

## SALUTING THE CARING FORCE

# Barko is always willing to help

Said Barko came to the U.S. from Morocco six years ago and got a job at a group home through a Moroccan-owned temp agency. He was such a good employee that the house manager there convinced his supervisor to have **MAB Community Services** buy out his temp contract so he could become a permanent MAB employee.

Serving as a residential counselor, Barko is extraordinarily kind to MAB participants. He engages with each of them in a caring and personally attentive manner. When Jane, who lives out of state, came to visit her elderly brother and MAB participant, Ross, she observed Barko walking with him during a trip to the zoo and was moved by the quality of their interaction.

When David, one of the participants, was dying, Barko would go into his room and talk with him, always saying something to make David laugh. At the

end of David's life, Barko helped feed him, waiting patiently until he was ready for another spoonful, and would spend time in the room after he'd gone to sleep, quietly praying.



*At MAB Community Services, Said Barko treats participants with extraordinary kindness, as if they were his own family.*

When a new participant, Akim, moved in after living alone with his mother, Akim's mother worried about how much care he would receive. Initially, she visited the house every day, but was relieved after seeing the care and attention that Barko would provide Akim. He is the only staff member Akim allows to trim his fingernails.

Barko is always willing to help out during emergencies or take an additional shift if other staff are sick. When another staff member got a flat tire, Barko helped him change it. During a snowstorm, he helped an elderly neighbor shovel her driveway without being asked. Everyone likes working with Barko.