



The Faces of HMEA - November 2003

There are many “faces” in this edition of the newsletter. This issue will highlight and celebrate the accomplishments of all those who won awards at our Annual Awards Night on October 2. It was, as always, a wonderful evening; every year, more and more people attend, to support and applaud those who have worked so hard.



The Uxbridge Team (from left to right), Jack Dorley, Carol Dufresne, Candace Amangoua, Jennie Cosma, Jule Noack, Annie Jones, Diane Minter and Mike Moloney

individuals in the areas of meaningful relationships, community participation, empowerment and teaching new skills.

The Team Award was presented to the **Uxbridge Area**. Employees in this area had demonstrated that they could work very effectively together, especially in the face of challenges.

The Kevin McMullen Memorial Award is presented

The HMEA Award was presented to **Debi Holmes**, Manager of 16 Foster St., and **Carolyn Palmer**, R.N. at Community Partners. The criteria for the award are: consistently outstanding performance, energy, enthusiasm, positive outlook, and strong team contribution.

Javier Pena, formerly Assistant Manager at Maranook Rd., **Jeff Ellis**, Support Specialist in Worcester, and **Keith Perzanoski**, Family Support Worker in Children’s Services, were the recipients of the Board of Directors Award. The criteria include: significantly enriching the lives of supported



Carolyn Palmer, R.N. at Community Partners accepting her award from Program Supervisor, Richard Romiti

to an employee who can see the best in every person and situation, give unconditionally, and be 100% committed to the individuals supported at HMEA. The recipient of this award was **Mike DiPietro**, Worcester Residential Coordinator.

Michelle Pierce, who is supported in Hopedale, won this year’s Training Award. The winner must demonstrate that s/he goes above and beyond in training responsibilities.

The Eric Rodgers Award is presented to individuals who demonstrated significant personal accomplishment, and who overcame barriers and challenges with courage and determination.

This year’s winners were **Onix Melendez**, Children’s Services,



Ellen Roy, one of the Eric Rodgers Award winners

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Andrew Zajchowski accepting his Outstanding Employee Award

Lenny Rosenwaike, Worcester Day Services, and **Ellen Roy**, Family Supports. The Outstanding Employee Award is presented to an individual supported by the agency who has achieved significant personal goals, overcome

barriers to achieve those and who demonstrates courage and determination. **Andrew Zajchowski**, who is supported by the TRACS program, is this year's recipient.

The criteria for the Kathy Gilchrist Memorial Award are demonstrating unyielding devotion to children and their families, always going the extra step to ensure success, and maintaining a positive attitude at all times. **Susie Deneen**, a therapist in Children's Services, was presented the award.

Effective advocacy or self-advocacy is the requirement for the Advocacy award. This year's winners were **Steven Feeley**, who lives on Charles St. in East Douglas and **Sara Knight**, who attends Plainville Employment.



Brian Doyle, Director of Children's Services, presenting the Kathy Gilchrist Memorial Award to Susie Deneen

The Shared Living Provider Award is presented to a person who has significantly enriched the life of the person, demonstrated commitment by supporting meaningful relationships, increased community participation, and provided a home that encourages positive personal growth. **Paul Meola** was this year's winner.



Recipient of the Shared Living Provider Award, Paul Meola (right) with housemate, Ben Tachovsky (left)

Eva Thurber, who is supported in Hopedale, was the proud recipient of the Volunteer Award. Eva not only is a dedicated volunteer at a local cat shelter, but she has also been instrumental in helping a staff person to overcome her phobia about cats.

There were several Citizen's Awards that were presented to people who had made significant contributions to the people supported by the agency. The recipients this year were: **Dr. Darrolyn Lindsey, Debbie Arel, Barbara Favreault, and Faye and Elmer Alexander.**

A special presentation was made by Mike Moloney to **Joan Quinn Eastman**, a former Board of Directors member, and

producer/editor of the agency's new video "The Difference". The President's Award was given to Joan for "enduring commitment and extraordinary achievements on behalf of the people, families, and staff of HMEA. Given in gratitude." ◀