



Tewksbury Town Crier

KINNON HONORED WITH MAB COMMUNITY SERVICES 2023 MAXO JOSEPH EXCELLENCE IN DIRECT CARE AWARD

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BROOKLINE – [MAB Community Services](#), a leading social service agency supporting over 1,500 individuals with visual impairment, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and acquired brain injuries across Massachusetts, has honored Tewksbury resident Haley Kinnon as a recipient of the 2023 [Maxo Joseph Excellence in Direct Care Awards](#). All honorees were formally recognized at a ceremony and luncheon at MAB’s headquarters in Brookline on Thursday, July 13.

Established in 2021, these awards honor direct care staff in MAB’s Adult Disability Services division who go above



and beyond in their commitment to the participants they support. Their dedication reflects the legacy of Maxo Joseph, an exceptional caregiver and colleague who passed away in 2020. Totaling \$50,000 annually, the Maxo Joseph Awards provide individual recipients with awards ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

Haley is recognized for her tremendous service to participants in helping them to live fulfilling lives as an Assistant Program Director in MAB’s

Individual Supports program. She is very solution-oriented, providing plans to participants when they move from nursing homes to community apartments so they can live without 24-hour care. Even after participants are situated in their homes, Haley continues to help them. When she learned that one of her participants was a U.S. Army veteran, Haley contacted Veterans Affairs and secured his documentation, making him eligible for numerous services that have greatly benefited him. Haley has received a \$2,000 Maxo Joseph Award.

“Haley has shown time and time again that she truly wants to be doing

this difficult work,” said Jennifer Mattson, Kinnon’s supervisor. “It’s not easy, but Haley goes above and beyond in ways that make our participants want her to care for them specifically.”

“We’re very grateful for the opportunity to celebrate our hardworking direct care staff with much deserved recognition through these awards,” said Barbara Salisbury, CEO of MAB Community Services. “Many of this year’s honorees were nominated by multiple people – colleagues, managers, and families of participants – which is a true testament to the impact they have on the individuals they support. It has been incredibly heartwarming to read their stories describing how they work to ensure that our participants are able to live full and satisfying lives.”

Out of 28 nominees, 12 direct care staff received awards this year, representing MAB group homes across Greater Boston and Central

Massachusetts. The length of service these individuals have dedicated to MAB ranges from two years to 18 years, with an average of six years. Honorees are chosen by a committee consisting of MAB staff, community supporters, and family members of the residents the nominees serve.

The awards are named for Maxo Joseph, a dedicated caregiver who served MAB participants for nearly 20 years. Nominees reflect Maxo’s life and legacy. Jay Lupica, in his role as Trustee of the Patricia W. and Alfred E. Farah Charitable Trust, has matched \$100,000 in donations twice since the awards’ establishment, enabling MAB to secure \$400,000 to fund eight annual awards cycles.

In addition to recognizing direct care staffers for their service to MAB participants, the Maxo Joseph Awards help to create a culture of recognition which improves recruitment and retention. While the direct care industry

experiences an annual turnover rate between 40 and 60 percent, MAB’s turnover in direct care was less than 17 percent during the past year.

Those who wish to support MAB’s initiative to reward high-performing staff may do so [here](#), designating their gift to the Maxo Joseph Awards.

ABOUT MAB COMMUNITY SERVICES

MAB Community Services has been creating opportunities for people with disabilities since 1903. Formerly known as the Massachusetts Association for the Blind, MAB is one of the oldest social service agencies in the nation assisting individuals with blindness or visual impairment. Over time, MAB has grown to serve people with a wider range of disabilities. MAB’s three divisions are the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, which offers a variety of services statewide; the Ivy Street School, which

serves a neurodiverse population of students, including those on the autism spectrum, with behavioral health challenges, and with brain injuries; and Adult Disability Services, which serves individuals with intellectual disabilities and brain injuries.

Founded in 1973, MAB's Adult Disability Services division offers 29 community-based group homes with 24/7 support. Through each division and program, MAB's goal is to provide the support needed for each person to actively participate in their community and to live a full and satisfying life.