Holiday Party was held at the Indian Meadows Country Club in Westboro. This year the Day Services Division, which includes Employment Services and Day Habilitation, held their Family Holiday Party at the Knights of Columbus in Franklin, MA. Here are a few pictures capturing some of the fun!



Spreading the Joy!



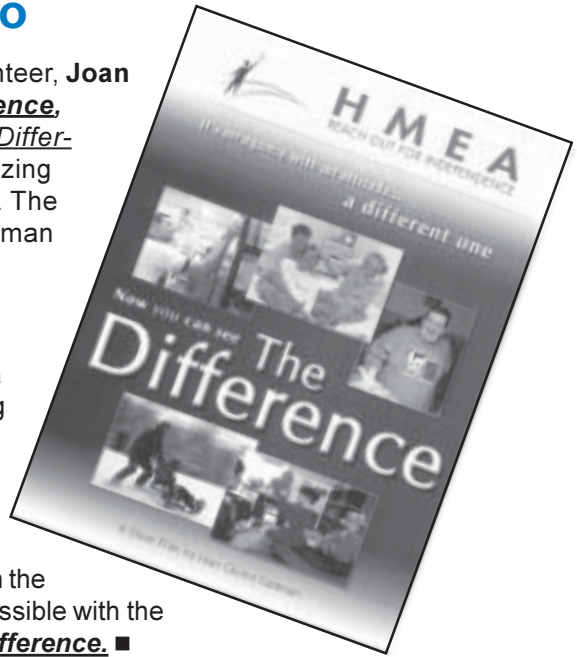
Enjoying the Company!

■ HMEA Unveils New Agency Video

For nearly one year, former HMEA Board member and super volunteer, **Joan Quinn Eastman** worked on a new agency film. Titled *The Difference*, Quinn Eastman (*founder of the Mass Media Alliance*) says, "*The Difference* introduces viewers to HMEA, an agency accomplishing amazing work with children and adults who have developmental disabilities. The film presents the varied services of HMEA and looks at how far human services has come in this century alone."

The film was shown on November 11th at The *Circle Cinema* in Brighton. National Amusements generously provided the use of the theater for the 40 minute screening of the film and the reception area for the post viewing social. Nearly 100 people attended the screening with many of them coming from the Boston area of the Mass Media Alliance.

The film was shot on location all over Massachusetts and even on a ski trip to Sunapee, where two of the films stars, who are handicapped, donned special equipment and were filmed skiing down the slope. It's a story of hope and inspiration showing that anything is possible with the right support and that HMEA provides the supports that make *The Difference*. ■



■ Dr. Gail McGee Speaks at Autism Conference

The **Autism Resource Center** hosted it's fifth annual conference – *Tying It Together 2003* – at Holy Cross on December 6. Each year the number of registrations increases as the reputation of the conference spreads. The Center organized workshops to appeal to families and professionals involved with the entire spectrum of autism disorder.



Dr Gail McGee, Director of the Autism Center at Emory University, was the keynote speaker as well as the presenter for two workshops on inclusion and incidental teaching. Other workshops featured complimentary therapy and a parent panel on community inclusion.

Due to poor weather conditions, some people were unable to attend. Therefore the Center will offer some of the same speakers at free workshops, which will be offered this spring. As the incidence of autism continues to rise, the Center offers a variety of educational opportunities to parents and professionals to keep current with recent developments in the field. If you would like more information on the Autism Resource Center, please call (508) 595-9101. ■

■ Autism Resource Center Receives a Grant

The **200 Foundation**, based in Framingham, recently awarded a grant of \$2,500 to HMEA to help the **Autism Resource Center** expand the Family Day Summer Camp which is held each year in the Worcester area. The camp runs for two weeks for 100 families with children with autism. HMEA CEO, **Mike Moloney** accepted the grant check and acknowledged the generous philanthropic support of the 200 Foundation.

The 200 Foundation represents a wonderfully creative effort on the part of Metrowest community and business leaders to raise money for programs serving families and individuals in their communities. The organization, now 38 years old, expanded its focus over the years, but its mission has remained the same – *helping those who are less fortunate*. ■



Mike Moloney (back row middle), President & CEO of HMEA with the Board of Directors for the 200 Foundation

HMEA Donor Honor Roll

Thank you to all who have donated to the FY'04 HMEA Annual Fund as of 2/1/04. The FY'04 annual fund runs from July 1st, 2003 to June 30th 2004. HMEA's goal this fiscal year is \$20K, and with over \$13,000 year-to-date. Here is a list of our donors to date:

\$2000+

Jack Nicolas, *Norton*

\$1000 – \$1999

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David Morin, *Norwell*
M/M Gerard Skeeane, *Uxbridge*

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Kevin Thornton
Mary Ellen Tucker, *Fiskdale*
Dr. Francis White, *Shrewsbury*
M/M James Wollish, *Seekonk*



Marianna (seated) smiles as she sees herself on-screen with the use of a new 'web cam' installed by HMEA's IT staff, Laurie McGregor (left) and Ron Barnes (right). Standing in the back, Ken Staples, the Program Manager.

■ IT Happenings at HMEA

A small, but talented staff of two Information Technology specialists, have made remarkable strides in just a short time at HMEA improving the life experiences of many people living in group homes and working at day habilitation sites.

"When I first came here, we were still on dial up modems for communications... Do you remember how slow those are?" said Ron Barnes, Director of IT. Barnes and his assistant, Laurie McGregor, have spent the past year updating slower machines and installing cable modems in the group homes and day sites managed by HMEA. It is a project that has helped not only the staff become more efficient, but has allowed many of the individuals supported by HMEA to be introduced to the world of computers without the hassle of outdated and slow machines. Recently one of the houses in Norfolk had a new webcam installed, which has enabled one of the residents, who is non verbal, to communicate with her family using sign language. *"It opens up a whole new way for people to communicate and makes it real time"*, said Barnes.

Connecting everyone on high speed cable modems is just the prelude to an even bigger and more secure connectivity project coming soon! Stay tuned. ■



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■ It's not too late to give to the HMEA FY '04 Annual Fund.

Join the many families and friends who have already made their gift!

Give On-Line at www.hmea.org

Giving to the HMEA Annual fund supports the mission of HMEA, which is to "promote the values, dreams and potential of people with developmental disabilities through education, support and life experiences."

Gifts from last year's annual fund supported the purchase of many residential furnishings, program site resources and community outings to recreational activities.

Your tax-deductible gift to the FY '04 Annual Fund are due at the close of the fiscal year – June 30, 2004.

Please give on-line today or return this form to:

HMEA
Development Office
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Thank You!

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"GIVING PEOPLE INDEPENDENCE"

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

I pledge \$ _____ to the HMEA FY'04 Annual Appeal.

Please designate my gift: unrestricted

In honor of (please print): _____

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I would like to avoid capital gains tax and donate long term appreciated stock or other securities.

I would like more information on Planned gifts to HMEA to help reduce my taxes.

A Matching Gift Form is enclosed (see your Human Resource department for a matching gift form).

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