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**Winter 2005**



*Mrero Mgeni (left) and CJ McGregor (right) 'hamming it up' outside the Boston Sheraton after they presented at the "Giving Hope – Giving Thanks" conference.*

## ■ Diversity in the work force still an important initiative at HMEA

HMEA's Sterling Day Habilitation Program Director **CJ McGregor** and Administrative Assistant **Mrero Mgeni** were recent participants on a four member guest panel that discussed issues and successes of diversity integration in the work force at the Massachusetts Council for Human Service Providers Convention and Expo.

The conference titled "Giving Hope - Giving Thanks", was held at the Boston Sheraton and was attended by more than 1,000 people from across the state. After a spirited opening by keynote speaker Kathleen Townsend Kennedy (Lieutenant Governor of Maryland), CJ and Mrero joined fellow panelists Paul Kelleher from YOU, Inc. in Worcester and Ron Scott from Road to Responsibility of Marshfield. They each discussed what they had learned about different cultures from the employees they had recruited and hired from western Africa, Czech Republic and Haiti.

The panel shared experiences of international recruitment and the need to be prepared to assist immigrants as they enter the work force and into the American community where they will live. CJ and Mrero gave specific examples of how supervisors and line staff at the Day Habilitation program meet in an open, sharing forum with participation from everyone on how to run the program. CJ said, "It's a natural way of doing things... *You ask people for input and when it is initiated, they participate 100%*". ■



## ■ HMEA Welcomes New Board Member

**Jeff Warren** of Shrewsbury was recently elected to the HMEA Board of Directors. His vast experience as Director of Finance at Siemens Business Services will be valuable to the financial stability and growth of HMEA which has seen programs and services outpace the competition in the past few years.

Jeff earned his MBA from University of Connecticut, Storrs CT in 1997 and his BS in Finance from Central Connecticut State University in 1993. He enjoys golf, skiing, travel and spending time with his three children and wife of 18 years. ■

## ■ HMEA's 4th Annual Independence 5K scheduled for May 22, 2005

### *Put Your Team Together Now!*

Start getting your walking teams ready for the HMEA Independence 5K Walk now. Join Gail Huff from Channel 5, UPS, EMC, Wal Mart and other corporations, along with families and individuals to help raise awareness and funds for people with developmental disabilities supported by HMEA.

This signature event for HMEA has grown significantly over the past three years and this year the focus will be on teams of walkers, raising money through pledges to support HMEA.

Anyone interested in registering a team should contact **Linda Conley** at 508-528-8635 x228. The first 20 teams pledging \$500 or more will have their team name printed on the back of the **free tee shirts** given to all participants and volunteers! ■

## HMEA Board of Directors

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Contributing Editor(s): Linda Harmon, Barbara Manuelpillai

## ■ Get information faster – have your copy of HMEA's Newsletter e-mailed to you

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 address so we can get you information in a timely manner. ■

## Annual Appeal Giving on line made easy!!!

Visit [www.hmea.org](http://www.hmea.org) today...

So much is done electronically these days you wonder why there is still so much paper mail in your mailbox! Especially at this time of year, literally millions of people will be visiting many on line stores and catalogs to do their holiday shopping. While buying those presents on line for family and loved ones (*and even some co-workers too*) take a moment to make a quick visit to [www.hmea.org](http://www.hmea.org) and follow the links to "Giving to HMEA". This will allow you to see the new web site while making a donation to support the excellent work of HMEA.

Donations to the Annual Fund are unrestricted and allow HMEA to put the funds where they are needed most, such as supporting children and families with intense medical needs or providing funds for elderly caregivers who are supporting their family member with a developmental disability. Maybe you would like to designate your donation to go to a specific home or day program for much needed assistance with daily operations—it is up to you, but you *first* have to make the decision to give. ■



(from left to right) Joshua Washburn, Kim Amaral, Jaimie Pelletier, Cimoyne Alves and Barbara Manuelpillai from North Twin, attend the HMEA 15th Annual Awards Night

### ■ HMEA Welcomes North Twin

As of July 1, 2004, North Twin Inc. of Raynham formally merged with HMEA. The merger brought to HMEA a very personal and committed human service agency with 6 homes supporting 13 individuals in Taunton Attleboro/Fall River areas. With this merger, HMEA continues to solidify its presence in the state as one of the leading Human Services agencies that provides valuable supports to families of children and adults with developmental disabilities.

North Twins' tradition of encouraging people to make decisions to govern and design their own support systems fit well with the mission of HMEA, which is to promote the values, dreams, and potential of people with developmental disabilities. ■



### ■ New Business Development at HMEA

**Brian Doyle**, former Director of HMEA's Children's Services Division, has recently been promoted to Assistant Vice President for New Service Development at HMEA. In keeping with HMEA's strategic plan to meet the community's need for expanded services to children, particularly those with autism, Brian will be responsible for planning and developing new services. He will be working closely with the Board of Directors members **Peter Bartelloni** and **Jeff Warren** as part of an agency wide effort.

Brian brings many years of experience in the delivery of services to Children with autism. He is currently studying to become Board Certified in Applied Behavior Analysis, and is currently pursuing his Doctorate in Education at the NOVA Southeastern University. ■

# 10th Annual HME Golf Tournament a



*Board President, John Cotta, enjoying his day on the links*



*KD Benefits volunteers with golfers from Starkweather & Shepley Insurance Brokerage*



*Fred Marden, past President of HMEA's Board of Directors, stops by the Midway Grill*



*HMEA volunteers, Kara Muirhead (left), Sharon Courmoyer (center) and Jule Noack (right) keep a close eye on the Putting Green Contest*

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*New England Patriot Linebacker, Tedy Bruschi, stops by the TPC the day of HMEA's tournament and delights the volunteers with a quick 'picture taking' session*

# HMEA/Jack Nicolas at the TPC of Boston



*John Moran, HMEA's Senior Vice President and CFO with Randy Webber from Flagship Bank*



*Here are a few 'happy' golfers! That's David Felper, HMEA Board Member on the right*



*HMEA's IT Director, Ron Barnes just waiting his turn to putt*

## **THANKS to of this event!**

### **Tee Sponsors**

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*From left to right: Doug MacPherson, HMEA's Director of Development, Doug Errhalt, Head Golf Pro at the TPC Boston and Mike Moloney, President and CEO of HMEA*



*HMEA Board Member and Chairman of the Golf Committee Jack Nicolas praises the support of the Golf Tournament sponsors*



Former Boston Bruin, Lynden Byers, signs an autograph for Christine Ripley at JJ's Sports Bar & Restaurant in Westboro

## ■ Former Boston Bruin, Lynden Byers, hosts Fundraiser in Westboro for HMEA

One of the Boston Bruins' greats from the 80s, Lynden Byers, has recently been hosting the Patriots 5th Quarter at JJ's Sport Bar and Restaurant on Route 20 in Westboro. WVEI Sports Talk Radio 1440-AM has been running PSA's and regular airtime ads to promote the fundraiser, which consists of top-of-the-line authentic autographed sports memorabilia provided by Sports Auctions for Charity.

The 5th Quarter at JJ's is an event to promote awareness of HMEA in the Westboro area and has raised over \$3000 in just a few hours. JJ's owner, Vinny Miauri, embraces the idea and has donated the space and "heavy" hors d'oeuvres for all patrons who attend the event.

So, *come on down* and join HMEA and Lynden Byers at JJ's Sports Bar and Restaurant. While you're there take a little time to look over the autographed sports merchandise and maybe make a bid on some very special and exciting 'sports memorabilia' (*the holidays are just around the corner*). For information on upcoming dates call (508) 528-8635, ext. 288. ■

**Learn more about the programs at HMEA, log on to our website:**

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

## ■ Valuable Insight Shared at HMEA's Autism Resource Center Conference

The Autism Resource Center convened its 6th Annual "Tying It Together Conference" on Saturday, October 23rd at Holy Cross College in Worcester. It was attended by 360 parents and professionals representing education, medicine and human services. Participants came from Massachusetts and surrounding states. The day was the culmination to many months of work by the conference committee. Kathie Harrington, M.A. CCC, SLP from Las Vegas, Nevada was the keynote speaker this year, addressing the entire group with her session entitled A Mother, A Speech Pathologist: A Message about Autism. Here is some of the feedback received through evaluation forms about Kathie Harrington:

- ◆ *Very moving ... inspirational... excellent speaker...*
- ◆ *What a way with words, so much food for thought...*
- ◆ *Best speaker I have heard in a long time... Very practical and easy to listen to and learn from...*
- ◆ *Common sense to the 10th degree!...*
- ◆ *Incredible speaker with great information.*
- ◆ *Mrs. Harrington had the double perspective of a mother and a practicing professional...*
- ◆ *Her presentations were both positive and practical to parents & fellow professionals.*

There was no doubt...the general consensus was that the day was informative and for many, very emotional.

Comments suggested a need for more information on medical issues, follow-up with supporting alternative augmentative communication, classroom and home strategies, and a desire to hear from individuals within the autism spectrum. Comments on the post conference survey and evaluations are an integral part of the planning process for future conferences. This allows the Resource Center to offer ongoing educational workshops and seminars to meet these needs in the upcoming year.

Next year's conference titled "Tying It Together 2005" will be held on Saturday, October 29th at Holy Cross College. The Conference Committee at The Autism Resource Center is always concerned with knowing the educational needs of families of children and adults with autism. Additionally, we are interested in learning what training direct care workers and other professionals seek in order to make their jobs with individuals diagnosed with autism more productive and rewarding. Give us a call at **508.595.9101**. ■

## ■ HMEA Celebrates 15th Annual Awards Night

Over 250 families, staff and supported individuals attended the 15th Annual HMEA Awards Night on September 30th at the Wyndham Westborough Hotel. The evening was highlighted by a moving 5-minute agency video, sharing many faces of HMEA throughout the past year set to music. In addition, eleven categories of awards went out to 21 supported individuals, staff and community volunteers who over the past year have exemplified the mission of HMEA through dedication, commitment and personal inspiration to others. *Congratulations to all!* ■





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make your donation to HMEA's  
Annual Fund by 12/31/04!**

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

**Give On-Line at [www.hmea.org](http://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 assistive equipment, residential furnishings, program site resources, community outings and recreational activities.

Take advantage of a tax deductible gift and make your donation TODAY. Your FY '05 Annual Fund donations are due at the close of the fiscal year – June 30, 2005.

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

**HMEA Development Office  
101 Constitution Blvd  
Franklin, MA 02038**

*Thank You!*

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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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