

Welcome New Board Member!



Justin Michalak

We are pleased to welcome Justin Michalak to the New Horizons Board of Trustees. Justin is the Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services at the Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD). We look forward to having Justin on our Board and anticipate his skills and experience will be an asset to our Board.

New Horizons
Rehabilitation Services, Inc.
1814 Pond Run
Auburn Hills, MI 48326-2768

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New Horizons News

"Maximizing Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities"



Success Stories

MOHAMED



was referred by Michigan Rehabilitation Services to New Horizons for job placement services.

Mohamed's only form of transportation is his bicycle, which was donated to him along with a cell phone, from a local church he volunteered at. His New Horizons Employment Specialist Denise Geagan, began searching for jobs in a radius that Mohamed could bike to. Mohamed was offered a position at a local community hospital in food services.

The feedback Denise received from Mohamed's supervisor was outstanding! The supervisor said he was dependable, willing to do any job assignment asked of him, and had a great personality with staff and hospital guests alike!

Unfortunately, Mohamed's bike was stolen from outside the hospital, his bike chain had been cut from the bike rack. Denise reached out to the hospital supervisor to let her know what had happened. The next day, the supervisor called back and not only did they donate a bike to Mohamed, they also found a place within the hospital where he could safely keep his bike while working! Mohamed was overwhelmed with gratitude.

As luck would have it, a few weeks later, a part on the bike broke and Mohamed informed Denise that he was walking to work, as the repair of the bike was too expensive.

Denise put a call out to her community with Mohamed's story and need for a bike. Within 2 hours, 4 individuals offered to replace his bike! A local real estate office stated that if MRS ever needed anything for an individual that was willing to walk that far to work, they would assist us. Mohamed was recently presented with his high-end bike at the MRS Pontiac office, and once again, he was humbled with gratitude.

Today, Mohamed is working as many hours as he can saving for a car. Several team members at the hospital will retire in the spring and Mohamed's name has been mentioned to fill one of those positions at the hospital. The barriers of persons served, have once again become a success story through joint efforts of New Horizons and MRS Pontiac.

PHILIP

was referred to the New Horizons Macomb office for job placement services. Employment Specialist Diane Wernette, worked with Philip to find a job in the technology field, since he has an Associate's Degree in Technology.

Philip obtained a job as a Tech Assistant at North Hill Elementary School in Rochester. Philip is deaf, so he receives all work orders from the school staff via email.

The various work orders consist of fixing issues with classroom computers, white boards, and projectors.

The staff and students refer to Philip as "The Tech King" and made a special thank you to him on the bulletin board!



Congratulations Philip!

ROBERT

was referred to the Auburn Hills branch for job placement services. New Horizons Employment Specialist, Laura Beelby, assisted Robert with his job search and Robert obtained a job at McDonalds in Waterford. Robert has been working with the McDonalds team for about six months doing various jobs as needed.

Robert's Manager, Cella Skamoto, says "Robert has been such a joy, and a great asset to our team. His work ethic is outstanding. Anything that needs to be done, Rob is the first guy to step up to the plate. He has quickly become part of our McDonald's team. We value his hard work, positive attitude, and dedicated spirit."

Congratulations Robert!



Metropolitan Detroit's Best and Brightest Award

New Horizons Rehabilitation Services Inc. was awarded "Metropolitan Detroit's Best and Brightest Companies to Work For®" for the 12th time! We accredit this award to our talented and hard-working staff, who remain dedicated to our purpose of helping individuals with disabilities succeed!



NEW HORIZONS IS EXPANDING!



New Horizons is pleased to announce that we have an office suite on the fourth floor of the Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) building, located at 5505 Corporate Drive, Troy, MI 48098. This expansion will ensure that we are in the heart of Oakland County and surrounding cities for the needs of our individuals served.

SAVE THESE DATES



New Horizons Annual Charity Auction
Friday, April 26, 2019 at Petruzzello's



New Horizons Dan Knott Legacy Golf Tournament
Friday, September 13, 2019 at Pine Trace/Shepherd's Hollow



New Horizons Annual Awards Ceremony & Banquet
Thursday, October 10, 2019 at Petruzzello's

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Attention Employers!

Are you looking to hire dependable, pre-screened employees who are eager to work? Contact New Horizons at www.NewHorizonsRehab.org and click on the red "Employer Call to Action" button for more information or call Jake Jones at 248-340-0559. Diversify your workforce by partnering with New Horizons!

Thank you

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Thank you for the many other general donations received from our donors that we were unable to publish due to space constraints. *6/1/18-11/1/18

In Memoriam Israel Hochberg



New Horizons would like to remember Israel Hochberg, New Horizons third Executive Director from 1977 through 1999, who passed away on August 12, 2018.

In 1997, Israel led the planning and fundraising of New Horizons' Administrative Offices and Branch located in Auburn Hills to expand services and opportunities for people with disabilities.

Thank you for the many "In Memory" donations that were received for New Horizons.



54th Annual Awards Ceremony

Our 54th Annual Awards Ceremony & Banquet honored ten individuals, and three businesses that provide job training and employment opportunities to individuals with disabilities.

The evening's guest speaker was Amit Agrawal. Amit shared his personal story about self determination that led to his success in meeting his goal of obtaining employment with Oakland Community Health Network as a rights trainer. He ended his speech with an encouraging message, "Don't give up, there's always a light at the end of the tunnel." He emphasized that we all have different abilities and to keep striving towards your goals.

We would like to also recognize all of our supporters and those that attended to honor these individuals and businesses. A special thank you to MJS Packaging for once again being an Awards Sponsor, and for their generous donation of gift cards for each of our individual award winners!



The 2018 Award Winners are:

Julie Fenwick, Vocational Achievement Award - Auburn Hills Branch
Thomas Hamilton, Vocational Achievement Award - Madison Heights Branch
Mary Ann Lee, Vocational Achievement Award - Novi Branch
Dawayne Price, Vocational Achievement Award - Davisburg Branch
Emani Walker, Oakland County - School-to-Work Transition Student of the Year
Bailey Hinman, Macomb County - School-to-Work Transition Student of the Year
Justin Bennett, Oakland County - Employment Services Employee of the Year
Chanel Truss, Genesee County - Employment Services Employee of the Year
Mawara Jamil, Macomb County - Employment Services Employee of the Year
Timothy Lynch II, Supported Employment Person of the Year
The Farmer's Market, Inc. of Clinton Township - Employer of the Year
Ford's Garage, Supported Employment Employer of the Year
Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, Community Partnership Award



Tribute to Danny Farner

*Note: this was submitted by New Horizons' Employment Specialist Laura Beelby whom had the pleasure to be part of Danny's journey.

He was born with cerebral palsy that left him partially paralyzed on the left side, an atrophied arm, a slight strut to his step and an enormous toothy and mischievous grin.

Danny began receiving services from New Horizons through the Holly School Work Based Learning program in 2013, and later was referred for placement services with New Horizons. Danny did everything that I expected of him. When I provided a job lead to him at the local Kroger store, he showed up for the interview dressed to impress. He was hired on the spot!

Danny began working as a part-time Courtesy Clerk on March 10, 2015. He worked hard, he was extremely reliable and dependable, and the customers loved his smile and bubbly personality. Danny surpassed his ninety days and, after two years in, he was now a full-time employee; assisting in training other new-hire Courtesy Clerks. His work vest was weighed down with Kroger commendation pins which were awarded for providing excellent customer service. We always chatted, and I always made sure to tell him how impressed I was that he had risen to such a revered employee. Danny was proud to be part of the Kroger family.

Fast forward five years later and I am sad to report of Danny's passing on April 14, 2018. Still an employee of Kroger, the shock waves of his passing were palpable the minute you walked through the front doors of the store. Staff created a memorial table that included an 8x10 photo of Danny, a vase of roses, a bear, race car and details of the funeral arrangements. Customers strolled past with tears in their eyes and heads shaking in disbelief. There was a vacuum of grief at the registers and quiet conversation of how much he will be missed.

Danny's funeral was bigger than any I've ever seen, and the service was at capacity with co-workers and customers alike; paying their final respects.

When I walk into Kroger today, he is still fondly remembered with a prominently displayed Teddy Bear that has been sewn from his work vest and a plaque engraved with a beautiful poem and his image that hangs on the wall near customer service.

Danny might not have been considered successful when compared to others who possess loftier job titles. However, I can assure you he is one Courtesy Clerk who left an indelible mark at his workplace, and within his community, after just five years of employment. Can you imagine what he could have accomplished in ten or twenty years?

Danny Farner was the epitome of success.



New Agency Video!

We are pleased to debut New Horizons new agency video! To view, please go to our agency website www.newhorizonsrehab.org and click on "About" from the top navigation and scroll down to see the video. We have also featured the video on our agency Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/newhorizonsrehabilitationsof michigan/>. A huge thank you to the companies that contributed to our agency video:

