

HMEA's Meals-on-Wheels volunteers (Michelle on left and Kenny on right) deliver prepared meals to grateful seniors!

■ WE WON!!!! HMEA has a new set of wheels!

HMEA recently entered a nationwide contest run by Toyota called **100 Cars for Good** where 5000 charities entered to win a brand new Toyota vehicle of their choice in support of their mission. The contest committee whittled those 5000 entrants to 250 finalists and HMEA was selected as a finalist. It is a Facebook-based contest where the top 100 charities of the 250 finalists win a vehicle based on voting! For each of 50 consecutive days starting on October 1st, five charities were selected by Toyota to compete in the voting contest and the top two charities with the most votes won.

HMEA's voting date was October 19th, and as word got out votes were garnered from far and wide. We received votes from Florida, California, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Illinois, Indiana and of course all the New England states plus many more. When all the votes were tallied, HMEA came in first!

HMEA's vehicle of choice is the Sienna Mobility with a handicap ramp for their Meals-on-Wheels program, which is run out of three Day Program sites. In this program, individuals from HMEA with developmental and intellectual disabilities volunteer with staff to deliver meals prepared by Senior Centers to house-bound senior citizens and veterans in over 25 Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. A new handi-capped accessible Sienna Mobility allows them to be even more productive and efficient in delivering the meals to very grateful seniors. By allowing them to save on gas and mileage costs, HMEA will now be able to increase the number of seniors served. ■

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*** ANNOUNCING ***

HMEA has a new website....

HMEA recently published its brand new website at www.hmea.org.

Take a minute and visit the site and see what's new!

AND, while you're at it, why not sign-up for our e-newsletter! Sign-up by 12/18/13 and be entered into a drawing for a **\$100 AMEX Gift Card**

Just in time for the holidays!!

Enter code: **AMEXGC100**

Follow us on...





Darnell School administrator Jan Bolton (L) presents certificate of completion and commemorative poster to Paul Janerio who attended the completion ceremony with his mother Cathy.

■ Darnell School Receives Licensure Approval

HMEA's Darnell School for Educational and Behavioral Services has received full approval of their license to operate as a Chapter 766 Private School from the Department of Education for three years – *the highest ranking a school can receive!* The auditor was very impressed with the school administration's understanding of the self-assessment process, the meticulous records for both staff and students, the condition of the building, and the education that she saw in action. Congratulations to the Darnell School team for preparing so well and for a job well done! ■

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Avidia Bank President and CEO Mark R. O'Connell presenting check to School Administrator Jan Bolton with student John Lynch

■ Avidia Bank donates to the Darnell School

Recently Avidia Bank in Hudson donated \$1,500 to the Darnell School for technology and equipment used by teachers to help students in job preparedness and transitioning out of the school as they complete the Darnell School curriculum and enter the workforce. ■

"As one person I cannot change the world, but I can change the world of one person."

—Paul Shane Spear

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(l to r) Krista, Lou, Keenan and Steven, members of HMEA's Lawn Care program take a break from their hard work.

■ HMEA's Lawn Care Business flourishes in start-up year

The summer of 2013 saw a new business emerge as up to 15 individuals and staff took to their Lawn Care vehicles to tend to local homes with loving care. Weed whipping, lawn mowing, raking, bagging and bush trimming were all done over the summer months.

"It's a chance for our people to earn money, learn new skills and to be outdoors doing a healthy activity and meeting new people. What's there not to like about that?" said Program Supervisor **Lynn Lapointe**.

The HMEA Lawn Care business operates out of two of its Day Services programs, Hopedale and Plainville. Most of the equipment was either donated or purchased at a discounted rate to help the program get off the ground.

Room for expansion? *"Why sure",* said Lynn – *"in the fall we will continue with yard cleanup and who knows in the winter maybe even some shoveling jobs."* ■



Rachel, with tickets-in-hand to see her most favorite singer, Taylor Swift!

■ Donor dollars make a dream come true...

At HMEA one of our slogans is *"Believe in the power of Dreams."*

And that's exactly what happened when Rachel Labella was able to go to a concert to see Taylor Swift!

Rachel lives in one of HMEA's homes and is legally blind. Doctors say she is very near complete blindness with no hope for reversal. One day this past summer Rachel received a special gift in the mail. It was a bracelet her dad ordered online for her, a Taylor Swift bracelet. One staff asked her, "Are you a Taylor Swift fan?" "YES!" she said. "She is my most favorite singer. I love her." Rachel had never been to a concert before but quite coincidentally, Taylor was performing in less than two weeks at Gillette stadium. For Rachel to enjoy the concert, she would have to sit close to the stage so she would be able to actually see Taylor and not just a shadow or it wouldn't be fun.

Unfortunately, the concert was sold out at the level of seat that would accommodate Rachel's vision. However, staff were determined to make this dream come true and eventually found some premium seats, but at a much higher price.

Two weeks later she had signs made, chose one lucky staff to escort her to the show, and was instructed to take lots of photos! It was a lifetime dream made possible by the love and commitment of HMEA staff, committed resources from donors to HMEA and the unyielding spirit of a true Taylor Swift fan. ■

■ “Thank You” to all our 2013 Annual Fund Donors

HMEA gratefully acknowledges its donors to the fiscal year '13 Annual Fund Campaign, which ended June 30, 2013. Your ongoing support of our mission is greatly appreciated, and has gone a long way to help make dreams come true for so many children and adults with disabilities at HMEA.

Your support has helped us in so many ways; such as purchasing adaptive orthopedic and physical fitness equipment; making home renovations for accessibility; going on community outings and social events; and buying specialized technology equipment such as iPads and apps for learning and self advocacy. Much of this would not be possible without your generosity and support! Thank you!

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**“THANK YOU” to our FY’14 “Making Dreams
 Come True” Annual Fund Campaign Donors,
 which began on July 1, 2013!**

Brian and Susan Abbott
 Jackie Adams-Garshong
 Mahesh Bandaru
 Alfredo and Rosa Barriga
 Elisabeth Beane

continued on page 6

(continued from page 5)

**"Making Dreams Come True" FY '14
Annual Fund Campaign Donor listing**

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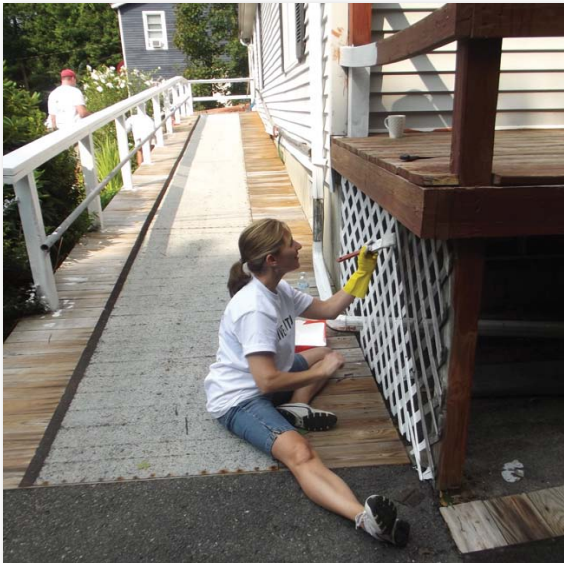
■ HMEA recognizes 3 Outstanding Community Corporations

Recently, three corporations received special awards from HMEA for their generous support and contributions of time, talent and treasure.

Instron Corporation received the *Corporate Philanthropy Award* for their generous 3:1 matching gift program. Over the past 5 years Instron employees have donated over \$40,000 to HMEA as part of the annual HMEA Independence 5K Run and Walk, Roll and Stroll in the Park. Representing Instron were Nancy Moloney, Marketing and Communications and Duncan Warner, Human Resources Director.

The DCU for Kids Foundation received the *Foundation Philanthropy Award* for their continued support of HMEA with donations to both the Autism Resource Center Community Walk for Autism, as well as the HMEA Independence 5K Run and Walk, Roll and Stroll in the Park. Associates from DCU have also come to HMEA and assisted employees with financial literacy and free consultations and credit reports. Representing DCU were Beth MacBrian, Franklin Branch Manager and Mike Caissey from DCU corporate.

Special recognition was given to **EMC²** for their continued support of HMEA in many ways. They received the *Corporate Partnership Award* in recognition of their support and hosting the Annual Independence 5K Run and Walk, Roll and Stroll in the Park, and the many volunteers they provide for the event. In addition, EMC² has donated technology equipment to HMEA, hosted Board meetings, one of their employees is a HMEA Board member and they started hosting a golf tournament to benefit HMEA. Representing EMC² were Lisa Tassone, Executive Assistant and Tom Andrellos, Vice President of Manufacturing, Franklin. ■



■ Volunteers “UNITE” with HMEA!

22 volunteers from area businesses such as People’s Bank, Unum and Starkweather & Shepley Insurance Brokers — arrived at one of HMEA’s residential homes in Worcester for the annual United Way of Central Massachusetts Day of Caring. They immediately took to scraping and painting the much weather worn ramp, steps and trellis on the front of the house.

*“It’s one of those home owner things that you never get around to”, said **Tracy Andryc**, HMEA Volunteer Coordinator. “We supply food and materials and the project and all these wonderful volunteers from such supportive corporations and businesses provide the elbow grease!”*

HMEA has participated in the UWCM Day of Caring for the past 5 years and each year it’s a new project. ■



Ashley Griffin, a house manager at HMEA, won the Gunnar Dybwad award at the recent Self Advocates conference

■ HMEA has once again received a two year DDS survey rating

HMEA recently received the highest DDS survey rating for Employment, Shared Living/Residential Services.

DDS Office of Quality Enhancement surveyors said *“since last year HMEA has continued to refine its quality management systems to strengthen safeguards for the men and women supported. Findings from the current survey indicate that the agency oversight systems were both responsive and effective.”*

The agency met 100% percent of the licensing indicators in Residential and 96% of the licensing indicators in Day/Employment services. ■

■ New ED at TechACCESS of RI makes presentation at national conference

Kelly Charlebois from TechACCESS of RI, a program of HMEA, presented at the Closing the Gap Conference in Minneapolis. The conference has a tradition of providing a comprehensive examination of the most current uses of technology by persons with disabilities and the professionals who work with them. Her presentation covered how iPads are quickly changing the landscape of the 21st century classroom and becoming an invaluable tool to students who learn differently. As well as a discussion of the many apps that can support struggling writers through the writing process, from organization through editing. ■



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To learn more about HMEA please visit us online at www.hmea.org

■ “Somewhere Over the Rainbow...”

HMEA's Annual Fund Campaign is underway and with your help the dreams of the 3800 children and adults with disabilities now receiving supports through the programs of HMEA can have their “dreams come true...”



Your donation to the Annual Fund is really a gift to a person. The people who benefit from your generosity are children and adults with disabilities whose lives are transformed through your gift.

When you say “Yes, I will support HMEA”, staff can look their supported individuals in the eye and say “Yes we can do that” or “Yes, you can have that”. It’s your gift that makes this all happen.

Please consider making your tax-deductible Annual Fund donation today. Complete the form on the right and mail it along with your donation to HMEA, 8 Forge Park East, Franklin, MA 02038. *Thank You!*

THE HMEA ANNUAL FUND

*“...where dreams that you dare to dream
really can come true...”*

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