

MAB Community Services honors three Dedham-based Direct Care Staff with the Maxo Joseph Excellence in Direct Care Award

Contributed to
The Dedham Times

MAB Community Services (MAB) has just honored 11 of the best direct care staff in the Adult Disability Services division with Maxo Joseph Excellence in Direct Care Awards.

Three winners work in Dedham: Daniel Eastwood, Armetra Simmons, and Kimberly Allen.

These awards are part of MAB’s efforts to create a welcoming and supportive work environment.

Nominated by coworkers, supervisors, and the families of the people they support, 11 team members are annually recognized at a special luncheon and receive a total of \$50,000 in awards.

Daniel Eastwood has worked as a residential counselor at MAB’s Cass Avenue residence in Dedham since 2006. He accepted the Maxo Joseph Award and one of four \$5,000 awards.

“I want to thank you, Barbara, for this award,” Daniel said to MAB CEO Barbara Salisbury. “It’s not the money that actually matters to me, but the recognition of my hard work.”

“Danny takes participants to his church, where they are welcomed,” said MAB Residential Coordinator Semiu Adebowale. “He takes them to church even when he’s not working. Danny drives Michael to spend every other weekend with his sister, also takes Dickie to see his sister, and takes Brian bowling. He has made a big impact on their lives.”

Armetra Simmons is a residential counselor at MAB’s Carol Drive residence in Dedham, caring for middle aged and older women with intellectual disabilities. She has worked at MAB since 2017. Like Daniel Eastwood, Armetra accepted the Maxo Joseph Award and one of four \$5,000 awards.

“Armetra is a natural in this field,” said MAB Residential Coordinator Aaliyah Anderson Delvante. “During a time of crisis, she can offer support and follow procedures. These are attributes of good direct care staff.”

Before COVID, the participants had planned an outing to the pumpkin patch, but the van broke down, spoiling their plans. Armetra managed to fix the van so they could go. Everyone had a wonderful time and took a lot of photos.

Kimberly Allen has served as a residential counselor at Carol Drive since 2019. She accepted a Maxo Joseph Award and one of five \$2,000 awards. From day one, Kimberly jumped in and became part of the team. She’s MAP certified and can administer medication. When one of the participants had trouble breathing, Kimberly immediately called 911. The participant has since been put on oxygen.

“Kim always has a positive attitude and is loved by all the ladies at Carol Drive,” said Aaliyah. “She takes initiative and puts the participants’ needs first. You can teach staff about policies and procedures, but you can’t teach them to care. Kim cares.”

The Maxo Joseph Awards were created to honor the life and legacy of Maxo Joseph, a direct care team member in MAB’s Adult Disability Services for nearly 20 years, who died from COVID-19. Maxo loved his work. He knew it was important, and he was an ideal residential counselor. When he wasn’t at work, he and his family members cared for his 83-year-old mom.

Jay Lupica made a transformative matching grant through the Patricia W. and Alfred E. Farah Charitable Gift Fund to launch the Maxo Joseph Awards. During this month’s Maxo Joseph Awards ceremony, Jay pledged an additional \$100,000 dollar-for-dollar matching grant for the Maxo Joseph Awards, supporting MAB’s efforts to recruit, retain, and reward exceptional staff.

“We are thrilled to recognize our best staff with the Maxo Joseph Awards, for the excellent care and dedication they provide our participants,” said Barbara Salisbury, CEO of MAB Community Services. “Direct care is at the heart of all that MAB does. The quality of our work depends on the quality of our direct care staff. Creating a work environment where staff feel valued, respected, and appreciated builds loyalty.”

About MAB Community Services: MAB Community Services (MAB) specializes in creating opportunities and transforming the lives of individuals with a range of disabilities by providing the support necessary so everyone can live a full and satisfying life. Since 1903, MAB has provided an array of services that enable individuals, regardless of their disabilities, to be active participants in their lives and communities.

About MAB’s Adult Disability Services: Adult Disability Services provides residential supports, community living supports, transitional assistance, occupational therapy, and vocational services for individuals with developmental disabilities, brain injuries, and other disabilities throughout Greater Boston, Southeast Boston, and Central Massachusetts. The division operates 29 residential homes, a community-based day center, and annually supports more than 300 people who live as independently as possible in their communities.

To make a difference in a meaningful career, please visit: <https://www.mabcommunity.org/mab-community-careers/>.

To contribute to MAB Community Services’ Maxo Joseph Awards, please visit: <https://www.mabcommunity.org/donate/> and designate your donation to the Maxo Joseph Awards.



(Above): Daniel Eastwood, left, received his award from Semiu Adebowale.



(Above): Armetra Simmons, right, received her award from Aaliyah Anderson Delevante.



(Above): Kimberly Allen, left, received her award from Aaliyah Anderson Delevante.